
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 high-quality studies 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 2019 is *Behavioural Economics: The psychology of financial choice*.

What do we look for in Research Supervisors?

We are recruiting six determined, resilient, and motivated persons with the drive and ability to lead a 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 programme. **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.

It is also mandatory that Supervisors have a background in psychological science. Given this year's theme, we will consider researchers who sit in other departments, such as economics or public policy, so long as they have completed sufficient, demonstrable training in psychological research methods. Priority will be given to applicants with at least one degree (bachelor, master, doctoral) explicitly from psychology.

Expectations of Research Supervisors

- ✓ To demonstrate skill and enthusiasm for psychological research related to the theme of behavioural economics
- ✓ 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 lead ethical review submissions at home institution
- ✓ To plan for and run research group sessions during the jSchool
- ✓ To supply methodological and technical expertise on the research project from the outset, while also seeking input from senior academics or other experts in psychological science
- ✓ To continue work on the study after the jSchool: oversee all aspects of the project, directly supporting all students on the team to complete requirements
- ✓ To ensure reliability in scientific dissemination, all projects will preregister study protocols with a partner journal.

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. The JRP promises a minimum of 20 hours of team time during the jSchool, but typically more time is allocated for group work.

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.ⁱⁱ You will be supported by the jSchool organising team, the Research Officer and the Director of the JRP. 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). Supervisors are expected to seek expert input as research progresses.

jSchool 2019 Theme

The scientific theme for the upcoming jSchool is *Behavioural Economics: The psychology of financial choice*. While many of our projects feature a pilot element, we require all projects to meet the standards of reproducible science by encouraging early stages of study to involve some level of replication. We encourage applicants to consider attempts to replicate prevailing conclusions in psychological and behavioural sciences in new languages, locations, and environments, while also inviting new methods and measures.

The general focus should relate to interventions that influence behaviour and decision-making on a variety of topics. While the theme focuses on financial choice, we are also pleased to consider proposals on other domains, such as health, education, environment, and work. Studies of other applications of behavioural insights will also be considered so long as they meet the general description provided here. 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. Does the plastic bag tax have the same effect in countries with significant economic inequalities?
2. Does personality predict receptiveness to financial nudges such as energy letters?
3. Using gain framing to reduce stereotype threat in teenagers
4. Temporal discounting to moderate outgroup bias in political conversations
5. Boosting better management decisions in high-turnover organisations
6. Game Theory to increase recognition of fake news
7. Do nudges change recycling behaviours differently between individualistic and collectivistic societies

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 Olatz Ojinaga Alfageme, 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 of interest within psychological sciences 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 while considering appropriate standards for power and reproducibility.
- Suggestions for recruitment of participants, methodology, and instruments should be given.
- Some feature of replication is expected, even if related only to initial assumptions about populations or metrics. For example, an existing survey translated to new languages should be validated as showing similar distributions in a new population, and highlighted if not found. We welcome full replication studies as well, particularly those that attempt to replicate identical methods in new populations.
- 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.

Please, be sure to review our statement on reproducible science [here](#).

Expectations & Obligations

Research Supervisors are required to attend the 2019 jSchool (30th June- 6th July 2019, Siena, Italy), arriving one day earlier (29th June). The Supervisors shall also attend the Impact Window and JRP Conference at Cambridge, UK in August 2020 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 early 2020 (location TBD) for an optional chance to work together with their teams. Although JRP is trying to keep attendance costs at minimum, for jMeeting a fee up to €95 may be charged.

How to become a Research Supervisor

1. Complete the Supervisor [application form](#). Applications will **close at 17:00 CET on Thursday, 31st January 2019**.
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). *This may be posted online if accepted – we recommend using language that will be understood by students and general audiences.*
 - 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, **3rd February** – if you know in advance that you will be unavailable that day, please note this in the appropriate section of the application form and write to researchofficer@psycholars.org as early as possible. 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

ⁱ The full 13-month Junior Researcher Programme is by invitation-only to research group members which have completed the jSchool and presented a satisfactory proposal during the week. Supervisors are considered active at the point their projects are accepted. Details may be found on our website.

ⁱⁱ In certain circumstances, we can make exceptions for partners, but this will likely preclude the Supervisor from having full room coverage. We also ask partners to contribute on occasion to various tasks.