

2021/22 PhD Allocation Process

The selection of candidates for fully funded PhD studentships to start in September 2022 will be organised as follows.

Applications

The deadline for funded PhD studentship applications is **30 January 2022**.

Incoming applications will be forwarded by the PGR Programmes Officer (Katie) to the proposed project supervisor(s) and, if the application is for funding from the general School allocation, the head of their research group (HoG). If a supervisor is not named in the application, Katie will liaise with the PGR Admissions Tutors to find suitable staff members that can judge the applications.

Supervisors and HoGs should inform Katie if an application is to be rejected or if the candidate should be interviewed.

Interviews

The proposed supervisor(s) should organise the interview of nominated candidates. Interviews must be conducted with two academic staff members who have completed the "Fair Selection and Interview Training".

It is a Human Resources guideline that, for any given post, multiple genders must be represented either in each interview or on the panel following the interviews which allocates the funding, if such a panel exists. At the same time, we do not wish to impose disproportionate interviewing burdens on women. For studentships not funded by the general School allocation, we advise the supervisor and their HoG to discuss how to proceed, including whether there are particular candidates for whom the presence of a woman on the interview panel may make a meaningful difference.

The HoGs will discuss nomination of candidates for interviews with their group members. HoGs are not themselves expected to sit in interviews, but they should ensure that they get a good overview of all candidates so that they can make an informed decision.

For studentships funded in the general School allocation, the recommended second interviewer is one of the PGR Admissions Tutors, according to the applicant's research group:

- Reto Buzano: GANG
- Kathrin Glau: Prob, S&DS
- Mark Jerrum: Combi, A&NT
- Vito Latora: CS&N, DS&SP

The 2020/21 version of the Interview Form (found on PhD area of SMS Intranet) must be filled out and sent to k.hale@qmul.ac.uk with the outcome, either reject or consider for offer.

In the interest of fairness, interviews for candidates for the general allocation should broadly follow the Interview Format document (also in the PhD area). This document is also meant for circulation to applicants. Online and in-person interviews are both acceptable. Tell your candidates to be prepared to write mathematics during the interview video call.

All interviews must be completed before **Thursday, 17 Feb 2022**.

PhD Allocation Committee

1. Each HoG will put forward a list of applications, ranked by quality, which will compete for studentship funding. Bounds on the length of this shortlist will be announced later, including how many applicants on the list may be from candidates not ordinarily resident in the UK, once the School's funding position is clearer. HoGs should produce a short summary of the candidates on the list. The lists should be sent to k.hale@qmul.ac.uk by end of day **17 Feb 2022**.
2. The Faculty will be making the final decisions on the BAME ring-fenced scholarships, but these students can also be included on HoG lists.
3. The final selection will be made by the PhD Allocation Committee, consisting of Head of School

(HoS), Director of Research (DoR), Director of PGR, Deputy Director of PGR, EDI Lead and the PGR Admissions Tutors. This meeting will be held on **22 Feb 2022**.

4. The PhD Allocation Committee will make decisions taking into account
 - a) excellence of the applicants and their proposed supervisors, and aiming at
 - b) supporting early career researchers and research grant holders and
 - c) aspiring to have the supervision duties distributed between staff as uniformly as reasonably possible.

5. It has been decided by SMT, consistent with College rules and guidelines, that:
 - a) Supervisors who currently have a student or had one in the last 12 months who either went beyond the 4 year submission deadline with no Covid-related extension, or who changed supervisor or left QMUL due to dissatisfaction with their supervision, are not eligible for funded studentships in this round. Longer bans may be applied to repeat offenders.
 - b) Supervisors who currently already have at least 2 students financed by EPSRC or Principal's Studentships are not eligible for further EPSRC studentships from the Mathematical Sciences DTP (but could receive funding from other sources).