

2020/21 PhD Allocation Process

The selection of candidates for fully funded PhD studentships to start in September 2021 will be organised as follows.

Applications

The deadline for funded PhD studentship applications is **27 January 2021**.

Incoming applications will be forwarded by the PGR Programmes Officer (Katie) to the proposed project supervisor(s) and 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 clearly indicate in MySIS if an application is to be rejected or if the candidate should be interviewed.

Interviews

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. Because of workload allocation constraints, HoGs are urged to be conservative in the number of candidates their group interviews this year.

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](#)". For studentships *considered in the main allocation*, the preferred second interviewer is one of the PGR Selectors, as follows:

- Reto Buzano: Geometry & Analysis, Combinatorics (names A–L)¹
- Vito Latora: Complex Systems & Networks, Dynamical Systems & Stat Physics, Combinatorics (names M–Z)¹
- Sasha Sodin: Probability, Statistics, Algebra & Number Theory

For studentships with other funding sources, 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. If you need a female interviewer, try Weini Huang (Deputy Director of PGR).

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.

Also *new for this year*, we are attempting to broadly standardise how interviews are carried out, for greater fairness. Please see the [Interview Format](#) document (in the same location), and forward it to your applicants before interview. In the interests of consistency, all interviews for the main 2020/21 allocation should be carried out online. Tell your candidates to be prepared to write mathematics during the interview video call.

All interviews must be completed before **12 Feb 2021**.

PhD Allocation Committee

1. Each HoG will put forward a list of up to 5 applications, ranked by quality, which will compete for studentship funding. *At most 2* applicants on the list may be from candidates not ordinarily resident in the UK. 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 **12 Feb 2021**.
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

¹ This split is of course ad hoc. For Combi candidates please approach either Tutor if helpful for scheduling.

PGR Admissions Tutors. This meeting will be held on **18 Feb 2021**.

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 (but could receive funding from other sources).
 - c) Staff members considered research-inactive as decided by HoS and DoR are not eligible for any studentships, funded or unfunded. In particular, T&S staff fall in this category by definition of their role (but are allowed to be second supervisors).

After allocation

All recipients of fully-funded studentships will be required to submit a major grant application between the award of the studentship and 12 months after its commencement.