
RESEARCH SUPERVISOR Application guidance

The JRP is currently accepting applications from PhD students and postdoctoral researchers to join us at the annual jSchool. Each year, we take on six Research Supervisors to lead small groups of Bachelor- and Master-level psychology students. These groups will then develop and subsequently carry out a 13-month research project based on the Supervisor's area of work.

The jSchool is a week-long summer event which serves as a platform for psychology students to conduct cross-cultural research in their field of interest, with the aim to publish in scientific journals. It is organised annually by the Junior Researcher Programme (JRP). The jSchool includes lectures and seminars from experts in the field and six research groups led by PhD students (2nd year and above) or post-docs (no more than three years after finishing a PhD).



What is a Research Supervisor?

Becoming a jSchool Research Supervisor provides you with a unique opportunity for academic and personal development. Supervisors are given the chance to lead a group of six bright, talented, and motivated international psychology students in designing and conducting a cross-cultural research project of their choosing related to the annual theme which for 2018 is *Communication: The psychology of information*.

What do we look for in Research Supervisors?

We are looking to recruit six determined, resilient, and motivated persons with the drive and ability to lead an effective working team of six students from around the world. Research Supervisors should be willing to commit to their proposed research projects for the entire duration of the programme¹. **Fully-fluent written and spoken English is mandatory.**

We are particularly keen to invite candidates who share the jSchool view toward cultural diversity, student development, and extracurricular activity. Given the multicultural nature of the jSchool, as well as the constraints imposed by long-distance collaboration after the summer school, candidates are encouraged to display the capacity to work effectively and efficiently across a range of changing circumstances.

Expectations of Research Supervisors

- ✓ To supervise, direct, and support a group of six psychology students conducting a cross-cultural research project through to its completion (generally 13 months)
- ✓ To plan for and run research group sessions during the jSchool
- ✓ To supply methodological and technical expertise on the research project from the outset
- ✓ To continue work on the study after the jSchool: oversee all aspects of the project, directly supporting all students on the team
- ✓ To ensure the research project culminates in a written dissemination, at minimum, a protocol paper with our partner journal *Frontiers in Psychology*

What is the life of a Supervisor at the jSchool?

At jSchool, you can expect an exciting and fulfilling week unlike any conference or workshop. You will spend several hours each day of the jSchool leading your research group. Though the time is yours to use as you wish, we expect that you will spend time discussing the literature, theory, and objectives of the study. You and your team will also have to produce an appropriate design for the project, with an appreciation for the challenges of cross-cultural research and the junior level of some members of your team.

You will work, present, and reside alongside five other Supervisors as well as the invited speakers during the jSchool. Supervisors will stay at the venue together with the organising team, lecturers, and student participants. Please note that we cannot accommodate partners or family members at the venue. You will be supported by the jSchool organising team, the Research Officer and the Director of the JRP, a qualified and experienced researcher. This support will not, however, account for the responsibilities that are expected from the position of a Supervisor nor will organisers intervene with your group work (apart from various scientific and managerial checks).

¹The 13-month programme, known as the Junior Researcher Programme, is by invitation-only to research group members which have completed the jSchool and presented a satisfactory proposal during the week. Details may be found on our website.

jSchool 2018 Theme

The scientific theme for the upcoming jSchool is *Communication: The psychology of information*. Typically, the projects we host are pilot studies, but this is not mandatory. We welcome feasible research proposals related to the theme, which this year centres on psychological insights for effective communication.

The general focus should relate to the science of communication, delivering information to change attitudes and behaviour, public engagement, and wider relevant impacts. These could be exploratory projects aiming to identify barriers to information exchange or studies evaluating interventions aiming to promote successful communication. As this is a very broad theme, we have given example project ideas below, though other ideas are very welcome, and these are meant only as idea-generators.

1. How do social norms, values, and ideology relate to the spread of misinformation?
2. Is the public understanding of science influenced by the physical appearance of the scientist?
3. Improving team communication to resolve conflict in the workplace.
4. How do neuroscientific explanations of psychopathy relate to public judgements of morality?
5. Increasing perceptions of similarity to improve pupil-teacher interactions in multicultural classrooms.



If the project you have in mind does not directly relate to any of the research areas mentioned above, you can still apply, provided that it meets the requirements outlined in this guidance document and still relates to the general theme. It is absolute that you have a reasonable level of knowledge in the area of your research proposal and it should not be completely outside your standing research.

If you have any doubts about the relevance of your project proposal, please contact the Research Officer, Ms Silvana Mareva, at researchofficer@pscholars.org with a short description. Please note we can only comment on whether the project is appropriate and not on the content or quality itself.

Project proposal basic requirements

- A clear and relevant research question should be formulated.
- You should describe how the students in your team will be involved in the development of the research design and overall study process.
- You should describe how the research question can be answered within the resources and timeframe of the programme.
- The target population should be reasonable to recruit within the timeframe.
- Suggestions for recruitment of participants, methodology, and instruments should be given.
- Ethics: You will be required to confirm access to an ethical review body at your home institution. It is not mandatory to outline this in the application, but it is welcomed if known.

Expectations & Obligations

Research Supervisors are required to attend the 2018 jSchool (7th - 15th July 2018, Siena, Italy). The Supervisors shall also attend the Impact Window and JRP Conference at Cambridge, UK in August 2019 to present the group projects together with their team. **While accommodation and meals are provided for jSchool, JRP does not cover travel costs for jSchool or JRP Conference.** Supervisors and their teams are further invited to the four-day jMeeting in February 2019 in Madrid for a possibility of face to face working time with their teams. Participation in the jMeeting is completely optional. Although JRP is trying to keep attendance costs at minimum, for jMeeting a fee up to €90 has to be charged.

How to become a Research Supervisor

1. Complete the Supervisor application form: http://bit.ly/JRP_SA. Applications will **close at 17:00 CET on Sunday, 18th February 2018**.
2. In the application form you will be asked to provide the following information:
 - a. Project Title (max 100 characters)
 - b. Summary of the proposed research (max 450 characters)
 - c. Research Topic and Approach (max 3000 characters). *Stating the research question and its relevance to the theme, including possible research design and recruitment strategy.*
 - d. Statement on Supervising Research (max 3000 characters). *Encompassing your motivation for applying, how you foresee managing your team, and how you envision remaining committed to the programme.*
3. Upload a two-page CV at the end of the application – additional pages are allowed for publications and other completed dissemination references.
4. If shortlisted, candidates will be invited to an **online interview** with members of the jSchool team. Interviews are due to be held on Sunday, **25th February** – if you know in advance that you will be unavailable that day, please note this in the appropriate section of the application form. Successful applicants will be notified shortly after the interviews have finished.

We look forward to receiving your application!



JRP cohort and Conference participants 2016-2017