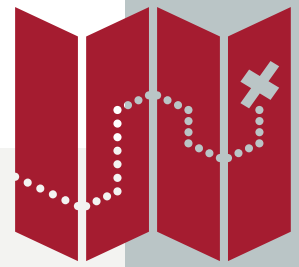# Roadmap to Your Thesis Lab

G1 Summer: Welcome to PiN!

- Summer meeting with your Student Advisory Committee (SAC) advisor. SAC advisors are a great resource to help brainstorm potential rotation labs!
- Browse faculty profiles on the PiN website and [Harvard Brain Initiative website](#).
- PiN orientation offers a Canvas page with online resources like the [Approaching (Virtual) Lab Rotations](#) slide deck plus events including a Rotations Panel Discussion and Faculty Lightning Talks.

G1 Academic Year

- Discipline of Neuroscience (NB215) will introduce you to new topics and a number of PiN faculty. Reach out to faculty to chat more about their research or other labs of interest.
- Additional fall student programming will help you further connect with students and learn about ongoing research.
- Lab rotations are the primary mechanism to help you find a thesis lab. You will complete a minimum of 2 rotations, but we recommend completing at least 3. Rotations are flexible in terms of start/end dates and duration.
  - You will complete lab rotation reflections that will guide conversations with your SAC advisor.
- Reach out to PIs to talk about their labs. Ask to sit in on lab meetings. This can be done in parallel with "official" rotations and doesn't require you to commit to a rotation.
- SAC advisor meetings in December and May (as well as any time you'd like to talk - these are just the "officially" scheduled times!)
- Seminar series and other events (e.g., Nocturnal Journal Club) are other great ways to learn about research in our community.
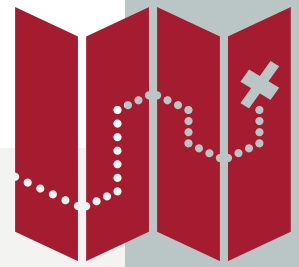
G2 Summer

- Continuing rotating or settle into your home lab. More rotations can be beneficial - you're definitely not "behind" if you choose to keep rotating through the summer!

G2 Fall (Sept): Welcome to your Thesis Lab!

- Typically students commit to a thesis lab by September 1; however, the Program offers flexibility with this timeline to ensure that all students are able to find a lab that's right for them!

And of course, PiN program directors and administration are also here for you throughout this journey!

PiN Curricular Roadmap

G1 Summer

- Quantitative Methods for Biologists (i.e. MATLAB Bootcamp, NB306qc)
  - [Course website and information](#)
  - Talk to Rick Born about "testing out" if you have prior background in MATLAB & statistics
  - Starting with the entering class of 2021, PiN is recommending NEUROBIO 321qc: Intro to Python, offered by Ella Batty in January 2022, in addition to or in lieu of the MATLAB bootcamp

G1 Fall

- Discipline of Neuroscience (NB215A)
  - Course website will be published [here](#)
  - Asynchronous activities throughout the week; synchronous class sessions meet T, Th 10:30 am - 12:30 pm (Eastern Time). Fall classes run Sept. 7 - Dec. 14.
- Lab Rotations in Neuroscience (NB327R)
  - Accompanying "course" for rotations (students enroll for as many credits as needed to get to full-time status). Course website will be published [here](#) and will be used for rotation-related resources and tasks (e.g. submitting rotation reflections).
- Optional: Elective Courses
  - Students may select elective courses from the [Harvard course catalog](#).
  - Students may choose to fulfill electives requirement (4 quarters' worth) however they wish; only requirements are:1) at least one quarter is quantitative, 2) at least two quarters' worth have been completed by end of G2 year. Elective courses should be discussed with SAC advisor.

G1 January

- PiN strongly recommends G1s take NEUROBIO 321qc: Intro to Python, offered by Ella Batty in January 2022, in addition to or in lieu of the MATLAB bootcamp.

G1 Spring

- Same as fall, but with spring semester of Discipline of Neuroscience: NB215B, course website to be announced closer to spring semester.

G2+

- Continue completing electives requirement and additional coursework as needed/desired. Complete 2 quarters' worth of electives by end of G2 year. Students should discuss electives with SAC and/or Dissertation Advisory Committee (DAC) advisors.
- Optional specialization: Certificate in Computational Neuroscience (CiCN). Apply fall of G3 year. If interested in learning more, attend the CiCN info session during PiN orientation.

Questions about coursework? Email Tari Tan (taralyn_tan@hms.harvard.edu)