



SEMMELWEIS
UNIVERSITY 1769



Rules and Principles for Application and Admission

Academic Year 2026/2027

PSYCHOBIOLOGY (MSC)

Semmelweis University
Budapest, Hungary

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APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

Application Criteria

Applicants must hold a relevant bachelor's or master's degree. Accepted academic backgrounds include:

- Behaviour Analyst (Psychology BA)
- Biology BSc/MSc
- General Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Veterinary Medicine
- Biophysics/Medical Engineering (e.g., Biomaterials Engineering BSc, Molecular Bionics BSc)
- Bioinformatics MSc
- Teacher Training (Biology / Integrated Natural Sciences)
- Computational and Cognitive Neuroscience MSc
- Research Zoology

Admission is based on a 100-point evaluation system, consisting of a mandatory admission interview (0–90 points) and additional points (0–10 points) awarded for scientific or professional achievements.

Applicants who violate the rules of the application/admission procedure as set out in this document and/or make a false declaration during the application/admission procedure, may be disqualified at any stage of the procedure.

Application Procedure and Documents

Applications should be submitted online in SEMAPHOR (Simmelweis Application Handling and Online Review) system at <https://semaphor.semmelweis.hu>. The application period is published on the <https://semmelweis.hu/admission/> website.

The system keeps track of the applicants and their applications from the registration till the end of the admission process, throughout years if necessary, so it is important that each applicant has no more than one user account in SEMAPHOR. Therefore, creating parallel user accounts is not acceptable, and the admission management may delete the duplicates.

The following documents need to be uploaded (original, or as certified copies, in English or in the original language with a certified English translation) for organizing the entrance exams and verifying the admission requirements:

- Bachelor's or master's degree in BA in psychology (behavioral analysis/psychology specialization), BSc/MSc in biology, general practitioner, dentist, pharmacist, veterinarian biophysics/biomedical engineering (e.g., BSc in bioengineering, BSc in molecular bionics), MSc in bioinformatics teacher training – biology or integrated natural sciences MSc in computer and cognitive neuroscience, zoology/research

zoology.

- Curriculum vitae
- Motivation letter
- Diploma copy
- Documents supporting eligibility for additional points.

Entrance examinations to our Psychobiology MSc program consist of an oral interview. Applicants having submitted their application to the above MSc program are eligible to sign up to the entrance examination through SEMAPHOR.

Once all the required, compulsory documents have been uploaded, the application can be finalized. The deadline for this is 12nd of June 2026. The application interface on the SEMAPHOR platform for the Master's program in Psychobiology will automatically close at 24:00 on the date indicated on the program's admission page.

Withdrawal of Applications

Submitted applications can only be withdrawn before the application deadline. Applications cannot be withdrawn if any of the following conditions apply:

- the applicant has attended an entrance examination,
- the applicant was registered for but did not attend an entrance examination,
- a decision has been issued regarding the application.

Entrance Examinations

Once an application has been submitted to Psychobiology MSc, the entrance examinations become available for signing up. The list of examinations appears in the application page in SEMAPHOR and applicants can sign up to or resign from them online.

Date of Examinations

Entrance examinations are organized by Semmelweis University Faculty of Medicine. Dates of the entrance examinations are announced through SEMAPHOR and can be seen after submission of the application. The entrance examination period for the 2026/2027 academic intake for Psychobiology MSc will be held until the 31th of July 2026.

Process of the Entrance Examinations

Admission to the Psychobiology MSc is based on an oral entrance interview. During the interview, the admissions committee assesses the applicant's academic and professional background, interests, developmental potential, and motivation.

The aim of the admission procedure is to select students who demonstrate a high level of interdisciplinary scientific interest in the field of psychobiology, a research-oriented mindset, and an affinity for biomedical sciences.

The admission procedure is conducted in English. The duration of the entrance interview is 20–

40 minutes.

During the entrance interview, the applicant presents their academic and professional background and motivation for applying and discusses their thoughts on a topic selected by the admissions committee from the predefined thematic areas.

To support preparation for the interview, a preselected reading list is available on the website of the Institute of Behavioural Sciences: Psychobiology Master Program – Institute of Behavioural Sciences.

The purpose of the interview is to assess the applicants' knowledge about the topics listed below based on their readings and experiences, how well they are able to interpret core concepts and findings from more distant scientific disciplines, integrate them with knowledge previously acquired in their own field, and critically evaluate them.

The thematic areas of the entrance interview are:

- a) biological foundations of behaviour and mental processes;
- b) structure and functioning of the central nervous system, basic neuroanatomical and neurophysiological concepts;
- c) integration of psychological and biological perspectives, interdisciplinary approaches;
- d) basic knowledge of experimental and study design, data processing, and statistics;
- e) principles of research ethics and scientific integrity;
- f) computational and systems-level approaches (data and information processing, modelling, network-theoretical and algorithmic foundations).

During the entrance interview, a maximum of 90 points can be obtained based on the following evaluation criteria:

- a) Motivation and professional goals (alignment with the profile of the programme);
- b) Academic background and prior education: relevance of previous studies;
- c) Research and scientific interest: ability to identify and formulate scientific problems, critical thinking, hypothesis generation;
- d) Cognitive and analytical thinking: complex interpretation of phenomena, understanding causal and functional relationships;
- e) Interdisciplinary perspective: theoretical and methodological openness;
- f) Reflective and communication skills;
- g) Ethical and scientific attitude;
- h) Innovation and creativity: formulation of novel research questions, problem-solving skills;
- i) Basic methodological competence: assessment of foundational knowledge in research design, statistics, and data analysis.

Within the total of 100 points defined for admission to the Psychobiology Master's programme, applicants may receive additional points for the following scientific activities:

- a) Participation in a Student Scientific Conference (TDK): +1 point
- b) Award at a Student Scientific Conference / participation in the National Student Scientific Conference (OTDK): +2 points
- c) Award at the National Student Scientific Conference (OTDK): +3 points

- d) Conference presentation or poster: +2 points
- e) Peer-reviewed scientific publication in English:
 - English-language publication as first author: +5 points
 - English-language publication co-authorship: +3 points
 - Other language publication authorship: +2 points
- f) Research assistant experience (minimum 3 months, documented): +2 points
- g) Language proficiency (in addition to the language of admission):
 - Additional intermediate-level certificate: +1 point
 - Additional advanced-level certificate: +2 points

Points awarded on social or other grounds (maximum of 5 points in total):

- a) disability: +1 point;
- b) child-rearing: +1 point;
- c) social disadvantage: +1 point.

During the interview, the admissions committee assigns scores by consensus in accordance with the specified professional evaluation criteria.

The admissions committee consists of at least two members, representing the fields of psychology, neuroscience, and/or biology/physiology. At least one member of the committee must be a faculty member of Semmelweis University. The other committee member may be an external lecturer affiliated with the programme.

Registration to the examination

Applicants have to register (sign up) for the entrance examinations in SEMAPHOR after having submitted a valid application. Exam registrations can only be withdrawn before the deadline for registration for the given examination. The absence of a registered applicant at the entrance examination is not considered as the withdrawal of registration but as an examination attended without valuable result.

Evaluation

The admissions committee evaluates the applicants' performance at the entrance examinations. Head of the Faculty makes decisions regarding admissions based on the skills, knowledge and attitude judged by the performance at the entrance examination.

Decision and appeal

Decision regarding the admission is made by the admissions committee. All the parameters, the uploaded documents, personal educational records are considered along with the performance at the oral interview. Beside the applicant's knowledge, his/her motivation, attitude, intellect, general information, communication skills and personality are taken into account.

The decision appears in the header and status of the application in SEMAPHOR, and the decision letter is sent by e-mail and is uploaded to the applicant's documents in SEMAPHOR within 3 weeks.

If an applicant has an objection to the admission process and considers that the procedure by the Admission Committee was inappropriate or unfair, he/she can send an appeal within 15 days by e-mail to the Admission Team. The appeal must set out the specific procedural infringement and it must contain the arguments and evidence in support of the complaint. The appeal is investigated by the Academic Department of the Dean's Office, and the applicant is informed about the outcome within two weeks.

In order to comply with the legislation governing Semmelweis University, the Academic Department of the Dean's Office corresponds only with the applicant concerned and with a single local representative if such has been appointed by the applicant at the time of submitting his/her application. During the admission procedure, the Academic Department of the Dean's Office acts in accordance with the rules in force, which are public and known to the applicants. No information is provided to, and no mandate is accepted from any person other than the above unless that person is legally authorized to represent the applicant. Those who wish to act on behalf of an applicant, must prove their authorization by a private document of full probative value in accordance with Code of Civil Procedure (Act CXXX/2016).

Postponement of admission/enrollment

The decisions apply to admission in the current year, and accepted admission entitles the applicant to enroll for the academic year starting in September of the current calendar year. An applicant who has paid the tuition fee and formally accepted the offered admission but is unable to start his/her studies in the current year due to some unforeseen obstacle, may request a one-year deferral of admission/enrollment.

The request for deferral needs to be submitted to tanulmanyi.aokdekani@semmelweis.hu, and must include an appropriate justification. If the one year deferral is granted by the Admission Committee, the tuition fee remains on the University's account, and the admission process continues the following year when the applicant needs to confirm his/her intention to enroll and pay the balance of the tuition fees.

As the deferral of admission/enrollment is not an entitlement but a special treatment, there is no right to appeal against the refusal of a request for deferral.

Student visa

Foreign nationals (under visa obligation) wishing to pursue studies in Hungary are required to apply for entry visa (exceeding 90 days) in their home countries and enter the country on the entry visa issued by the Hungarian Embassy or Consulate. For more detail, please visit: <http://konzuliszolgalat.kormany.hu/how-to-apply-for-visa>.

Students coming from EU & EEA countries do not need a student visa, but have to apply for a registration certificate within 90 days after their arrival to Hungary.

FEES AND COSTS

Tuition Fee

Psychobiology M.Sc. (2 years / 4 semesters) 3600 EUR / semester

The first semester's tuition fee has to be paid before the 1st of September.

Admitted applicants who need to apply for a student visa may be required to pay the tuition fee for the first one or two semester(s) before the visa application may be processed. Further details will be provided in the letter of admission.

Tuition fees should be paid:

- before the 1st of September each year for all but the first fall semester (see above)
- before the 1st of February each year for the spring semesters

Please note that special conditions apply for the first tuition fee payment before formal enrollment (see above).

If the amount of tuition fee changes, it will be applied in ascending order, and the students repeating due to failed exams or inactive semester(s) will pay the same amount as the other students in the same year group.

Payment Details

The payment can be made by wire transfer to Semmelweis University's bank account below. Payments have to be made in EUR.

Account details of Semmelweis University are as follows:

Bank name: OTP Bank Nyrt.

Bank address: Nádor utca 16., H-1051 Budapest, Hungary

Account holder: Semmelweis University

Account Number (IBAN): HU11 1176 3842 0088 2880 0000 0000

SWIFT code (BIC): OTPVHUHB

The money transfer sheet should include the name of the applicant as written in the passport, as well as the SEMAPHOR Application ID as a note. The money transfer note should also include the correspondent Swift/BIC code.

The above-mentioned net amounts have to be credited to the account, i.e. all bank commission fees and other charges have to be paid by the applicant/student. The date of payment is the date on which the payment is credited to the University's bank account, i.e. payments have to arrive to the University's bank account by the given deadline. Since international wire transfers may take several days, applicants/students are advised to initiate the wire transfer several days before

the given deadline. If the above fees are not credited to our bank account by the above deadlines, applications will not be valid, and admissions will be automatically canceled.

Please contact the Admission Team's administrator at the email address: psychobiology@semmelweis.hu to inquire about further information on payment details.

Refund policy

1. After enrollment (registration) at the university

Withdrawal of studies: Students, compelled to withdraw for academic/disciplinary reasons or have been accepted/transferred by another institute of higher education are not entitled to a refund of the tuition fee.

Students are entitled to a refund on a pro rata basis if studies are interrupted due to a sound reason (e.g. a medically certified severe illness, the death of one of the parents/guardians, an obligatory military service or visa problems). The refund is applicable from the first day of the month following the reporting of the above-mentioned conditions with accompanying official certificates.

2. Suspension of studies (after registration):

- a) Student's legal relationship is suspended within a month following the beginning of the semester. Tuition is non-refundable. It can be transferred to the next active semester.
- b) Student's legal relationship is suspended more than a month after the beginning of the semester. Such deregistration is subject to special permission in duly justified cases. A reduction of the tuition fee up to its 75% may be granted and the surplus can be transferred to the next active semester. If the request for such a special permission is rejected, the semester must be considered as active, and the tuition fee cannot be refunded.

PROVISION OF HEALTH CARE

Students are provided a health care service, which includes an English-language call center, GP-service and treatment at the Polyclinics and Clinics of Semmelweis University. This service is granted during the active semesters until the end of the studies provided that tuition fee has been paid. Further details are included in the letter of acceptance. The health care service is automatically suspended when the student's semester is passive.

Contacts

DEAN'S OFFICE

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