

# Junior Researcher Programme

## jSchool 2021: Italy

Apply via our [website](#) by the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2021



### Event Information

#### Where

Siena, Italy

#### When

8<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021

*Supervisors are required to arrive on the 7th July 2021*

#### Contact

researchofficer@pscholars.org

### jSchool 2021

The jSchool is a one-week summer school that offers aspiring researchers in psychology the chance to kickstart the design of multi-country research in small groups under the supervision of early-career researchers. It provides a platform for students in psychology and behavioural sciences to conduct research in an international setting and in their field of interest, with the aim to publish in scientific journals.

The jSchool week includes lectures and seminars from experts in the field, and research group sessions led by PhD or post-doc students in the role of **Research Supervisors**. The final day of the jSchool marks the beginning of student enrolment into the Junior Researcher Programme.

### Why become a Research Supervisor?

Becoming a Research Supervisor in the Junior Researcher Programme is a unique opportunity for academic and personal development. Supervisors are given the chance to lead a group of talented and motivated undergraduate and postgraduate psychology students in designing and conducting a cross-cultural research project of their choosing related to the theme.

### Expectations of a Research Supervisor

- ✓ To demonstrate skill and enthusiasm for psychological research related to the overarching themes of behavioural science and reducing inequalities
- ✓ To show determination, resilience, and motivation to supervise a group of international psychology students to complete a cross-cultural research project for the duration of the programme (13 months)
- ✓ To have supervisory skills to ensure the research team is directed and supported at all stages of the research project
- ✓ 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 working on the study after the jSchool, oversee all aspects of the project, and attend the JRP Conference in Summer of the following year
- ✓ To encourage reliability in scientific dissemination, and preregister study protocols

**Research Supervisors must be willing to commit to their proposed research projects for the duration of the programme. The programme starts with the jSchool in July 2021 and ends with the JRP Conference in August 2022.**

### Supervisor Information

#### Key information

Several Research Supervisors are selected to lead small groups of University students (from Undergraduate to Postgraduate and Master-level). These groups will meet and build the project foundations at the jSchool, and continue developing and carrying-out the 13-month research project on the topic of the Theory of Planned Behaviour.

#### Eligibility

- You must be enrolled as a PhD student, or in the first three years of postdoctoral research.
- You must be able to communicate fluently in English (written and spoken).
- You either must be primarily a researcher in psychology or have completed substantial training in psychological research methods
- You must fit all other guidelines presented in the documents listed below

#### How to Apply

Read [the application guidance form](#) and complete [the application form](#) by the 14 February 2021.

**Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an online interview, held on Saturday 20th February 2021.**

## Life at the jSchool

Throughout the jSchool you will work, present, and reside alongside several other Supervisors. Organisers will not intervene with your group work (except for various scientific and managerial checks), and you will be responsible for leadership and scientific oversight, in consultation with and support from the JRP Team.

At School you can expect an exciting and fulfilling week unlike any conference or workshop. You will spend several hours each day working with your research group. Whilst you are free to manage your own team, we expect you to lead discussions of literature, theory, and objectives of the study. Your team is expected to produce the study design and action plan for the project to be presented on the final day of the jSchool. Please note that this planning is under the assumption that it will be safe to travel and public health authorities deem an event of this size and in this constellation possible. Should the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic not allow for a safe in-person event, jSchool 2021 will be held online.

## Project Proposal

All jSchool 2021 projects feature topics that are related to the research theme: **Inequality: Behavioural science to confront systemic and social barriers**. This year the JRP is looking for projects that specifically focus on behaviour and decision-making within and between diverse populations, with a specific focus on how these patterns may differ for disadvantaged populations. More specifically, we will collectively focus on incorporating the **Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB)** into all projects, as we will aim to work in a joint effort to focus on replicability, generalizability, and potential for real-world benefits. This will be done by investing all research on a common topic.

Some of the specific questions we expect projects to focus on are:

- Is there overall replicability of the TPB in various domains and cultural contexts? *Domains could include health or financial behaviour*
- Do assumptions and existing evidence from TPB apply equally for disadvantaged populations? *This could account for ethnic/racial, economic, geographic variables, depending on the specific topic.*

Broadly speaking, the projects we are looking for can be divided into 3 tiers:

- **Tier 1:** Lab environment (online survey). Testing TBP in different domains, such as direct or conceptual replications of TBP studies in health and financial behaviour, with an additional focus on inequalities.
- **Tier 2:** Lab environment (online survey). Testing TBP-based interventions that improve health/financial behaviour, with an additional focus on which interventions close inequality gaps.
- **Tier 3:** Real-world behaviour. Can TPB be applied in the real world, and does it “work” the same for everyone? This will be achieved in collaboration with external organizations that have access to actual behavioural data, with which the JRP will assist project teams.

## Note from the Executive Director

*We are delighted to host the 2021 jSchool in the stunning Certosa di Pontignano in Siena, Italy. Following the growing tradition of JRP teams making real-world impact through their research, we are also excited to having the 2021-2022 theme of using behavioural science to combat inequalities. Being a Supervisor in the JRP is a tremendous opportunity to gain experience in leading research for early career psychological scientists. From the proposal through publication, this project is yours to lead, which means you will get a chance to develop your own professional portfolio on topics of your choosing with the support of multiple enthusiastic young researchers from around the world. We do hope you'll consider proposing a project and I very much look forward to welcoming you into the programme this summer in Italy.*

**Dr Kai Ruggeri, Columbia University | Executive Director of the Junior Researcher Programme**



## jSchool Information

### Theme

Inequality: Behavioural science to confront systemic and social barriers

### Checklist for topic and method requirements

- ✓ A clear and relevant research question must be formulated
- ✓ A description of how students can actively be involved in the research design and process must be provided
- ✓ The project description should give feasibility details, demonstrating how the research question can be answered within the programme's frame
- ✓ The target population should be reasonable to recruit within a certain time (+/- 6 months)
- ✓ Suggestions for recruitment of participants, methodology and research tools to adopt should be provided

### Any Questions?

We hope this document and the application guide have provided you with an exhaustive overview of the programme details and the Supervisor information.

If you have any additional questions to ask, doubts to be cleared, or feedback to provide regarding the supervisor applications and selection please email us at:

[researchofficer@pscholars.org](mailto:researchofficer@pscholars.org).