



Blended Intensive Program (BIP) 2026

Individual Differences in Mind and Brain

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

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 scientific programme, complemented by a dedicated social programme, integrates lectures, interactive workshops, and group discussions. Together, these activities foster a deeper understanding of how individual-level and group-level perspectives can inform and enrich psychological and neuroscientific research.

Program Structure

The program consists of two parts:

1. Online phase (26-29 May 2026) – introductory seminars via Zoom.
2. On-site intensive phase (Chieti, Italy, 8–12 June 2026) – keynotes, workshops, and student-led projects.

FINAL PROGRAM

Online Sessions

Zoom, 26 – 29 May 2026

SESSION 1 – Individual Differences in the Brain

Tue 26 May, 09:30 – 12:00 CET (Rome- Stockholm time)

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/365032633859999?p=AzoZXvfcR86dVsrWqz>

Schedule

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|---------------|--|
| 09:30 – 10:30 | Introduction to the BIP programme, participant's self-presentations |
| 10:45 – 11:45 | <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 CET

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/384707798710257?p=3Uef0Yr0okVxKnkO1M>

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>Same but Different: Modelling Individual Differences in Health Behaviour Change</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 CET

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/33254099146024?p=6FZH2h5qdsUWTQ7eXF>

Schedule:

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|---------------|---|
| 09:30 – 10:30 | <i>Thinking clearly about individual differences: Levels, estimands, and multilevel models</i>
Prof. Mats Nilsson (Stockholm University, Sweden) |
| 10:45 – 11:45 | <i>Modeling individual differences in neuropsychology</i>
Prof. Manuela Berlingeri (University of Urbino, Italy) |

Onsite Sessions

Chieti, Italy, 8 – 12 June 2026
Sala Multimediale del Rettorato

DAY 1 – Kick-off & Keynote

Mon 8 June

Schedule:

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|---------------|---|
| 9:30 – 12:00 | Institutional Welcome,
Organizers presentations about psychological courses and second/third
level education in their Universities,
PhD students introduction about their research project (2/3 slides). |
| 12:00 – 14:00 | Free Lunch |
| 14:00 – 15:00 | Keynote lecture -Auditorium CAST- <i>Variability as the Norm: From Average
Brains to Individual Minds</i>
Prof. Håkan Fischer (Stockholm University, Sweden) |
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DAY 2 – The Mind: Cognitive and Behavioral Perspectives

Tue 9 June

Schedule:

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|---------------|--|
| 09:30 – 10:30 | Lecture: <i>Individual Differences in Working Memory</i>
Dr. Alessandra Souza (University of Porto, Portugal) |
| 10:30-11:00 | Coffee break |
| 11:00 – 13:00 | Workshop: <i>Cognitive Modeling for Individual-Level Analysis</i>
Dr. Ronald van den Berg (Stockholm University, Sweden) |
| 13:00 – 15:00 | Lunch on your own |
| 15:00 – 16:00 | Lecture - <i>Aula Galilei (ITAB): Beyond self-control: links between memory and
temporal discounting</i>
Dr. Karolina Lempert (Adelphi University, USA) |
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DAY 3 – Neural Variability

Wed 10 June

Schedule:

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|---------------|---|
| 09:30 – 10:30 | Lecture: <i>Individual differences in the brain correlates of memory training in
older adults</i>
Prof. Carlo Sestieri (University G. d'Annunzio of Chieti-Pescara, Italy) |
| 10:30-11:00 | Coffee break |

11:00 – 13:00	Workshop: <i>Analyzing Open Neuroimaging Datasets for Individual Morphological Variability</i> Dr. Federica Procida (University G. d'Annunzio of Chieti-Pescara, Italy)
13:00-14:00	Free Lunch Social event (Majella trail) Experiential dinner (offered)

DAY 4 – Integration and Meta-Analysis

Thu 11 June

Schedule:

09:30 – 10:30	Seminar: <i>Meta-Analytic Approaches to Individual Differences</i> Dr. Rafael Román Caballero (University of Granada, Spain)
10:30-11:00	Coffee break
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 on your own
14:00 – 17:00	Lab visits (fMRI, EEG, NIRS, TMS) – on request

DAY 5 – Synthesis and Student Presentations

Fri 12 June

Schedule:

9:00 – 11:00	Group activity, presentations and general discussion. Moderated by Dr. César Lima
10:30-11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:00	Closing remarks and certificate ceremony
Afternoon	Optional cultural excursion
