
RESEARCH SUPERVISOR APPLICATION GUIDANCE

The Junior Researcher Programme (JRP) is currently accepting applications from PhD students and postdoctoral researchers to join us at the annual jSchool and subsequent programme. Each year, we take on six Research Supervisors to lead small groups of undergraduate and postgraduate psychology students. These groups will develop and carry out a 13-month research project based on the Supervisor's area of work.

The jSchool is an annual week-long summer event which serves as a platform for psychology and behavioural science students to conduct cross-cultural research in their field of interest, with the aim to publish high-quality studies in scientific journals. The jSchool includes 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 JRResearch Supervisor provides you with a unique opportunity for academic and personal development. Supervisors are given the chance to lead a group of around 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 2023 is *Biased beliefs: The psychology of irrationality and its consequences*.

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 about 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.¹ **Fully-fluent written and spoken English is mandatory.**

We are particularly keen to invite candidates who share the JRP view toward cultural diversity, student development, and extracurricular activity. Given the multicultural nature of the Programme, 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 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, public policy, health, or political science, so long as they have completed sufficient, demonstrable training in psychological research methods. Priority will be given to applicants with at least one degree (undergraduate or postgraduate) in psychology.

Expectations of Research Supervisors

- ✓ To demonstrate skill and enthusiasm for psychological research related to the theme of irrationality
- ✓ To supervise, direct, and support a group of about six psychology students conducting a cross-cultural research project through to its completion (generally 13 months)
- ✓ To lead ethical review submissions at their 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 support scientific transparency and to encourage reliability in scientific dissemination, we strongly encourage the creation of protocols and preregistration of studies

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 leading your research group. Though

¹ The full 13-month Junior Researcher Programme is by invitation-only to research group members who 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.

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 during the jSchool. Supervisors will stay at the venue together with the organising team and student participants. Please note that we cannot accommodate partners or family members at the venue.² You will be supported by the JRP Team and members of the Board of Directors on site; with the Research Officer being your primary contact for project-related questions. 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 2023 Theme

The scientific theme for the upcoming jSchool is *Biased beliefs: The psychology of irrationality and its consequences*. While many of our projects feature a pilot element, we require all projects to meet the standards of reproducible science by encouraging the 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 the theme of irrationality. However, we understand irrationality broadly and encourage applications for projects across all areas of psychology. Studies of other related topics will also be considered so long as they meet the general description provided here. Given the breadth of the theme, we have provided some example project ideas below, though other ideas are very welcome. We also strongly encourage exploring the impact of biased beliefs in the domain of public health and well-being, decision-making, politics, communication, and more.

1. How did conspiratorial beliefs shape the public perception of and the response to the COVID-19 pandemic across countries (see e.g. [Romer & Jamieson, 2020](#); [Teovanović et al., 2021](#))
2. What psychological factors contribute to science scepticism: A cross country examination (see e.g. [Fraser et al., 2022](#); [Rutjens et al., 2022](#))
3. Enhancing rationality: Susceptibility to cognitive biases and how to override the intuitive response (see e.g. [Damjanović et al., 2019](#); [Misuraca et al., 2021](#); [Šrol, 2021](#))

² 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.

4. Emotions as a source of (bounded) rationality: The impact of emotions on financial choices (see e.g. [Park & Sela, 2018](#))
5. Making health decisions in your worst interest: behavioral interventions that mitigate irrational health behavior (see e.g., [Volpp & Asch, 2016](#))
6. Disagreeing on facts: Determinants of politically motivated reasoning ([Druckman & McGrath, 2019](#); [Tappin et al., 2021](#))
7. Exploring the personal cost of pseudoscientific beliefs (see e.g. [O'Brien et al., 2021](#); [Majima, 2015](#))
8. Falling for fake news: susceptibility to misinformation and how to mitigate it (see e.g. [Roozenbeek et al., 2020](#); [Roozenbeek et al., 2022](#))

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 crucial 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, Marija Petrović, at researchofficer@psycholars.org with a short description. Please note that 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 psychology or behavioural 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.

- If your application is successful, we encourage you to develop your ideas as much as possible in advance, and to work with an advisor or even seek review. This is not to give you extra work, but instead to ensure a more productive jSchool week and to allow you to move quickly and seamlessly into your research.

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

Expectations & Obligations

Research Supervisors are required to attend the jSchool 2023 (31st July – 6th August 2023, Siena, Italy). The Supervisors shall also attend the JRP Conference at Cambridge, UK in August 2024 to present the group projects together with their team. **While accommodation and meals are provided for jSchool, JRP does not cover travel costs for it, nor does it cover any of the costs for the JRP Conference.** Supervisors and their teams are further invited to the **optional** four-day jMeeting in early 2024 (location TBD) for a chance to work together with their teams. Although JRP is trying to keep attendance costs at minimum, participation for jMeeting may incur costs of up to €200.

Please note.

We have every intention to run these events in-person, but we will closely follow any changes in the pandemic as well as all national/international travel guidelines. Please operate under the assumption that only fully vaccinated individuals will be allowed to enter the venues. This may mean that a recognised vaccine must have been administered no more than 9 months prior to the event. Precise details and requirements will be confirmed with the hosting venues and communicated to attendees closer to the events. jSchool participants are asked to self-test for COVID-19 before departure from their home country and upon arrival at the event. Independent of national guidelines, individuals who test positive on the first day of the event will not be allowed to join the rest of the event to protect participants, but measures will be put into place for individuals to join virtually instead.

How to become a Research Supervisor

1. Complete the Supervisor [application form](#). Applications will **close at 17:00 CET on Saturday, 11th February 2023**.
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 3,000 characters). *Stating the research question and its relevance to the theme, including possible research design and recruitment strategy.*
 - d. **Statement on Supervising Research** (max 3,000 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 **Saturday, 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 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 2022-2023