

# Student Applicant Guide

An infopack for students applying to jSchool 2023

Junior Researcher Programme: 2023 to 2024 cohort

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# Junior Researcher Programme

The **Junior Researcher Programme (JRP)** is a global initiative intended for students and early-career researchers in psychology and behavioural sciences. This is a 13-month-long programme that seeks to support students grouped into teams and supervised by early-career researchers (Supervisors). It offers the chance to gain valuable experience in designing cross-cultural research in small groups, with the overall aim of producing meaningful insights suitable for publication in scientific journals and beyond.

The teams come together in July/August during **jSchool**, our annual summer school, where the new Junior Researcher Programme cohort starts working on projects generated by Supervisors, and that adhere to the annual JRP theme. They then continue to carry out their projects over the following year, during which they are expected to prepare a pre-registration manuscript. Junior Researchers and Supervisors reunite at the **Junior Researcher Programme Conference** in Cambridge (United Kingdom), where all teams present their research to an academic audience.

The JRP is an extra-curricular programme aimed at students that are enrolled in a Bachelor's or Masters' programme (or comparable).

For more information on the JRP, please consult [our website](#).

## jSchool

The jSchool is a one-week summer school held each July. It is the platform used to launch students into conducting and completing their team's research projects in an international setting across the following 13-months. It is designed to create an environment where emerging researchers can start enhancing their abilities, while delivering outcomes at a professional standard.

Participants can expect an exciting and fulfilling week unlike any conference or workshop. During the week, students will have the chance to get to know their project team and supervisor, and spend several hours each day working within the research group to create an appropriate design and management plan for the project and upcoming 13 months. This will be presented to the other participants at the end of the jSchool week.

They will also receive training in methods and management and be able to network with other students and early career researchers participating in the event, providing a first step in setting up an international professional network for themselves. Our poster session also allows participants to showcase their non-

JRP research projects at the jSchool. On top of that, jSchool attendees will also be able to take part in social events held in non-working hours.

The final day of the jSchool includes the formal induction into the Junior Researcher Programme.

For more information about jSchool, please also consult the [jSchool webpage](#).

# jSchool 2023

jSchool 2023 will be held from the **31<sup>st</sup> July – 6<sup>th</sup> August 2023**.

- It will be held in Certosa di Pontignano, 5, 53019 (Siena, ITALY). All participants are required to travel to Italy and be present for the entire jSchool timeframe. The cost per participant is **£450**, all inclusive (accommodation, meals, events) except for all travel, which must be organised and managed by the participant.

For more information on jSchool 2023, please consult the [jSchool 2023 webpage](#).

## Theme, Supervisors, and Research Projects

The jSchool 2023 theme is **Biased beliefs: The psychology of irrationality and its consequences**.

6 PhD students in the role of Supervisors have been chosen to lead the research teams:

1. **Modes of reasoning for debunking misinformation**, led by Sriraj Aiyer (University of Oxford, UK)
2. **Biased cognitive processing and the limits of information to influence attitudes and behaviour in the digital era**, led by Natalia Bogado (University of Koblenz-Landau, Germany)
3. **Cross-cultural differences in the relationship between conspiracy beliefs and violent radicalization in youth**, led by Jessica den Elzen (Utrecht University, The Netherlands)
4. **Knowing what we don't know: combatting overconfidence to tackle misinformation**, led by Saara Taavila (University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands)
5. **Extremism in climate activism: Exploring moral norms, role models exposure and social identity**, led by Giovanni Telesca (University of Siena, Italy)
6. **Appetite for risk: How metabolic state biases value-based choices**, led by Cecilia Vezzani (University of Bonn, Germany)

For more information about the Supervisors of jSchool 2023, please consult the [jSchool 2023 webpage](#).

# Becoming a Junior Researcher

Each year, University students from all over the world are selected to join the Junior Researcher Programme and work on a project as part of a research team for 13 months. As students, they must attend the initial one-week event, the [jSchool](#) in July/August, and present their projects after 13 months at the final event, the [Junior Researcher Programme Conference](#). Once their journey is completed, they will join the [JRP Alumni Network](#), where they can keep in touch with researchers of previous cohorts.

## Application window

To become a Junior Researcher in the Junior Researcher Programme, applicants must apply to participate in jSchool within the student application window. **The call for students is now open and will close on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May, 2023, 23.59h CEST (Rome time)**, after which the JRP will not accept any other submissions. Consult the next page for a step-by-step guide on how to apply.

## Selection process

Once the window has closed, members of the JRP Team will review all applications, select students, and allocate them to a research team. Successful students will be informed thereafter and must accept their place on the jSchool with their given research team within 10 working days. They must also confirm they have read and agreed to the [JRP's expectations and students' obligations](#).

## Preparing for the jSchool

Selected students are required to transfer the participation cost of the jSchool within 10 working days of accepting the offer. Details on how to safely transfer will be provided. Infopacks, booklets, and research resources will be sent to students in the weeks following the selection process, to get them ready for the upcoming jSchool.

## JRP's expectations of Junior Researchers

We expect all students to:

- Be highly motivated, interested in conducting a cross-cultural research project, and contribute to the project execution and completion with their team for the entire 13-month timeframe.

- Attend for the entirety of the mandatory events: jSchool and Junior Researcher Programme Conference. Exceptional circumstances of absence must be communicated by the student and confirmed by the JRP team, and where possible made known to the JRP team in advance.

# How to apply

Our application process is structured in a streamlined way, to ensure applicants' experience is as smooth and clear as possible. **Please take all the following steps, to make sure you do not make mistakes when applying to jSchool 2023.** Ignoring these may reduce your chances of being selected. The deadline to apply for jSchool 2023 is the **8<sup>th</sup> of May, 2023, 23.59h CEST (Rome time)**, after which the JRP will not accept any other submissions.

## 1. Check your eligibility

Before submitting your application, read carefully the following eligibility criteria. Should you be unsure of your eligibility, please complete our [eligibility checker](#).

### A) Age

- You must be **over 18** years of age.

### B) Level of English

- You should have an **advanced level of English**.
- While some level of understanding is given for those who have not engaged in an international event of this type in the past, it is vital that you are comfortable communicating, following technical presentations, and writing in English.

### C) Enrollment in education

- You are **currently enrolled in a full degree programme in psychology** meeting the European Higher Education Framework equivalent of **Undergraduate (Bachelor/Diploma) or Postgraduate (Master or equivalent degree)**.
- You must have completed **at least 45 ECTS but not more than 360 (cumulative) ECTS**, or have completed at least one semester and started an additional semester according to the US system, at the time of your application. You must not have completed more than six years in your current field of study (including both your undergraduate and postgraduate studies). Please consult the [ECTS webpage](#) for more information.
- You are eligible if your current enrolment status is active during the calendar year (2023 in this case), meaning you have **not** graduated prior to 1 January 2023 from your course.

Anyone that has graduated prior to 2023 but will begin a new, eligible course in 2023 is eligible to apply.

- Students that have finished their coursework but are completing exams, a mandatory placement/practicum/internship, or a thesis during 2023 are eligible.
- Your application **will** be eligible if you are completing a second postgraduate (non doctoral) degree and have accumulated more than 360 total ECTS. However, priority will go to students who may not have yet had the opportunity to participate in such activities.

## D) Primary degree

- **Your primary degree should explicitly be in psychology** as defined by the APA Undergraduate Guidelines for psychology or the general APA Accreditation Guide for postgraduate study. Note that these standards apply no matter in what country you study. If you are unsure if your institution meets this criterion, we advise you to check with the appropriate authorities in your university of study.
- If your university does not explicitly offer psychology but an equivalent degree, we advise you to communicate with us in advance of your application (jschool@pscholars.org). We will inform you if this will be considered eligible.

## E) Education institution

- The university where you are currently enrolled is in **a country with a national psychological organisation** that is recognised by the American Psychological Association or the European Federation of Psychologists' Associations.<sup>1</sup>

## F) Nationality

- There is no nationality requirement for selection to the programme but **a minimum of 2/3 of places will be given to students currently studying in universities based in Council of Europe states<sup>2, 3</sup>**.
- If additional places are available after the initial places are filled, applicants from outside the Council of Europe may be considered, under the condition that they can obtain necessary tourist visas in order to attend compulsory JRP events, in particular the JRP Conference in August 2024. The JRP can provide an invitation letter for successful applicants who require it, but all tasks and costs related to appropriate travel documents

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<sup>1</sup> If your country does not have such an association, you should contact the jSchool Team to check if you are eligible. This condition is typically in place due to ensure access to ethical review committees.

<sup>2</sup> Note that the Council of Europe is different from the European Union. CoE consists of 47 member states, which is what we use to determine eligibility.

<sup>3</sup> Selections are not made on nationality or geographic representation. However, a minimum of 20 nationalities must be represented, which typically limits jSchool selection to a maximum of three students from a given country.

are entirely the responsibility of the applicant. Precise needs should be known in advance of applying.

## 2. Prepare your statement of purpose

As part of your application, you will be asked to submit a statement of purpose.

**Three general sections must be discussed**, but you are not required to follow the precise questions, order, or limit the text to the topics mentioned:

- **Personal Motivation.** Please outline why you are applying for jSchool. This can link to career aspirations, general research interests relevant to the JRP, the annual theme, and/or what you might gain from participating.
- **Research Experience.** You should discuss any research experience you have, including undergraduate dissertations or other projects as well as any extracurricular work. For those who have not participated in research, please describe your interest and motivation in the area. Note that the jSchool is aimed at providing students of all levels the opportunity to participate in research, so inexperience is not a disqualification as long as the motivation is clearly described. There is no need to overstate experience if you feel you have not had sufficient opportunities.
- **Research Project Preference.** For your choice, please explain what appeals to you about this project, why you wish to join it, and what you would bring to the project in terms of experience and skills. Please explain only your interests and do not outline the topic itself.

To maintain consistency in the format of the documents, **we will only consider applications as eligible if the statement of purpose is formatted according to the following guidelines:**

- **File and name.** Your statement of purpose should be saved as a PDF, with the name "SURNAME\_SoP2023.pdf". For example, "PIAGET\_SoP2023.pdf".
- **Title.** The title should be "SURNAME Statement of Purpose". Do not include other titles. The typography for the title is Times New Roman, 14 pt, bold. This title should be left-aligned.
- **Word.** The word limit is 800. The count begins with the first word after the title. Any subheadings will be counted toward the 800-word limit.
- **Text.** The typography for the text should be Times New Roman, size 12. This text should all be plain (e.g., no bold type, no italics, no underlining). This text should be justified.
- **Paragraph.** Paragraphs should be written with single spaces. Please leave one line between paragraphs.
- **Margins.** The margins should be 1 cm each side, top and bottom, using the standard A4 layout.

- **Headers and footers.** Do not include headers or footers.

### 3. Prepare your CV

As part of your application, you will be asked to upload your CV.

While we welcome independence in producing these, **we will only consider applications as eligible if the CV follows following guidelines:**

- **File and name.** CV should be saved as a PDF with the name "SURNAME\_CV2023.pdf". For example, "PIAGET\_CV2023.pdf".
- **Length.** Please limit your CV to **two pages**. Extending beyond this is only accepted in the case of publications and conference presentations.
- **Format.** Europass CVs are **not** permitted. Other templates are not strictly prohibited.
- **Content.** Applicants can include any content they deem relevant to the role, but information on current and past study should be included. Do **not** include a picture of yourself.

### 4. Complete the online application form

To apply to become a student at jSchool 2023, please complete the online [student application form](#).

**Please ensure you have the following information at hand, as once you start your application form you cannot go back to previous section:**

- **Opening page.** This provides you with a format overview of the application form, as well as our Privacy Notice. There are no details to input or documents to upload on this page. Please review and carefully read all information. You must agree to our data storage processes to continue completing the application form.
- **Understanding the programme.** You must confirm you have understood how the programme works, and that providing incorrect information may result in dismissal from the programme. All boxes must be ticked to continue completing the application form.
- **Personal details.** Please ensure you input accurate information and provide it exactly as you wish it to appear on any formal documentation. We will do our best to reflect any non-English characters in spelling. Place 'NA' in any sections not relevant to you. These include:
  - *Full name on documents:* Any personal, non-academic titles (Mr, Ms, Mrs, Mx, Jr, Sr, etc.)
  - *Address:* Preferably details that are most likely to apply through to August 2023



- *Nationality*: Only countries for which you hold official citizenship documents or a current passport
  - *Primary country of study*: Country in which you are currently enrolled for your full degree
  - *Current country of study*: Country of a placement, study abroad, or Erasmus exchange
  - *Email*: Preferably an email that will be accessible through to August 2023
  - *Telephone*: The phone number you would use at the jSchool
  - *Special requirements*: Any allergies or other necessary information we should know of
- **Commitments**. You must select all four boxes in order to proceed.
  - **Education**. Please use official university names. We do not require faculty/department specifications. Place 'NA' in any sections not relevant to you.
    - *Primary university*: Your primary university where you will receive your degree
    - *Primary degree title*: Level (e.g., BSc, MSc) and name (e.g., Psychology) of your degree
    - *Current university*: University hosting current study abroad or exchange/placement
    - *Further degrees*: If you have more than one prior or current degrees, describe these briefly. Please include them also in your CV
  - **English language**. These items are based on the [Common European Framework of Reference for Language](#), which is set by the Council of Europe.
  - **Project choice**. Please select the project you are applying for. Please consider that although we try to respect your project preference, you might be allocated to another research group. In the event in which we have too many applicants for one project, please indicate in the following application page which project(s) you would NOT like to be placed in.
  - **Country representation**. Please select the country you are from and would be happy to represent. We may allocate you the country of study (if it is different from your country of citizenship).
  - **Statement of purpose**. Upload a statement of purpose as a PDF document titled "SURNAME\_SoP2023.pdf". For example, "PIAGET\_SoP2023.pdf".
  - **CV**. Upload your CV as a PDF document titled "SURNAME\_CV2023.pdf". For example, "PIAGET\_CV2023.pdf".
  - **Photo**. Upload a photograph of yourself (max size 150kbs) titled "SURNAME\_ID.png". For example, "PIAGET\_ID.png". Please make sure your face is clearly visible and save it as a PNG or JPG. Please note that we do not consult photos throughout the selection process. Photos are required solely for security reasons.

## 5. Submit your application

Once you have completed all the sections above, your application will be submitted. You will see an on-screen confirmation followed by a confirmation email to the email address you have provided. We highly recommend keeping a document version of your application should you experience any issues.

Your application will be reviewed with all other applications *after the deadline for student applications*.

## Testimonials

“The Junior Researcher Programme was my first platform to share my experiences and research interests with like-minded people across the globe. I was the first ever Sri Lankan to be part of this programme, which really improved my chances of getting into a doctorate. The unforgettable week we spent in beautiful Tuscany and the work we carried out from there on not only contributed to my personal, academic and career growth, but also facilitated building strong lifelong friendships with some of the most brilliant researchers worldwide.”

**Lasara Kariyawasam**

*2018 – 2019 cohort*

*University of Southampton*

*Representing: Sri Lanka*

“Being part of the JRP has allowed me to grow so much both academically and socially. I joined after my first year at university and had practically no experience in research. However, the support, passion and encouragement of my supervisor Dr Tomas Folke, my research team, and the rest of JRP, made this an incredible learning environment for me. As a result, the JRP has been a big factor shaping my undergraduate experience and I now hope to pursue research in the future. I wholeheartedly recommend anyone to join the JRP no matter how much or how little research experience you have. You will find a strong community of passionate and dedicated people ready to both support and challenge you!”

**Anna Louise Todsén**

*2019 – 2020 cohort*

*University of St. Andrews*

*Representing: Denmark*

“Coming from a degree that is mostly focused on Clinical Psychology, I had significant knowledge gaps in research methodology and practice. jSchool was a life-changing experience, that helped me develop the academic skills I needed to pursue a career in research. For the first time, I went through every stage of a typical social science research project - getting ethical board approval, planning a research study, collecting and analyzing data, publishing a scientific paper, and all that while working with international team members with various skills sets. I would say that jSchool is a sort of a “Bootcamp”

in psychology and behavioral sciences - for 13 months you get substantial know-how of research methods and plenty of opportunities to apply them.”

**Ivaylo Sakelariiev**

*2019 – 2020 cohort*

*Sofia University*

*Representing: Bulgaria*