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## RESEARCH SUPERVISOR APPLICATION GUIDANCE

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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 JRP Research 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 2024 is *Economy of Well-Being: Harnessing Behavioral Science for Resilient Societies*.

## 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.<sup>1</sup> **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 the well-being economy
- ✓ 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 the time is yours to use as you wish, we expect that you will spend time discussing the

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

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.<sup>2</sup> 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 2024 Theme

The scientific theme for the upcoming jSchool is *Economy of Well-Being: Harnessing Behavioral Science for Resilient Societies*. 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 well-being economies. However, we understand this as a broad decision-making framework 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 implication of the well-being economy in the domain of public health and well-being, decision-making, politics, communication, sustainability, and more.

1. How can we encourage public support for sustainable and healthy policies (see [Bergquist et al., 2022](#); [Drews & Van den Berg, 2016](#))?
2. How do gender stereotypes relate to gender equality (see [Breda et al., 2020](#))?
3. How does nature-based therapy affect mental health and well-being (see [Kotera et al., 2020](#))?
4. Do health co-benefits stimulate environmental action (see [Reismann et al., 2021](#))?
5. How do historical narratives affect political ideologies and preparation for future crises (see [Sprengholz et al., 2023](#))?

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

6. How can we increase socially responsible and sustainable investments (see [Gutsche & Ziegler, 2019](#))?

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, Elisabeth Sievert, at [researchofficer@psycholars.org](mailto: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 2024 (July 7 – July 13, 2024, Siena, Italy). The Supervisors shall also attend the JRP Conference at Cambridge, UK in August 2025 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 2025 (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 care about the health and well-being of our participants. As a result, we might request that COVID tests be completed upon arrival and before travel. To safeguard the health of other participants, persons cannot attend in person if the results are positive. In this instance, we will facilitate remote participation but cannot reimburse costs.*

## How to become a Research Supervisor

1. Complete the Supervisor [application form](#). Applications will **close at 23:59 CET on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024.**
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 and Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 2023-2024*