

Research in Biological Sciences

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

Microbial and Network Ecology

Our research strengthens the construction and interpretation of ecological networks, and use a range of experimental, molecular- and modeling-based approaches. We work on both terrestrial and aquatic systems.

Evolutionary Genetics and Genomics

Our research focuses on the ecological and evolutionary aspects of population divergence, speciation and hybridisation. We have a particular strength in genomics, with staff working on diverse non-model species encompassing trees, arthropods, fishes and mammals

Structural Biology

Our research involves determining the shape, structure and dynamics of proteins and macromolecular machines to elucidate how they achieve their remarkable activities in the cell with a focus on a number of biological processes.

Cell Dynamics

Our research focuses on biophysics of cells during development and epigenetics. We also aim to understand the dynamic processes in bacteria and eukaryotic organelles.

Contact for PhD enquiries:

Vicky Man

sbbs-pgadmissions@qmul.ac.uk

Funding

- Queen Mary Postgraduate Research Studentships
- Grant funded studentships
- BBSRC LIDo DTP
- BBSRC AI for Drug Discovery Doctoral Programme
- London NERC DTP

- EPSRC Data-Centric Engineering 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.

Applicants are encouraged to contact potential supervisors. 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.

If 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

Andrew Knapp researched the evolutionary biology of processes such as mimicry and convergence under the supervision of Dr Dave Hone. He was funded by the NERC DTP scheme and has previously studied at Imperial College and the Open University:

"This department is a great place to study; it's not huge but it's very inclusive and there is always the opportunity to discuss your work with others. All students get a lot of support, and the lecturers' doors are always open if you need help or advice, not just from your own supervisors. The connections we have here mean that there are also great opportunities for collaboration with researchers not just in London, but all over the world. My research has taken me to Canada, the US, Poland and Mongolia, and I've been lucky enough to teach on the undergraduate field trip to Dinosaur Provincial Park in Canada."