

Research in Psychology

The School of Biological and Behavioural Sciences is currently home to over 180 PhD students and around 100 academics. We study and teach the psychology of humans and animals with an interdisciplinary approach, focused at the interface between psychology (perception, cognition, communication, social life) and biology (genomics, neuroscience, ethology, evolution).

Research Areas

Behavioural Psychology

We study the cognitive, biological, and evolutionary mechanisms underlying individual behaviour. Combining research in human participants and non-human animals, this work builds our understanding of how memory, language, perception and decision-making have been shaped over time, how they differ between individuals, and how they affect our lives in different environments, as well as the social relationships we form.

Resilience, Health and Well-being

We study the developmental, environmental, genetic, and social factors that shape people's responses to the slings and arrows of daily life. Our work uses field and lab experiments, surveys, and secondary data analysis to investigate how individual differences (e.g., sensitivity, neurodiversity (ADHD), genetics) and social connections (e.g., interpersonal relationships, group memberships) can improve or impair responses to stressors and promote or prevent mental health difficulties in local, national, and international contexts.

Contact for PhD enquiries:

Vicky Man

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Funding

- Queen Mary Postgraduate Research Studentships
- Grant funded studentships
- BBSRC LIDo DTP
- ESRC LISS DTP
- Wellcome Trust Health Data in Practice PhD Programme
- Various international scholarship schemes.
- Self-funded students.

For more information, please see: qmul.ac.uk/postgraduate/research/funding_phd/

Application process

1. Identify a potential supervisor.

Directly funded projects are advertised at qmul.ac.uk/sbbs/postgraduate/phd-programmes/postgraduate-research-studentships. Unfunded PhD projects are advertised at qmul.ac.uk/sbbs/postgraduate/phd-programmes/phd-projects

Other projects within our research themes may also be possible. As an externally funded applicant, you must contact a supervisor and get their agreement to proceed with the application. For funded projects, contact with your supervisor is not essential.

2. Submit an online application.

You will need to include your CV, transcripts, references and a statement of purpose. A research proposal may be required.

3. Interviews.

the prospective supervisor is interested in taking the application further, you may be invited for a formal interview.

4. Apply for external funding if required.

This may be done at any stage. Offers may be conditional on obtaining funding.

Further guidance can be found at qmul.ac.uk/sbbs/postgraduate/phd-programmes/application-process/

Entry requirements

- Master's degree is normally required
- Bachelor's degree with 2:1 or higher may be considered with sufficient research experience.
- Other relevant experience may be taken into account
- IELTS with 6.5 overall, 6.0 in writing and 5.5 in speaking, listening and reading

Further details can be found at qmul.ac.uk/englang-reqs

Application deadlines

September 2024 entry

- China Scholarships Council, QM Principal Science and Engineering and BAME Studentships: **31st January**
- Self-funders can inquire with prospective supervisors throughout the year.

NOTE: Some external funding bodies require a separate application, with different deadlines.

Please check here for information:

qmul.ac.uk/scholarships/database

Student profile

Ioanna Zioga studied the neural correlates of music learning and creativity under the supervision of Dr. Caroline Di Bernardi Luft. She previously studied BA Music in Athens and then MSc in Music, Mind, and Brain at Goldsmiths, London.

“The difficulty I’ve always had in communicating with my father due to his significant hearing loss, channelled my curiosity towards sound and its perception since I was a child. At Goldsmiths I discovered my true passion, for understanding how the brain processes and creates music. My main research question is to investigate the neural signatures of learning and how they predict creativity. My research interests include: creative problem solving, learning, melodic expectation, electroencephalography (EEG), and brain stimulation. I aim to continue my research at a post-doc level and eventually pursue a career in academia.”