



Blended Intensive Program (BIP) 2026

Individual Differences in Mind and Brain

Hosted by: University G. d'Annunzio of Chieti-Pescara (Italy) – Department of Neuroscience, Imaging and Clinical Sciences (DNISC) and Department of Psychology (DIPSI)

Partner Institutions

- Stockholm University (Sweden)
- Iscte - University Institute of Lisbon (Portugal)

Overview

This Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) explores how and why people differ in their minds and brains. Students will learn about structural and functional variability in the brain, individual differences in cognition and behavior, and methodological approaches for analyzing such variability. The program combines lectures, workshops, and group discussions to explore how individual-level and group-level approaches can complement each other in psychological and neuroscientific research.

Program Structure

The program consists of two parts:

1. Online phase (26 May 2026) – introductory seminars via Zoom.
2. On-site intensive phase (Chieti, Italy, 8–12 June 2026) – workshops, keynotes, and student-led projects.

Participation

The programme is open to Master's and Doctoral students in Psychology, Neuroscience, or related fields from the partner universities and from other higher education institutions that hold an Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) and have an Erasmus+ agreement with one of the partner universities. Students from eligible institutions can receive Erasmus+ funding through their home university.

Credits Awarded

Students are awarded 3 ECTS when meeting the following requirements:

- Minimum attendance level of 80% of total session hours
- Active participation in discussions, workshops, and final presentations

Funding

Participating students can apply for Erasmus+ financial support through their home university to cover travel and subsistence during the on-site phase.

Students can apply for €79/day in individual support for the on-site part. Additional funding of around €300 to €500 may be granted for travel. The exact amount depends on the travel distance and whether a 'green' mode of transportation is chosen. Details can be found in the *Erasmus+ Programme Guide 2025*, p. 62.

Students apply for funding through their home university's Erasmus+ office, which administers the grants in accordance with national agency guidelines.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Note: the final program may differ in some of the details

Online Sessions

Zoom, 25 – 29 May 2026

SESSION 1 – Individual Differences in the Brain

Tue 26 May, 09:00 – 12:00

Schedule

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| 09:00 – 09:45 | Introduction to the BIP and group self-presentations |
| 10:00 – 11:00 | <i>Individual Differences in Brain Morphology</i>
Prof. Arnaud Cachia (Université Paris Cité, France) |
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SESSION 2 – Individual Differences in the Mind

Wed 27 May, 09:30 – 12:00

Schedule

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|---------------|---|
| 09:30 – 10:30 | <i>Individual Differences in Intertemporal choices</i>
Dr. Cinzia Calluso (LUISS, Italy) |
| 10:45 – 11:45 | <i>Individual Differences in Health Behavior Change and Self-Regulation</i>
Dr. Olga Perski (Stockholm University, Sweden) |
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SESSION 3 – Methods for Studying Individual Differences

Fri 29 May, 09:30 – 12:00

Schedule:

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|---------------|---|
| 09:30 – 10:30 | <i>Accounting for individual differences using multi-level modelling</i>
Prof. Mats Nilsson (Stockholm University, Sweden) |
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10:45 – 11:45 *Modeling individual differences in neuropsychology*
Dr. Manuela Berlinger (University of Urbino, Italy)

Onsite Sessions

Chieti, Italy, 8 – 12 June 2026

DAY 1 – Kick-off & Keynote

Mon 8 June

Schedule:

10:00 – 12:00 Welcome and introductions of organizers
Student introductions about their research and scientific interests.

12:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:00 **Keynote lecture** - *title to be announced*
Prof. Håkan Fischer (Stockholm University, Sweden)

DAY 2 – The Mind: Cognitive and Behavioral Perspectives

Tue 9 June

Schedule:

09:30 – 10:30 Lecture: *Individual Differences in Working Memory*
Dr. Alessandra Souza (University of Porto, Portugal)

11:00 – 13:00 Workshop: *Cognitive Modeling for Individual-Level Analysis*
Dr. Ronald van den Berg (Stockholm University, Sweden)

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 17:00 Lab visits (fMRI, EEG, NIRS, TMS) – on request

DAY 3 – Neural Variability

Wed 10 June

Schedule:

09:30 – 10:30 Lecture: *Brain-Behavior Correlates in Individual Differences*
Dr. Carlo Sestieri (University G. d'Annunzio of Chieti-Pescara, Italy)

11:00 – 13:00 Workshop: *Analyzing Open Neuroimaging Datasets for Individual Variability*
Federica Santacroce (University G. d'Annunzio of Chieti-Pescara, Italy)

Time TBD Social event

DAY 4 – Integration and Meta-Analysis

Thu 11 June

Schedule:

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|---------------|---|
| 09:30 – 10:30 | Seminar: <i>Meta-Analytic Approaches to Individual Differences</i>
Dr. Román Caballero (University of Granada, Spain) |
| 11:00 – 13:00 | Workshop: <i>Multi-Level Models for Neural Data</i>
Dr. Simone Di Plinio (University G. d'Annunzio of Chieti-Pescara, Italy) |
| 13:00 – 14:00 | Lunch |
| 14:00 – 17:00 | Lab visits (fMRI, EEG, NIRS, TMS) – on request |
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DAY 5 – Synthesis and Student Presentations

Fri 12 June

Schedule:

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| 10:00 – 12:00 | Group activity, presentations and general discussion.
Moderated by Dr. César Lima |
| 12:00 – 13:00 | Closing remarks and certificate ceremony |
| Afternoon | Optional cultural excursion & farewell gathering |
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