Junior Researcher Programme

jSchool 2025: Italy

6th July – 12th July 2025

Apply via our [website](#)

The jSchool 2025 in Italy

The jSchool offers the chance to gain valuable experience in designing multi-country research in small groups under supervision of early-career researchers. It provides a platform for psychology students to conduct research in an international setting and in their field of interest, with the aim to publish in scientific journals.

The jSchool includes lectures and several training sessions, and six research groups led by 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 six talented and motivated undergraduate and postgraduate psychology students in designing and conducting a cross-country research project of their choosing related to the theme: *The Psychology of Decision Making: Understanding Choices Across Different Contexts.*

Expectations of a Research Supervisor

- ✓ To demonstrate skill and enthusiasm for psychological research related to the theme of decision making
- ✓ We are looking to recruit six determined, resilient, and motivated researchers with the skills and ability to supervise, direct, and support a group of six international psychology students to complete a cross-cultural research project (generally 13 months)
- ✓ To plan for and run research group sessions during the summer school
- ✓ 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 the following year
- ✓ To support scientific transparency and to encourage reliability in scientific dissemination, we strongly encourage creating protocols and preregistration of studies

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 2025 and ends with the JRP Conference in August 2026.

jSchool Information

Where
Siena, Italy

When
6th July - 12th July 2025

Contact
researchofficer@pscholars.org

Supervisors Information
Key information
Six Research Supervisors are selected to lead small groups of Bachelor and Master-level psychology students. These groups will then develop and carry out a 13-month research project based on the supervisor's area of work.

Eligibility
- You must be in your second or further year of PhD study 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 prior 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](#). The applications close on **February, 9th, 2025, at 23.59 CET**

Curriculum vitae should be maximum two pages on qualifications and experience, plus publications (if necessary). **Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an online interview, which will be held on Saturday, 22nd or Sunday 23rd February 2025.**

Life at jSchool 2025 in Italy

During the summer school, you will work, present, and reside alongside five other supervisors. 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. Organisers will not intervene with your group work (apart from various scientific and managerial checks), and you will be responsible for all leadership and scientific oversight.

At the jSchool, 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.

Project Proposal

All jSchool projects feature topics relating to the general research theme *The Psychology of Decision Making.* We understand decision making broadly and encourage applications for projects across all areas of psychology and behavioural sciences. The general focus of the proposed project should relate to how people or groups make decisions, and/or how these decisions influence personal and population outcomes. This includes but is not limited to the impact values, norms, and biases have on decision making as well as different outcomes of decision making, such as social, organizational, financial, consumer, clinical, and more. Given the breadth of the theme, we have provided some example project ideas below, though other ideas about related topic areas are very welcome as these examples are meant only as idea generators. We require all projects to meet the standards of reproducible science by encouraging early stages of study to involve some level of replication.

1. How do social norms shape honesty and cooperative behavior? (see e.g. Isler & Gächter, 2022; Ścigała et al., 2018)
2. Perceived fairness in AI vs. human decision-making: implications for trust and compliance (see e.g. Choi & Chao, 2024; Newman, Fast & Harmon, 2020)
3. How do emotions influence financial decision-making and gambling behavior (see e.g. Canale et al., 2022; Ruiz de Lara, Navas & Perales, 2019)?
4. Mitigating cognitive bias to improve organizational decisions (see e.g. Thomas & Raimann, 2022)
5. Decision-making in childhood: exploring risk, reward, and social Influence (see e.g. Kanngiesser et al., 2024; Kray, Kreis, & Lorenz, 2021; Gigerenzer et al., 2021).
6. How does choice architecture, particularly attribute translation, impact decision-making? (see e.g. Mertens, Hahnel & Brosch, 2023; Ungemach et al., 2017)
7. How does scarcity influence decision-making under pressure (see e.g. Shah, Mullainathan, & Shafir, 2019)?
8. The role of independent vs interdependent self-concept on consumer behaviour (see e.g. Choi, 2020; Hong & Chang, 2015).

If the project you have in mind does not directly relate to any of the mentioned research areas, you can still apply, provided that it meets the requirements outlined in the guidance document available on the website. You are welcome to contact us in advance to discuss project ideas.

jSchool Theme
The Psychology of Decision Making: Understanding Choices Across Different Contexts

Checklist for topic and method requirements

- ✓ A clear and relevant research question should be formulated.
- ✓ Description of how students can be actively involved in the research design and process.
- ✓ Feasibility of the project: It should be described 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 instruments should be provided.
- ✓ To meet the standards of reproducible science, some level of replication should be involved.

Any questions?

Please send any questions you have about applying or being a Supervisor to researchofficer@pscholars.org

Note from Executive Director

We are delighted to once again host the 2024 jSchool in the stunning Certosa di Pontignano in Siena, Italy. Following the tradition of JRP teams making real-world impact through high quality and relevant research, we are also excited to have the 2025-2026 theme of economy of well-being, an essential topic in psychology today. Being a supervisor in the JRP is a unique opportunity for early-career psychological scientists to gain experience in leading research. From the proposal through publication, the project is yours to lead, which means you will get the chance to develop your own professional portfolio on topics of your choosing with the support of 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.

Sarah Ashcroft-Jones Columbia University | Executive Director of the Junior Researcher Programme.

The Junior Researcher Programme proudly welcomes you to apply for our 2025 cohort.

We look forward to your application and can't wait to see what you'll bring to the team.