



MAX PLANCK UCL CENTRE
for Computational Psychiatry and Ageing Research



Four-year PhD in Computational Psychiatry at University College London

The International [Max Planck Research School on Computational Methods in Psychiatry and Ageing Research](#) seeks applicants for PhD fellowships to be based at University College London (UCL). The PhD programme is strongly interdisciplinary and invites applications from potential students with a broad range of backgrounds including, but not limited to, neuroscience, mathematics, statistics, machine learning, computer science, physics, psychology, and medicine.

This is an international doctoral programme of the [Max Planck UCL Centre for Computational Psychiatry and Ageing Research](#), which has sites in London and Berlin. The programme offers unique training in concepts and methods from computer science and statistics in relation to substantive research questions in cognitive neuroscience, psychiatry, and lifespan psychology. Training involves seminars, methods workshops, participation in summer schools, and collaboratively supervised research. Students will take one module per semester for the first two years of the programme on topics that range from psychiatry and decision science to advanced computational and statistical methods.

The main focus of the London site is to address cognitive and theoretical neuroscience questions relevant to understanding psychiatric disorders. Methods include neuroimaging and pharmacology, computational modelling of behaviour (learning, decision-making, emotion), and large-scale smartphone- and internet-based data collection. Students will have a primary supervisor within the Centre. Current faculty and supervisors include [Peter Dayan](#), [Ray Dolan](#), [Stephen Fleming](#), [Tobias Hauser](#), [Quentin Huys](#), [Janaina Mourao-Miranda](#) and [Robb Rutledge](#). Collaboration is encouraged within the Centre and with other UCL departments including the [Wellcome Trust Centre for Neuroimaging](#) and [Gatsby Computational Neuroscience Unit](#).

We offer a generous four-year studentship stipend of £23,263 (tax free) per year, PhD registration fees at the appropriate rate, research expenses, and funds for travel to conferences or courses. Students will participate in international summer schools, seminars and workshops linked to the Berlin site, and have the opportunity to conduct a research project of up to 6 months in Berlin.

Requirements: This is a highly competitive programme. Successful applicants should have, or expect to get, at least an upper 2nd class degree (or the foreign equivalent), and should have some familiarity with computational and statistical methods. **The next intake of students will be September 2018 with the possibility for an earlier start date.** UCL is committed to employing more people with disabilities and especially encourages them to apply. UCL also seeks to increase the number of women in those areas where they are underrepresented and therefore explicitly encourages women to apply.

Deadline: 11 February 2018. Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed in early March 2018 via Skype.

HOW TO APPLY. Please send: 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 London-based faculty you would be most interested in having as a primary supervisor (multiple faculty 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 **11 February 2018** at midnight. Questions about the programme can be directed to MaxPlanckPhD@ucl.ac.uk.