WELCOME TO A NEW CHAPTER IN YOUR CAREER

Academic positions
Information for candidates
Welcome to the School of Psychology at Queen’s

We are a forward thinking and dynamic School that is proactively responding to the important challenges currently facing our society, the economy and the higher education sector. This brochure will provide you with more information about our School and ambitions.

Working together makes our research stronger

Over the last couple of years, we have created a vibrant research environment that not only consolidates and reinforces existing areas of research strength in the School, but it also actively encourages staff to explore and develop new research vistas, particularly cross-disciplinary (e.g. with engineering, health and other social sciences). We have a strong track record in carrying out impactful research, which makes a difference to people’s lives at home and abroad. We have national and international collaborations with key researchers in complementary areas of psychology. The relationships that we are building are helping us to become a world-leading centre in our distinct areas of psychological research.

A diverse educational offering

We pride ourselves in the quality of our teaching that is widely recognised as excellent. We are proactive in terms of our educational provision, responding to the current economic climate through the development of an attractive, modern, educational experience. We run a suite of MSc courses and have ambitious plans to extend our educational offering at this level. Our Doctoral training programmes in Clinical and in Educational Psychology offer exceptional training for individuals wishing to apply Psychology through the profession. We are forward thinking and creative in how we use technology to enhance the educational experience and are always looking for new ways to improve our students’ opportunities.

We are growing

Significant investment from the University and Faculty has enabled us to expand and we are currently advertising posts to develop the strengths of the School.

We wish to continue this journey through further academic recruitment.

If you are interested, we would encourage you to read on and find out more about our history, ambition, research, education, as well as student and staff experience within the School. If you have any questions relating to our open academic positions or the School in general, please get in touch.

We look forward to welcoming you to our School.

Professor Teresa McCormack
Head of School
t.mccormack@qub.ac.uk
WHO WE ARE

The School of Psychology was established in 1958 and is part of the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences. We currently have over 450 undergraduate students and over 100 postgraduate students. We offer an undergraduate degree accredited by the British Psychology Society and a breadth of postgraduate qualifications, including professional doctorates.

Our purpose is to be:

We are proud of our achievements at individual and School level. The fact that we are the only psychology department to hold an ATHENA Gold SWAN award is testament to the progress we have made towards embedding a culture of gender equality. Our supportive environment embraces the diversity of both staff and students, making it an inclusive place to work.

Research in the School of Psychology has been judged to be world-leading and outstanding by the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF). 73.3% of the School’s submitted impact case studies and impact templates were classed as outstanding in terms of their reach and significance outside academia, receiving a 4* rating.

The results place the School among the UK’s top 10 Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience departments in terms of research intensity. The impact figures reflect how the School’s research knowledge is informing policy makers, developing industry partnerships and ultimately touching on the lives of thousands of individuals.

The excellence of our research is manifested in our ability to secure international and national funding awards (ERC, BBSRC, ESRC, MRC grants) to support our world class research. Our aim in the next five years is to stretch this ambition further to truly establish ourselves as a globally recognised department of psychology.

We do this through:
• Creating a world class educational experience for all students
• Supporting a vibrant research environment that is collaborative and cross-disciplinary
• Raising our international profile at teaching and research level
• Embracing technological advances in every part of our work
• Connecting with key policy and decision makers to ensure our research has impact

Our purpose is to be:

“a world class School of Psychology which empowers our students and undertakes innovative research, that influences the future of the discipline, and enables far reaching benefits for society.”
OUR RESEARCH STRENGTHS

University level
Queen’s University Belfast, a member of the Russell Group, is a broadly based, research-driven university with a dynamic world-class research and education portfolio and strong international connections. The University’s priority is to achieve nationally and internationally recognised research excellence in all of its many and varied disciplines.

School level
Our research mission is to undertake high-quality research that addresses fundamental questions about the determinants of behaviour and major issues of contemporary relevance. We undertake research in both basic psychological processes and applied areas of psychology and have well developed links with external organisations in areas such as Health, Social Care and Education.

We pride ourselves on the flexibility that staff and students have in their research field, methodology and ways of working.

Research degrees are awarded in an environment that provides secure academic standards for conducting research and learning about research approaches, methods, procedures and protocols. We conduct both quantitative and qualitative research using both controlled lab based techniques and real life case studies.

Our research environment offers students the opportunities and the support they need to achieve successful academic, personal and professional outcomes from their research degree.

- **Health and Clinical:**
  Currently the group undertakes a broad range of research across the general areas of health and clinical psychology.

  There are two main research areas in Clinical Psychology - Trauma and Clinical Health Psychology. Trauma research focuses on understanding precursors to PTSD, psychometric assessment as well as evidenced-based treatments. Clinical Health Psychology focuses on the development and evaluation of cognitive behaviour therapy and behaviour change interventions to reduce the psychological consequences of physical health conditions (cancer, chronic pain, asthma, inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) as well as disease prevention through encouraging lifestyle change (e.g. diet/oral hygiene). The School has a long history of research in the area of health psychology that is concerned with psychological well-being and quality of life among people with physical health conditions, and their formal and informal carers.

  This research includes modelling work exploring the factors that are related to quality of life, and the development and evaluation of interventions designed to enhance quality of life. There is also a related methodological strand that explores our approaches to assessing quality of life and the meaning of this concept in different populations.

- **Perception Action Communication:**
  The research in this group is sub-divided into two main areas. The first area focuses on the psychology of perception and action. Research includes understanding perceptual processes and the specification of information for action, motor timing, postural control and the neural plasticity of the motor system. The second related area focuses on non-verbal communication, particularly emotion. The emphasis is on the measurement and modelling of emotion, signalling and communication processes. Both areas of research have particular relevance to human-computer interaction.

- **Child development:**
  The research in this group focuses on two themes. The first theme is cognitive development, in particular higher order cognitive processes. This research examines the development of fundamental skills, such as decision making, reasoning and language processing, as well as exploring reading and mathematical abilities in educational settings. The second theme relates to the broad area of childhood adversity. The research examines the intrinsic and contextual factors during development that help protect exposed young people from negative outcomes. This work connects with important public health issues including the prevention of intergenerational transmission of adversity.

- **Social psychology:**
  Social psychologists in the School form the Centre for Identity and Intergroup Relations (CIIR), which aims to advance the academic and public understanding of some of the key challenges facing individuals, groups and societies, from the perspective of social and political psychology. Our research focuses on the role of identity in explaining attitudes and behaviour, and examines intergroup relations in a variety of contexts both within and beyond Northern Ireland. Key topics under investigation in the Centre include: political engagement; encouraging psychological resilience among children living in conflict and post-conflict societies; community policing and police/youth interactions; the role of education in a divided society; developing and testing interventions (e.g., different forms of intergroup contact) to generating intergroup tolerance; gender issues related to bias and empowerment; the nonverbal expression of intergroup bias; and the challenges and benefits of diversity.

- **Animal behaviour:**
  This research is led by The Animal Behaviour Centre and research programmes focus on fundamental and applied aspects of domestic, farm and zoo animal behaviour. This group also looks at well-being and the impact of animals on human health.

School of Psychology
The School of Psychology is located in the David Keir Building, just a short walk away from the main campus. Our research is supported by state of the art laboratories and our facilities include:

- 128 channel EEG systems and custom made sound proof booth
- Eye movement tracking systems
- Trans-magnetic stimulation (TMS) labs
- An in-house child development lab, with the ability to record using closed circuit TV
- Balance and movement labs with motion capture equipment, balance master and bespoke balance measuring equipment
- Animal Welfare Lab with appropriate facilities for welcoming animals
- A comprehensive collection of psychological tests

The School also has excellent links with local Schools and Hospital Trusts, and many others, facilitating collaborative work with external organisations.

**FACILITIES**

**SPOTLIGHT ON**

**Movement Innovation Lab**

Our Movement Innovation Lab is situated within the Physical Education Centre (PEC). This ~150m² lab houses state-of-the-art facilities that we use to study and improve human motor performance, both at a fundamental level and as applied to sports and health scenarios. The facilities within the Lab include:

- 22 Camera Qualisys System at HD resolution
- AMTI force platforms for gait and posturography analysis
- Multiple Immersive, interactive virtual reality systems (head mounted displays [VIVE Pro, Oculus Rift] and projection screen)
- Xsens suit for full body motion tracking (3D character animation for Virtual Reality scenarios; movement tracking)
- Outside of this lab, our School houses 2 MagStim TMS systems, a BrainSight 2 neuronavigation system, a Neurocom Balance Master, a Northern Digital 3D Investigator System, several video-based eye trackers (both screen-fixed and head-mounted), as well as many bespoke systems for providing sensory information and recording perceptual and motor responses.

**Child Development Lab**

Our Child Development Lab within the David Keir Building provides a purpose-built flexible space for testing children of all ages. The space is child friendly, and there is a separate waiting area for parents with children’s toilets and baby-changing facilities. The facilities within the Lab include:

- Large room with one-way mirror to allow viewing from an observation room
- Discreet built-in video cameras and play back system
- Sound recording system

Within the School we also have an additional lab configured for EEG testing with children with a sound-proof booth.
OUR EDUCATION PORTFOLIO

The research that we conduct informs our educational offering, so that we are continually working towards our collective strengths. We can develop our students from undergraduate level all the way through to their Doctorate. We are proud to deliver a first class educational portfolio.

Educational portfolio

The School provides excellent training in Psychology and currently offers a variety of undergraduate, postgraduate taught and postgraduate research degrees. These include a three-year single honours BSc in Psychology, accredited by the British Psychological Society and an intercalated BSc Psychology degree for medical and dentistry students. The School offers two postgraduate taught masters, MSc Psychological Science (Conversion) and MSc Psychology of Childhood Adversity, as well as three types of postgraduate research degree programmes that incorporate the Doctorates in Clinical Psychology and in Educational Psychology, and a vibrant PhD programme.

Queen's has been offering a degree in Psychology for over 50 years and applications to the undergraduate and postgraduate degree courses are buoyant with increased interest coming from students in North America and Asia.

Over 92% of our students expressed their satisfaction with the course in the National Student Survey (NSS), particularly recognising the additional effort we have recently put into providing high quality feedback. Our MSc courses are research led and attract excellent students who are also very satisfied with the quality of their experience.

For more information on our educational offering, please visit: http://go.qub.ac.uk/psystudy

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The School of Psychology

Our students benefit from first class academic resources and research infrastructure and an extensive range of support services and facilities to underpin an excellent student experience.

The School is a fantastic place to do postgraduate study and there are immense opportunities at both Masters and Doctoral level to contribute to world-leading research, to be trained and taught by academic staff, who are experts in their field and to undertake continued professional development to enhance career prospects.

Our students have access to:
- Multiple computer labs equipped with laptops and PCs
- Personal workstations and facilities for all PhD students
- Computer facilities for use by MSc students
- Small seminar rooms and bookable project rooms
- Excellent lab equipment and facilities

Our student facilities for study, sport and socialising are second to none with over 170 student clubs and societies to choose from. Queen’s Sport provides one of the most advanced sport and fitness facilities in the UK, offering state of the art equipment and flexible membership options. The Graduate School at Queen’s, which is housed in a beautifully refurbished period building, is a dynamic intellectual hub which creates a community for all Post-Graduate students.

What our students say:

“There is a real sense of community within the School of Psychology at Queen’s, which provides a lovely atmosphere to come into every day.”

“Lecturers encourage students to approach them when we face any difficulties and promote two-way communication.”

“The academic and student support I have received has greatly exceeded all expectations.”

“The professors on this course are inspiring to be taught by because many of them are well respected within their fields and all of them are enthusiastic about their topics.”
I was appointed as a Senior Lecturer in the School of Psychology in October 2011, following a post-doctoral research fellowship (1997-2000) and lecturer position (2000-2011) at Queen’s. My post-doctoral research was based in the Faculty of Medicine at Queen’s, although I was supervised by a psychologist. Through these links it became clear to me that health psychology was a growing field at Queen’s, as it was throughout the UK and Ireland at that time. The School of Psychology was a natural home to develop this field, and already housed a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology. The cross-over between health and clinical psychology was a fertile ground for research and this has continued to be the case throughout my time in the School. The School has invested in the areas of health and clinical psychology and the University is well-positioned to develop internal and external collaborations in the area, which have led to significant, high quality research outputs.

As an academic and a HCPC Registered Health Psychologist, it is important to me that I can conduct excellent applied research in the area of health psychology, in a supportive environment, which is what the School of Psychology at Queen’s provides.

I came to Queen’s in 2002 as a lecturer after a PhD at the University of Cambridge and lectureships at the Universities of Warwick and Kent. My research is on cognitive development and I have found the laboratory facilities and technical support for research at the School of Psychology to be excellent. My work has also been greatly assisted by well-established links with local schools and other organisations.

The University has a long-standing commitment to supporting research on children, and encourages interdisciplinary collaboration in this area. This research environment has allowed me to progress my career rapidly to promotion to Professor in 2010 and then to Head of School in 2018. The School and the University proactively support career development in women, and family-friendly policies have allowed me to balance home and working life very effectively.

Our university recruitment campaign offers you a unique opportunity to join a leading university at one of the most exciting times in our history. We nurture an academic environment which values our scholars and students alike. We provide the highest rewards – both personally and professionally, as well as the opportunity to contribute to the wider social agenda.

We have provided the following profiles to help illustrate our breadth of experience.
I joined Queen’s in 2011 as a lecturer after a postdoctoral fellowship at the Department of Psychology, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium where I investigated mind-body interactions in older adults’ balance control.

My main research interests include the behavioural and neural control of human movement with a particular focus on ageing. My research aims to identify and moderate age-related decline in human movement and to reduce fall accidents in older adults.

I chose to join the School of Psychology at Queen’s University Belfast because it comprises a very strong group of researchers specialising in human movement and provides full access to the facilities I need for my research including a state-of-the art Movement Innovation Lab, balance control and brain stimulation laboratories.

I very much enjoy living in Northern Ireland. People here are very friendly, the city provides a variety of activities and cultural events, and areas of supreme natural beauty are only a short drive away. I find living and working here very rewarding.

I joined Queen’s School of Psychology in 2016 as a Lecturer in Experimental Social Psychology, after being an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Rutgers University Camden in the US. In my research I focus on the interplay between social cognition and nonverbal behaviour. I am particularly interested in understanding the interpersonal mechanism through which targets of intergroup bias are negatively influenced by existing implicit and explicit stereotypes.

I was initially encouraged to move to Queen’s because of the strong social psychology research that was already being carried out in the Centre for Identity and Intergroup Relations, as well as the state-of-the art lab facilities, which include virtual reality technology and tools to capture and analyse verbal and nonverbal behaviour.

Once at Queen’s, I was particularly impressed with the supportive environment for new lecturers, including mentorship from more senior academic.

Dr Mihalis Doumas

Dr Ioana Latu
The University was established in 1845 as part of the federal Queen’s University of Ireland with Colleges in Belfast, Galway and Cork, and was awarded independent degree awarding powers in 1908 when it became a university in its own right. It is one of the oldest universities in the UK: only nine can claim longer lineage.

It has a rich and distinguished heritage and holds a special place in the history of education, research and innovation. Today, Queen’s is a dynamic and diverse institution with over 600 international staff and 2,200 international students from over 70 different countries. We have over 150,000 alumni in more than 120 countries. Our graduates are role models at home and ambassadors for Northern Ireland abroad. Among our alumni we number two Nobel laureates – the politician David Trimble and the late poet, Seamus Heaney, both of whom served as members of staff. We are also proud of our Queen’s graduate John Stewart Bell, widely regarded as one of the most influential scientists of the twentieth century.

Global networks are critical to the future success of the University and Queen’s collaborates with many partners across international borders. Amongst its dynamic partnerships are academic links with leading institutions in China, India, Malaysia, and the Americas. Queen’s has recently established the China Medical University - Queen’s University Joint College (CQC), a joint venture to deliver cutting-edge education in Pharmaceutical Sciences, based in Shenyang. Queen’s is also working, in partnership with Dubai Healthcare City (DHCC), the world’s largest healthcare free zone, to develop the Mohammed Bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences (MBR-UMHS) and its College of Medicine.

Making a global impact through excellence in research and innovation across a range of disciplines is central to what we do at Queen’s. From new treatments for life-threatening diseases to protecting the lives and livelihoods of some of the poorest people on the planet, the University’s research impacts on society around the globe. The Institute for Global Food Security has gained a worldwide reputation for research in several areas of food safety, including uncovering high levels of toxic arsenic in rice, the staple diet of half the world’s population. Researchers have also found that almost half of baby rice products contain high levels of inorganic arsenic, despite new limits set by the EU. The Queen’s-led programme for the improvement of cancer services in Northern Ireland has resulted in the creation of a comprehensive cancer centre and significantly improved rates of cancer survival. In the arts, the Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry, home to many leading contemporary poets, underpins the University’s reputation as a world literary force.

Queen’s has also established four Global Research Institutes (GRIs) which bring researchers from different disciplines together on a scale that enables them to tackle major societal challenges. These are:

- The Institute of Electronics, Communications and Information Technology;
- The Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice;
- The Institute for Health Sciences;
- The Institute for Global Food Security.

Together with six Pioneer Research Programmes, the GRIs involve interdisciplinary collaboration among researchers across the University, as well as with partners in other institutions and from outside the academic world, regionally and globally.
Queen's University Belfast is placed at 180 in the QS World University Rankings 2019

8th in the UK for Research Intensity (REF 2014)

14 of the individual areas of research assessed were ranked in the Top 20 in the UK (REF 2014)

Over 75% of Queen’s research activity was judged to be internationally-excellence or world-leading (REF 2014)

One of only 12 universities in the UK to hold an Athena SWAN Silver Institutional Award

Awarded Northern Ireland’s first Regius Professorship in 2016

Six Queen’s Anniversary Prize Awards, the most recent for the Centre for Secure Information Technologies in February 2016


96% of our graduates are in employment or further study six months after graduation (HESA Destination of Leavers from Higher Education Survey, 2016-17)

Queen’s is No. 5 in the UK for Intellectual Property Commercialisation (2016-17 HEBCI Data)

25 Queen’s subjects in the UK top 20 (Times and

Sunday Times Good University Guide 2018)

Awarded £32m in 2012 under the UK Research Partnership Investment Fund to establish a Centre for Experimental Medicine

4 Global Research Institutes and 6 Pioneer Research Programmes established

William J Clinton Leadership Institute at Riddel Hall established in 2012

Research in Ionic Liquid Chemistry named “Most Important British Innovation of the 21st Century” in the Science Museum’s Initiative on Great British Innovations

Ranked first in the UK for number of Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (Innovate UK)
QUEEN’S AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Belfast is the capital of Northern Ireland and is one of Europe’s most friendly and fashionable regional cities. Lonely Planet described Belfast and the Causeway Coast as the number one region in the world to visit in 2018.

Northern Ireland is renowned for its beautiful beaches and coastal scenery. It has a fascinating history and cultural heritage and is known as the country that built the Titanic, has the world-famous Giant’s Causeway and world class golf.

People from all over the world are now making an important contribution to life here – in medicine, business, industry, science, education, sports, music and the arts. Queen’s University is proud to be a driving force in Northern Ireland’s cultural, artistic and economic renaissance, celebrating the innovation and creativity of its people and enhancing its reputation as an international centre of learning.

Travelling to and from Northern Ireland is both easy and economical. Most major British cities are within an hour’s flying time from Belfast’s two regional airports, which are both easily accessible from the University. These airports provide flights from many locations in the UK and mainland Europe as well as North America.

MORE AND MORE PEOPLE FROM ACROSS THE WORLD ARE CHOOSING NORTHERN IRELAND AS THEIR HOME

Picture courtesy of NI Tourist Board
Belfast has regular ferry services from Scotland and England, and Dublin is just a two-hour train journey away. As a compact, easily accessible city which is rich in culture, it is easy to see why many visitors chose to make the region their home.

NORTHERN IRELAND HAS UNDERGONE A TRANSFORMATION IN RECENT YEARS, AS IT LOOKS TOWARDS A NEW ERA OF ECONOMIC PROSPERITY
OUR SHARED FUTURE AND HOW TO APPLY

We are a young, strong and ambitious School and want to continue to develop and grow with your help. If you have the relevant experience, are ready for a new challenge and are keen to grow these areas of psychology, we would love to hear from you.

If you have any further questions about the roles available, the School or practical advice about relocating, please visit our web page at www.psych.qub.ac.uk or alternatively, please contact Professor Teresa McCormack at t.mccormack@qub.ac.uk or +44(0) 2890 97 4174

Please go to www.qub.ac.uk/jobs for more information and to submit your online application. You must clearly indicate your current position and which position you are interested in in all correspondence. We look forward to working with you.

IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ROLES AVAILABLE, THE SCHOOL OR PRACTICAL ADVICE ABOUT RELOCATING, PLEASE CONTACT t.mccormack@qub.ac.uk
PLEASE GO TO
WWW.QUB.AC.UK/JOBS