Student Application Guide

A guide for students applying to jSchool 2025

Junior Researcher Programme: 2025 to 2026 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 for the first time in July for **jSchool**, our annual summer school, where the new Junior Researcher Programme cohort starts working on projects generated by Research 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 extracurricular programme aimed at psychology or behavioural sciences students enrolled in a Bachelor's or Master's 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 and constitutes the first step of the JRP. 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 enhance 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.

Students 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 and encourages participants to showcase their non-JRP research projects or research ideas 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.

jSchool 2025

jSchool 2025 will be held from **the 6th to the 12th July 2025** at the 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£** (inclusive of accommodation, most meals, all events). All travel must be organised and managed by the participant.

Theme, Supervisors, and Research Projects

The jSchool 2025 theme is **The Psychology of Decision Making: Understanding Choices Across Different Contexts.**

Seven early-career researchers in the role of Supervisors have been chosen to lead the research teams:

- **Developing an On-App Intervention to Boost Decisions with Social Media** led by David Grüning (Max Planck Institute, Germany & Stanford University, USA).
- **Can AI be a Therapist? Exploring the Future of Mental Health Care** led by Dilan Yücel (Amsterdam University Medical Center, The Netherlands).
- **AI vs. Human Cheating: Perceptions of Morality and Competence in Academic Dishonesty** led by Katarzyna Miazek (SWPS University, Poland).
- **Smaller-Sooner or Larger-Later? How Time Framing Shapes our Choice Behaviour** led by Dr. Kristof Keidel (University of Bonn, Germany).
- **Sleepy Judgment: Is Effort Moralization a Function of Subjective Fatigue?** led by Leopold Roth (University of Vienna, Austria).
- **Political Emotions and Interoception in the Era of Social Media** led by Markus Tünte (University of Vienna, Austria).
- **The Foreign Language Effect in Ethical Decision-Making: A Cross-Cultural Study** led by Dr. Yliana V. Rodríguez (University of the Republic, Uruguay).

For more information on the Supervisors and jSchool 2025, please consult the jSchool 2025 webpage.

Becoming a Junior Researcher

Each year, 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 Junior Researchers, they must attend the initial one-week event, the **jSchool** in July, 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 JRP, applicants must apply to participate in jSchool within the student application window. **The call for students is now open and will close on the 24th of April 2025, 23:59h CEST (Rome time),** after which the JRP will not accept any other submissions. Please, consult the next page for a step-by-step guide on how to apply.

Selection process

Once the application 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 in the jSchool with their given research team within 10 working days. They must also confirm they have read and agreed to the JRP students' expectations and obligations.

We expect all students to:

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

Preparing for jSchool

Selected students are required to transfer the participation cost of jSchool within 10 working days of accepting the offer. Details on how to safely transfer will be provided. The booklet and research resources will be sent in the weeks following the selection process, helping students to prepare for jSchool.

How to apply

Our application process is streamlined to ensure a smooth and clear experience. **Please take all the following steps to avoid mistakes when applying to jSchool 2025.** Ignoring these may reduce your chances of being selected. The deadline to apply is **the 24th of April 2025, 23:59h CEST (Rome time),** after which we 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 the 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) Enrolment in education
- You are **enrolled in a full degree programme in psychology** meeting the European Higher Education Framework equivalent of **Undergraduate (Bachelor or Diploma) or Postgraduate (Master or equivalent degree)** when jSchool begins.
- 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 when jSchool begins, meaning you have **not** graduated before the 6th of July 2025 from your course. Anyone who has graduated before this date but will begin a new, eligible course in the same year is eligible to apply.
- Students who have finished their coursework but are completing exams, a mandatory placement/practicum/internship or a thesis during 2025/2026 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 research activities.

D) Primary degree

- **Your primary degree should be explicitly in psychology** as defined by the [APA Undergraduate Guidelines](#) for psychology. These standards apply regardless of your country of 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.[1]

F) Nationality

- There is **no nationality requirement** for selection to the programme[2]. Applicants are responsible for obtaining the necessary tourist visas to attend mandatory JRP events, particularly the JRP Conference in August 2026. The JRP can provide an invitation letter for successful applicants who require it, but all tasks and costs related to appropriate travel documents are entirely the applicant's responsibility. **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:

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[1] 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.

[2] Selections are not made on nationality or geographic representation. However, a minimum of 20 nationalities should be represented, which typically limits jSchool selection to a maximum of three students from a given country.

- **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. 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 adheres to the following guidelines:**

- **File and name.** Your statement of purpose should be saved as a PDF, with the name "YOURSURNAME_ SoP2025.pdf". For example, "PIAGET_SoP2025.pdf".

- **Title.** The title should be "YOURSURNAME 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.

- **Words.** 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. Add 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 adheres to the following guidelines:**

- **File and name.** The CV should be saved as a PDF with the name "SURNAME_CV2025.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 studies should be included. Do **not** include a picture of yourself.

4.   Complete the online application form

To apply to become a student at jSchool 2025, 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 sections:

- **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. Review and carefully read all information. You must agree to our GDPR-compliant 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.** 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, etc.)
  - *Address*: Preferably details that are most likely to apply through to July 2025
  - *Nationality*: 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 placement, study abroad, or Erasmus exchange if applicable
  - *Email*: An email that will be accessible through July 2025 (you will be able to update it if needed)
  - *Telephone*: The phone number you would use at the jSchool (please include your country code)
  - *Dietary requirements*: Any requirements related to your diet
  - *Special requirements*: Any other necessary information we should be aware of

- **Commitments.** You must select all four boxes in order to proceed.

- **Education.** 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 multiple degrees, briefly describe them and include them 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.** Select the project you are applying for. Consider that although we try to respect your project preference, you might be allocated to another research group in case there are too many applicants for one project. Please indicate on the following application page which project(s) you do not want to be placed in.

- **Country representation.** Select the country you are from and would be happy to represent. You may be selected to represent the country you hold citizenship of, or your 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 **"YOURSURNAME_SoP2025.pdf"**.

- **CV.** Upload your CV as a PDF document titled **"YOURSURNAME_CV2025.pdf"**.

- **Photo.** Upload a photograph of yourself (max size 150kB) titled **"YOURSURNAME_ID.png"**. Ensure sure your face is visible and save it as a PNG or JPG. We do not consult photos throughout the selection process, they are required for security reasons.

- **Scholarship.** This year one scholarship will be offered to cover the jSchool fee for one student (including accommodation, most meals and events, but excluding all travel). The funding is generously provided by the Open Science Community Amsterdam. If you would like to apply for this scholarship, complete the three questions regarding the scholarship.

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

"Participating in JRP has not only deepened my understanding of being an early career researcher but has also equipped me with the essential skills, confidence, and a valuable network to pursue this path. JRP stands out for its commitment to practical support, particularly in honing skills through publication emphasis during the 13-month journey. The outstanding networking opportunities, engaging with diverse like-minded individuals at various research experience levels, have been a constant source of inspiration. Beyond academia, the friendships I have made in JRP were an unexpected but fantastic perk, creating a genuine sense of community. I strongly recommend the JRP experience for anyone seeking a comprehensive immersion into the world of research or wishing to explore its possibilities. It extends beyond academia, providing a holistic approach to personal and professional growth."

Mariam Shavgulidze, representing Georgia
2022 – 2023 cohort
Eötvös Loránd University

"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, representing Sri Lanka
2018 – 2019 cohort
University of Southampton

"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 Todsen, representing Denmark
2019 – 2020 cohort
University of St. Andrews