



Max Planck UCL Centre for Computational Psychiatry and Ageing Research



Max Planck UCL Centre London · Russell Square House, 10-12 Russell Square, London, WC1B 5EH

Doctoral Fellow Positions in Computational Psychiatry and Ageing at UCL.

The International Max Planck Research School on Computational Methods in Psychiatry and Ageing Research (IMPRS COMP2PSYCH) seeks applicants for

Four-year PhD Fellow positions

to be based at the Max Planck UCL Centre for Computational Psychiatry and Ageing, London (UK).

The IMPRS COMP2PSYCH is an international doctoral program of the Max Planck UCL Centre for Computational Psychiatry and Ageing Research, with sites in London and Berlin. The participating institutions are the Max Planck Institute for Human Development, the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, and University College London. The goal of IMPRS COMP2PSYCH is to learn, apply, and develop computational and statistical methods that foster our understanding of individual development from childhood to old age, with an emphasis on mental illness and healthy cognitive ageing.

The IMPRS COMP2PSYCH is strongly interdisciplinary and invites applications from graduate students with a background in applied mathematics, computer science, cognitive neuroscience, psychiatry, or psychology. The program offers unique training in concepts and methods from computer science and statistics in relation to substantive research questions in psychiatry and lifespan psychology. The training program involves seminars, methods workshops, participation in summer schools, and collaborative supervision of research training.

The main focus of the London site is to apply cognitive and theoretical neuroscience methods to understand the computation and neural basis of mental illness, as well as to understand changes in cognition that occur as a function of ageing. Methods include neuroimaging, computational modelling of behaviour and brain, and large-scale behavioural and neural data collection. Students will have a primary supervisor within the Centre and will be enrolled on the UCL PhD programme run by the Institute of Neurology and will be subject to eligibility, admission and progression rules of the programme. We are particularly keen to receive applications from candidates who have an interest in pursuing work that spans systems and circuit levels of analysis.

We are able to offer up to two funded places on the programme (supporting UK home fees, and a 4-year stipend), as well as research expenses and travel funding to conferences or courses. Students will participate in our international summer schools, seminars and workshops, and may have an opportunity to conduct a research project of up to 6 months in Berlin.

Ray Dolan

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Max Planck Institute for Human
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Coordinators

Dominique Drai, UCL
Helena Maravilla, MPI Berlin

Entry requirements: Applicants should hold, or will hold at time of enrolment (September 2024) as shown in supporting documents, a bachelor's degree (minimum level 2:1) a master's degree, diploma or overseas qualification of an equivalent standard in one of the relevant fields mentioned above. We are committed to equality of opportunity, to being fair and inclusive. We therefore particularly welcome applications from candidates with unconventional career path, disadvantaged backgrounds and those underrepresented at UCL.

Funding: We offer a three-year studentship that covers stipend of £24,000 (UK tax-free) per annum, PhD registration fees (home fees only, currently £6,035 starting academic year 24-25 fulltime), research expenses, and funds for travel to conferences or courses. The studentship can be extended, subject to successful progression, by one year of completing research status (CRS) to enable thesis writing and completion of papers arising from the studentship. Due to time constraints attached to this funding, we are only able to offer this studentship on a fulltime basis and for entry in September 2024 (academic year 2024-25). Successful candidates are expected to devote themselves exclusively to the studentship.

Application: Please send your application as follows: 1) a CV, 2) a statement of why you want to do the PhD (no more than 1 page), 3) a copy of your strongest piece of academic work (e.g., thesis, publication). Please also arrange for two reference letters to be sent to us by referees. Your surname should be the first word in the subject line of these emails. The statement should indicate which of the named supervisors you would be most interested in having as a primary supervisor (multiple academics can be listed as potential supervisors).

Please ensure that your surname is the first word in the subject line of the email and that all documents are clearly labelled with your surname and the type of document. All documents and references should be sent to MaxPlanckPhD@ucl.ac.uk by 11th February 2024 at midnight. Questions about the programme can be directed to MaxPlanckPhD@ucl.ac.uk.

Deadline: February 11th, 2024. Interviews will be conducted in April and decisions about admissions are scheduled for the end of April 2024. Students admitted to the programme will start in September 2024 (academic year 2024-25).

* Letters of recommendation can be emailed separately by referees by February 11th, 2024.