



The University of Manchester



# Research Staff Handbook

Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences

Updated January 2014

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## Welcome message from the Associate Vice President for Research



I am delighted that you have chosen to join The University of Manchester, Britain's largest research-intensive university. Research excellence is at the heart of our University and underpins the goal of The University of Manchester to be one of the top 25 research universities in the world by 2020. As a researcher at this University, you are one of our most valued members of staff. We value and recognise the important contribution you make to the University's strategic goals set out in our strategy documents, *Advancing the Manchester 2015 Agenda and more recently The University of Manchester Strategic Vision 2020*<sup>1</sup>. You are central to our Research Strategy which aims to attract, develop and nurture researchers at all stages of their career<sup>2</sup>.

We have a vibrant research community at the University and we are committed to putting in place effective procedures and practices, both locally and institutionally, to support your career development. This has been recognized internationally by the European Commission who, in 2011, awarded the University its *HR Excellence in Research* badge. The badge acknowledges the alignment of the University with the principles of *The Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers*<sup>3</sup> and was awarded on the basis of the publication of our Concordat Implementation Plan<sup>4</sup>.

I would also like to draw your attention to the University's Research Staff Development Working Group which I chair. The Group provides University-wide strategic and operational direction regarding the implementation of the Concordat for the benefit of research staff. Each Faculty has a research staff representative which sits on the Group so please contact your rep if you wish to raise any issues with the Group.

Within your Faculty and The University as a whole, we strive to create an environment that allows you to excel and reach your full potential. Your Faculty has a dedicated Researcher Development Team that offers expertise and guidance and a portfolio of excellent training opportunities to support the development of your career. I would strongly encourage you to make contact with them as soon as possible after your arrival to discuss the training available to you. Equally, it is important that **you** begin thinking about **your** career from day one.

In this pack, you will find very important information, both generic and Faculty/School-specific, about frameworks designed to support you as a member of research staff and assist with your ongoing personal and professional development. There is also a very useful induction checklist (page 7) which I would encourage you to complete to help you get off to the best possible start.

Finally, and most importantly, I wish you every success with your research whilst you are here at The University of Manchester.

**Professor Matthew Lambon Ralph**

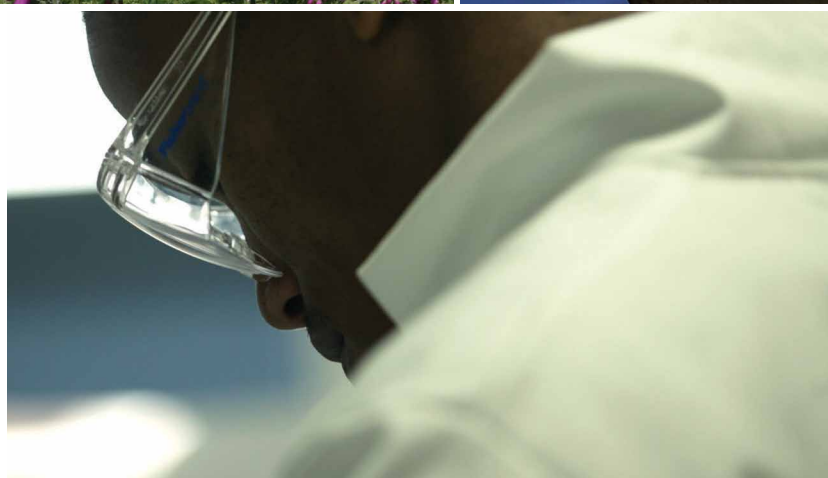
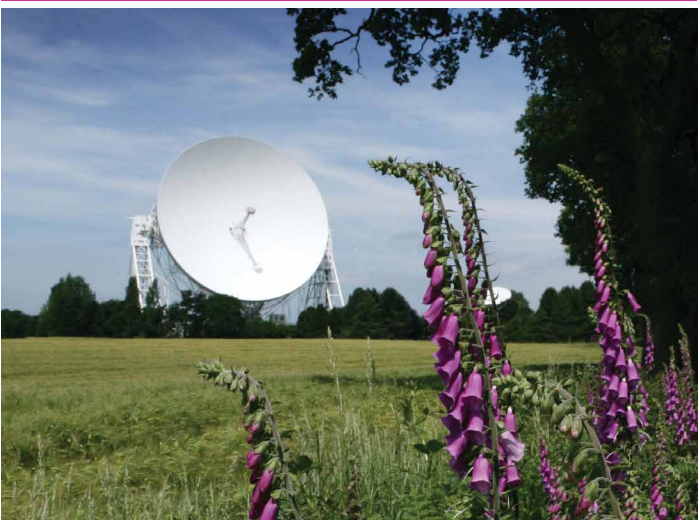
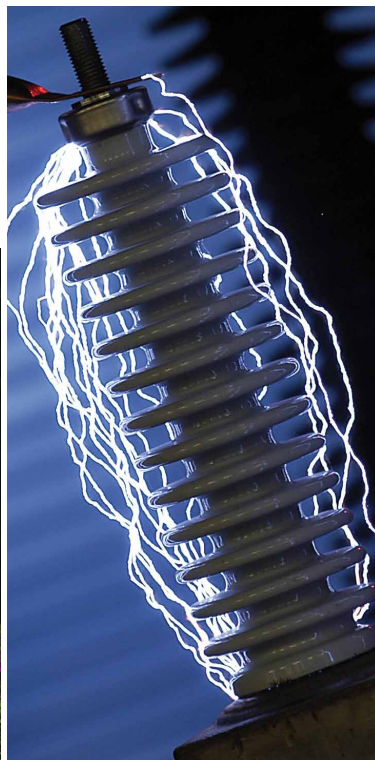
<sup>1</sup> See: [documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=11015](http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=11015). In November 2011 the University published the Manchester 2020 strategic vision document which builds upon the aims set out in the 2015 Agenda. See: [documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=11953](http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=11953).

<sup>2</sup> In May 2011 the University published a research strategy outlining how we will continue to achieve high-quality research that benefits society as a whole. See: [documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=9823](http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=9823)

<sup>3</sup> See: [www.researchconcordat.ac.uk](http://www.researchconcordat.ac.uk)

<sup>4</sup> See: [www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/researchoffice/resstaffdev/support](http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/researchoffice/resstaffdev/support)

## Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences



## The University of Manchester structure: where you fit in

The University of Manchester is divided into four Faculties:

- The Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences
- The Faculty of Humanities
- The Faculty of Life Sciences
- The Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences

The four Faculties have many of their own services including their own HR team, finance team, IT Services and Researcher Development Team. Other key services, like the Careers Service, Counselling Service and Staff Training and Development Unit are provided at University Level and serve all of the four Faculties.

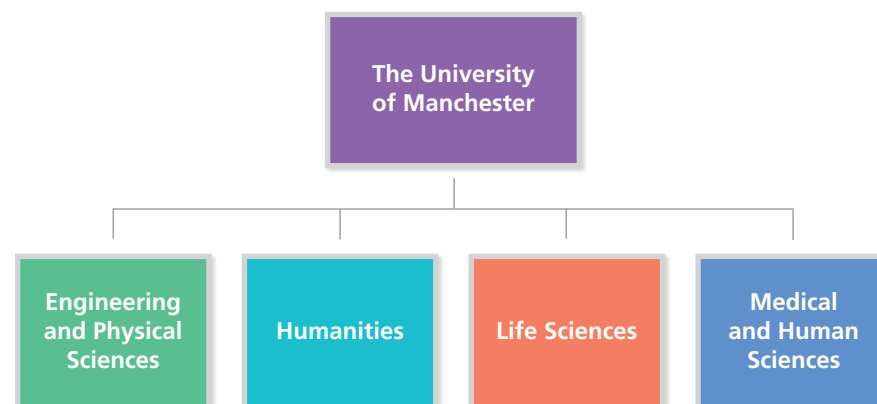
The Faculties of Engineering and Physical Sciences, Humanities, and Medical and Human Sciences

are further divided into Schools, which have their own administrative teams. The University has also established several major research institutes and Doctoral Training Centres (DTCs) to focus on and further develop key areas of cross-disciplinary research. Faculties and Institutes share information through their intranet web pages. A full list of Schools, Institutes and relevant web links can be found at:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/structure/schools](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/structure/schools).

You will be primarily working within a research group within your School. However, you are also part of a much larger and vibrant research community. Currently there are 3573 postgraduate research students, 1829 research staff and 1925 research academics.

This gives you huge scope to share research ideas, equipment, research skills and methods, and for you to develop University-wide networks and collaborations.





## Getting off to the best start – key contacts and induction checklist

It's important that you get off to the best start in your new position. Many people are available to support you and offer advice and help:

- Your first point of contact will be your line manager, a Principal Investigator, and/or your Research Group Leader. They will be able to provide the best advice about the key contacts and procedures in your research group, School and Faculty;
- Your Head of School Administration or Divisional Manager can also advise on administrative matters such as who's who in your School/Division/Faculty, health and safety issues, how to get an ID card, car parking permit and your contract and salary;
- Your local Faculty IT Services staff will set up your computer and email account and help you with any other computer queries that you may have;
- Your School Research Administrators are your key contact for finding out the details of your current grant/funding stream and future funding and fellowship opportunities;
- Your Faculty Researcher Development Team will be able to offer you information and guidance on the personal and career development training opportunities open to you;
- A full list of useful contacts can be found in Appendix 1.

### Induction Checklist (page 7 ►)

The following checklist provides a guide to the information that you should receive during your first week or two in your new position. You will find it useful to go through the checklist with your line manager so that they can direct you to the appropriate person.

## Induction Checklist

Name: .....

Position: .....

Line manager: .....

Location: .....

Date of induction: .....

### 1. Welcome to School/Research Group ☐

#### 2. General Information (tick box once information received/actioned)

- Copy of contract ☐
- Information about your Pensions Scheme ☐
- Access to Staff Portal ☐
- Research Staff Handbook ☐
- ID and library card ☐
- Staff email and intranet registration ☐
- Access to building/office and necessary keys ☐
- Car parking permit application ☐
- Health and Safety induction ☐

#### 3. Hours of work

- Discussion including: expectations ☐
- Flexibility ☐
- Working from home ☐
- Lunch break ☐

#### 4. Holiday

- Discussion including: entitlement ☐
- Authorisation procedure ☐
- Other Leave ☐

#### 5. Sickness

- Discussion including: notification procedure ☐
- Self-certification ☐
- Medical certificates ☐

#### 6. Salary

- Discussion including: salary scale ☐
- When paid ☐
- Increment date ☐
- Promotion opportunities ☐

#### 7. Information requested from you:

- Emergency contact: name, address and telephone number ☐

### 8. Departmental information

- Staff introductions/lists of key people ☐
- Appointments with key people ☐
- Research Seminars ☐
- School board/decision making procedures ☐
- School notice boards/email lists ☐
- Research space, desk and equipment ☐
- Post ☐
- Photocopying facilities/stationery ☐
- Computer and telephone ☐
- Financial rules and regs e.g. expenses and travel claims ☐
- How to order items, incl. business cards ☐

### 9. Training and development needs

- Personal development planning ☐
- IT training needs identified ☐
- Statistical training needs identified ☐
- Research training needs identified ☐
- Health and Safety training needs identified ☐
- Meeting with Faculty Researcher Development Team ☐
- Selection of an independent mentor ☐

### 10. Monitoring progress

- Probationary arrangements discussed with my line manager ☐
- Information about Performance & Development Reviews (P&DRs); see: <http://tinyurl.com/c9xlbh7> ☐
- Date for progress meeting and probation confirmation ☐
- Date for first full P&DR ☐
- Date for intermediary P&DR ☐
- Date for second full P&DR ☐



## The Researcher Development Agenda

Research within the higher education sector is critically important to the economic and cultural success of the UK. We produce 8% of the world's academic papers and 13% of the world's most highly cited works, ranking second only to the USA in research outputs. Research staff are central to this achievement and in recognition of this there is a national drive to improve your working conditions and career development opportunities. This is referred to as the *Researcher Development Agenda* and is underpinned by the *The Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers*<sup>5</sup>. This agreement between the funders and employers of researchers in the UK embodies seven key principles:

1. Recognition of the importance of recruiting, selecting and retaining researchers with the highest potential to achieve excellence in research
2. Researchers are recognised and valued by their employing organisation as an essential part of their organisation's human resources and a key component of their overall strategy to develop and deliver world-class research
3. Researchers are equipped and supported to be adaptable and flexible in an increasingly diverse, mobile, global research environment
4. The importance of researchers' personal and career development, and lifelong learning, is clearly recognised and promoted at all stages of their career
5. Individual researchers share the responsibility for and need to pro-actively engage in their own personal and career development, and lifelong learning
6. Diversity and equality must be promoted in all aspects of the recruitment and career management of researchers
7. The sector and all stakeholders will undertake regular and collective review of their progress in strengthening the attractiveness and sustainability of research careers in the UK

At The University of Manchester, we wholeheartedly support the ethos of the Researcher Development Agenda. We are a co-signatory of The Concordat and have developed a Concordat Implementation Plan<sup>6</sup> which will allow us to fully adopt the Principles of The Concordat and continue to improve our procedures and practices to better support you.

To download The Concordat or a briefing document about how you may use the Concordat in partnership with The University of Manchester to support and develop your career, visit [www.vitae.ac.uk/concordat](http://www.vitae.ac.uk/concordat).

## The Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014

The Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014 is an exercise to assess the quality of research in UK universities. In November 2013, the University will submit detailed information on its research staff and their outputs, its research environment and the impact which University of Manchester research has achieved outside academia. All submissions will be assessed by HEFCE through a process of peer review and the results will be published in December 2014. The outcome of the REF will drive the allocation of HEFCE's "quality related" research funding, currently worth approximately £2 billion every year.

Further information about the REF and the University's preparations are available online at: [www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/services/rbess/research-strategy/ref](http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/services/rbess/research-strategy/ref)



## Reviewing your research and career progress

We want you to get the very best out of your time here and have put in place a performance and development framework to support you in your role.

As a new employee you should receive a **job description** setting out the main requirements of your role. In addition you may be given specific objectives by your line manager. If you are in any way unsure about what is expected of you, you should raise this immediately with your line manager and seek clarification. This is very important so that you can successfully complete probation.

### Probation

All research staff have a 9 month probation. The purpose of probation is to provide an opportunity for you, as a new member of staff, to demonstrate that you are able to do the job to which you have been appointed and for your line manager to satisfy him/herself of this. The probationary period provides a framework for identifying and sorting out any early difficulties and is recognised as a time of adjustment to the working practices of The University of Manchester.

Whilst there are no fixed timescales for formal reviews of your performance within the 9 month probationary period it is expected that there will be a minimum of one review during the period. If this is not arranged you should raise this with your line manager.

If, at the end of probation, your line manager is unclear about your suitability for the role it is possible that they may extend probation for a further 2 months but ultimately employment may be terminated with 1 months notice. Thereafter the notice period is 3 months.

### Performance and Development Review

To perform well, people need feedback. It is University policy that all members of staff are offered a yearly Performance and Development Review (P&DR) by their reviewer (normally their PI or alternative senior academic). The P&DR should be a constructive space, separate from probation, and disciplinary procedures, in which to work with your line manager or another senior colleague to consider your past performance and achievements and agree future plans and support. Although not mandatory we strongly recommend that one of the first things you do is to plan an annual and intermediary P&DR to ensure that you have the appropriate help to further your professional and personal development. Further information and a P&DR pro-forma to help you prepare for P&DR meetings is available at: [documents.manchester.ac.uk/DocuInfo.aspx?DocID=42](http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/DocuInfo.aspx?DocID=42).

The University is planning to implement an online system to help you and your reviewer better manage your P&DR process. You and your reviewer will be notified when this happens.

### Promotion

Promotion occurs at set times of the year and goes through a promotion panel which will usually include staff from HR, Professional Support Services and academics. If you wish to be considered for promotion you should discuss this with your line manager as you will need their support to make an application. For a copy of the most up-to-date promotion criteria contact your Faculty or School HR office.

<sup>5</sup> See: [www.researchconcordat.ac.uk](http://www.researchconcordat.ac.uk)

<sup>6</sup> See: [www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/researchoffice/resstaffdev/support](http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/researchoffice/resstaffdev/support)

## Personal development planning

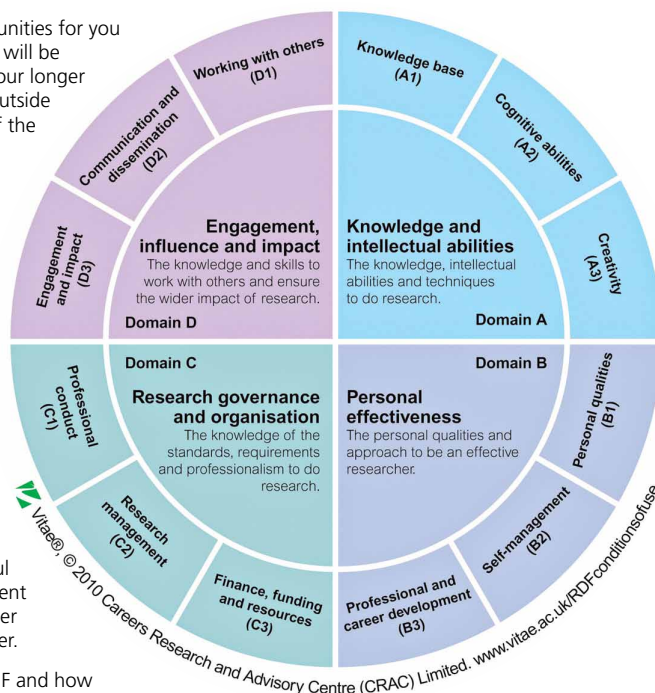
The University provides many opportunities for you to develop skills and knowledge that will be helpful in your current role and for your longer term career development within or outside academia. To raise your awareness of the many skills you have as a researcher and help you develop a personal development plan we recommend that you use the national Researcher Development Framework (RDF) developed by Vitae.

Vitae is a national organisation championing the personal, professional and career development of doctoral researchers and research staff in higher education institutions and research institutes and its website houses a wealth of useful information and guidance.

The RDF describes the knowledge, behaviours and attitudes of successful researchers at all stages of development from first year postgraduate researcher through to high profile research leader.

For further information about the RDF and how to use it see [www.vitae.ac.uk/researchers/428241/Researcher-Development-Framework.html](http://www.vitae.ac.uk/researchers/428241/Researcher-Development-Framework.html).

Vitae have also launched an online tool to help you map yourself against the RDF: [www.vitae.ac.uk/researchers/291411/RDF-Professional-Development-Planner.html](http://www.vitae.ac.uk/researchers/291411/RDF-Professional-Development-Planner.html).



## Training and development opportunities

Researcher development will first and foremost take place within your School and Research Group as you produce research outputs and learn from, and with, your research peers and senior academic colleagues. However, there is strong recognition that personal and career development, in the broader sense, is part of being a researcher. The University is committed to the current and future development of staff skills, expertise and ability in support of: University, Faculty/ School strategy; other strategic and operational plans; and the job and career related aspirations of individual members of staff. Please read the formal University Policy at: [documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=851](http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=851).

### Faculty Opportunities

Within each Faculty there is a dedicated Research Staff Trainer/Researcher Development Officer providing a tailored development programme and careers support for you. Faculty training is designed to help you maximise your research outputs and impact, develop transferable skills and support your career as an independent researcher within or beyond academia.

Research staff training programmes have been aligned to the themes of the Researcher Development Framework (see page 10) and include:

- Research and Enterprise
- Teaching and Learning
- Communication
- Career Management
- Leadership and Management

Make an appointment with your Researcher Development Team to identify your training needs. As you settle into your role your Faculty Researcher Development Team will also be available to provide one to one pastoral support, careers guidance and coaching.

For further information and contact details visit the Faculty training team websites:

**MHS:**  
[www.mhs.manchester.ac.uk/trainingteam](http://www.mhs.manchester.ac.uk/trainingteam)

**FLS:**  
[www.intranet.ls.manchester.ac.uk/hr/staffdev/research/training/default.aspx](http://www.intranet.ls.manchester.ac.uk/hr/staffdev/research/training/default.aspx)

**EPS:**  
[www.researchsupport.eps.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.researchsupport.eps.manchester.ac.uk)

**HUMS:**  
[www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/researcherdevelopment](http://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/researcherdevelopment)

### University Wide Opportunities

#### STDU

Researchers also have access to training and career development through the central Staff Training and Development Unit (STDU). STDU deliver courses with a broad focus allowing you to meet colleagues from all sectors of the University. These include health and safety, transferable skills training and leadership and management training including the flagship Researchers into Management programme which is specifically designed for research staff and accredited by the Institute of Leadership and Management. More information can be found at: [www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/employment/training](http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/employment/training)

#### IT Services

IT Services at The University of Manchester offer a number of training courses. More information can be found at: [www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/employment/training](http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/employment/training). You can find out what courses are available by clicking on the "Search all courses" tab on the left hand side of the home page and entering your keyword(s).



## Training and development opportunities (continued)

### John Rylands University Library

The JRUL offer high-quality skills training aimed specifically at researchers including:

- EndNote reference management
- Using the Web of *Knowledge and Scopus* database
- Bibliometric analysis
- Avoiding information overload
- Finding electronic journal articles and news using electronic sources
- Special Collections including using image databases
- The Zetoc Table of Contents service

The Library also co-ordinates a series of seminars for researchers including scholarly communication, the *Manchester eScholar* institutional repository and open access publishing.

You can book a place on any of the JRUL training sessions via the University Portal – [www.manchester.ac.uk/portal](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/portal)

One-to-one advice and training is also offered by our discipline specialists. For further information on all research training and support available, visit the JRUL website: [www.manchester.ac.uk/library](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/library); Twitter: [www.twitter.com/jrulresearchers](https://twitter.com/jrulresearchers)

### Careers Support at The University

Although a great deal of careers support and advice can be gleaned from conversations with your PI/ Research Group Leader and your colleagues, the University also provides further support for your career through:

- Careers workshops run through our Faculty Research Development Teams and the Staff Training and Development Unit;
- *Pathways* – a major annual career options event for researchers offering the chance to quiz dozens of PhDs who have gone on to academic and non-academic careers.

Further information at

[www.manchester.ac.uk/pathways](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/pathways);

- *An Academic Career*, an award-winning website developed by the University's Careers Service, designed for use by aspiring academics across the UK and beyond.

[www.manchester.ac.uk/academiccareer](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/academiccareer)

The site includes information on finding jobs in academia, academic applications and interviews. It also aims to illustrate the realities of academic life and career pathways, and to encourage you to think strategically, assess your current position and take actions to advance your career, whether inside or outside academia.



### The Manchester Enterprise Centre

Manchester Enterprise Centre (MEC) provide a broad range of training options for research staff who want to gain additional skills required by industry, both commercial and not for profit organisations; as well as those who might want to start a business. Workshops include:

- Starting a Business
- Networking
- Creativity
- Critical Thinking
- Opportunity Recognition
- Patent Searching
- Introduction to Marketing
- Market Research
- Introduction to Finance Intrapreneurship
- How to write a Business Plan
- Xing Business Simulation Game Sustainability and Negotiation

MEC also deliver:

- Events and Master Classes with a range of external speakers including venture capitalists and entrepreneurs from a variety of backgrounds, including social enterprise.
- An annual four day residential Enterprise School to provide a higher quality of training in a collaborative environment with researchers from different subject areas and from other Universities.
- Mentoring to allow researchers to have individual advice on ideas they may have for a commercial opportunity. This has in the past included help with business plans, advice on funding sources and introductions to others who can help.
- An Annual Summit to raise the profile of enterprise using speakers from the University, spin out company founders and well known entrepreneurs. Previous speakers have included Pete Waterman (Pop Idol), Luke Johnson (Pizza Express), Ian Livingston (Games Workshop) and Nick Hewer (The Apprentice).

- A Web Resource with material, events listings, podcasts and other useful links:

[www.rte.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.rte.manchester.ac.uk)

**methods@manchester and  
artsmethods@manchester**

methods@manchester promotes and develops The University of Manchester's methodological expertise in Social Science methods, while artsmethods@manchester focuses on supporting and developing approaches to arts and humanities research. Both initiatives offer training and development opportunities as well as fora for discussing methods-related issues and innovations, and are open to researchers across the institution. More information can be found on their websites:

[www.methods.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.methods.manchester.ac.uk)

[www.artsmethods.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.artsmethods.manchester.ac.uk)

### University Language Centre

The University Language Centre provides a range of English language support services for registered students, visiting fellows and international staff members whose first language is not English. They conduct English language proficiency testing, provide academic writing and grammar courses and online resources such as the Academic Phrase Book.

[www.ulc.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.ulc.manchester.ac.uk)

### National Researcher Development Opportunities: Vitae North West Hub

The University hosts the North West Hub of the Vitae Researcher Development Programme. The hub is committed to enriching professional and career development support for researchers and staff supporting researchers across the region. The Hub organises and promotes an extensive range of local, regional and national networks and events.

[www.vitae.ac.uk/nwuhub](http://www.vitae.ac.uk/nwuhub)





## IT Support and Services for Researchers

IT Services (ITS) operate on a devolved, shared services model, with more than 350 support staff located centrally, in faculties and the Library. Central teams provide core infrastructure and services, such as network and storage; faculty teams provide and support local infrastructure and also offer local specialised support, including research computing support. First line commodity IT support for all staff and students is provided via the IT Service Desk:

[www.itservices.manchester.ac.uk/contacts](http://www.itservices.manchester.ac.uk/contacts)

The following is an overview of the IT infrastructure and services underpinning research activity at the University.

### Network and Data Centres

The University network provides a 1Gb link into most campus buildings, from a 10Gb campus backbone, and has dual resilient connections into the JANET network. A major wireless upgrade programme is in progress and Eduroam is implemented across campus. ITS operates twin secure data centres, geographically dispersed for resilience, business continuity and disaster recovery purposes.

### Data Storage

ITS provide network-based data storage for individual and group working. Network-based storage is the recommended location for any data which is critical, sensitive or commercially valuable. The storage platform provides file level storage and supports the following services: (a) personal data storage (p-drive) up to 5GB; (b) shared data storage for schools and research groups; (c) scratch storage for the Computational Shared Facility; (d) chargeable research storage, for larger research data storage requirements.

### Data Management

The University has a Research Data Management Policy to ensure that researchers comply with the RDM requirements of the Funding Councils. In support of the policy, the University Library is developing a Research Data Management Service (due to go live in 2013). All research outputs are deposited in the Institutional Repository, eScholar:

<https://www.escholar.manchester.ac.uk>

### Email, Calendar, IM, Desktop Video Conferencing and Collaboration

Exchange 2010 provides staff and postgraduate research students with an integrated suite of collaboration tools. Each user is provided with a 5GB mailbox. The University is currently implementing MS Sharepoint, which will provide a rich environment for internal and external group spaces and collaboration.

### Data Security

The University has a comprehensive set of policies and guidance for staff on the subject of IT and information security:

<http://www.itservices.manchester.ac.uk/secure-it>

The guidance sets out how digital information should be securely handled and transmitted. Specifically, it is University policy that all University-owned laptops must be encrypted, irrespective of funding source or purpose.

### High End Computing

IT Services offers integrated facilities to meet the different computational and data analytics needs of researchers. The Computational Shared Facility (CSF) is an HPC cluster built on a shared model, expandable via research groups procuring nodes. For HTC, a number of large-scale Condor pools exist across campus.

The University is a partner in the N8 HPC Centre of Excellence funded by EPSRC. The Centre aims to seed engagement between universities and industry around research using e-infrastructure. The Centre manages a 5000+ core HPC facility:

<http://n8hpc.org.uk>

IT Services run a number of 'clubs' in order to bring communities together around computational methods and techniques. These include Image-based Modelling, Multiscale and the largest, GPU Club, focussing on the use of graphics processing units for general purpose computing.

For more information on high end computing see:

<http://wiki.rcs.manchester.ac.uk/community>

For specialised high-end computing advice contact:

[ITS-Research@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:ITS-Research@manchester.ac.uk)

### Advice and Guidance

Faculty IT staff provide a range of support and services to researchers at all points of the research lifecycle. At the research grant application stage, IT staff can advise on the specification and costing of IT infrastructure, bespoke network requirements, server and virtual machine hosting, database hosting, web hosting, research data management, IT and information security. Specific support for science, engineering, biomedical applications and other research specific software is also available.

For advice and guidance in EPS contact:

[ian.cottam@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:ian.cottam@manchester.ac.uk)

For advice and guidance in FLS contact:

[bill.ayres@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:bill.ayres@manchester.ac.uk)

For advice and guidance in Humanities contact:

[david.e.risley@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:david.e.risley@manchester.ac.uk)

For advice and guidance in MHS contact:

[warren.mitto@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:warren.mitto@manchester.ac.uk)

### Training

ITS offer a number of training courses in IT systems and skills. For more information see:

<http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/employment/training>

To ensure researchers can make best use of high-end computing facilities on campus and further afield, ITS offer a full range of research computing training courses. For further details please see:

<http://wiki.rcs.manchester.ac.uk/community/Courses>





## Mentoring opportunities

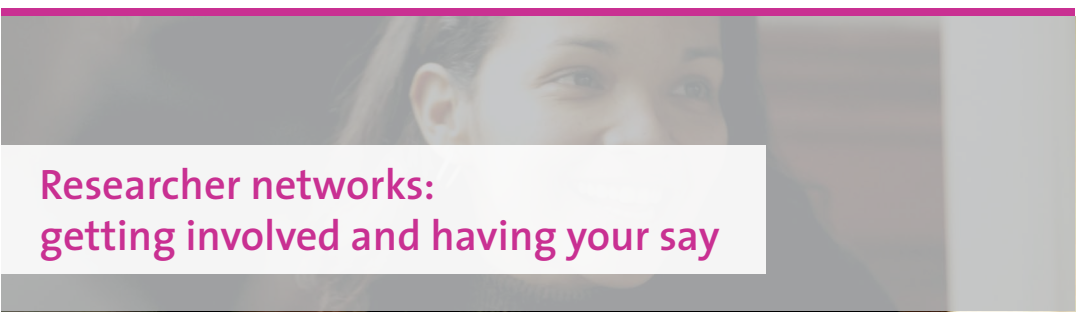
Your immediate line manager/research group leader is likely to be a major point of contact for advice on developing your skills and career but, as pointed out throughout this Handbook, your Faculty Researcher Development Teams are also an excellent source of guidance and expertise. However, an independent mentor can also be invaluable, providing extra support, confidence building and impartial careers advice.

A mentor may be someone that you have worked with in the past, or a current colleague who you feel comfortable approaching for advice and guidance. If you feel less comfortable approaching a mentor directly Faculty training teams promote a micro-mentoring scheme. This scheme provides you with a structured opportunity to invite a potential mentor to lunch to discuss a particular issue associated with your work or career planning.

[researchstafftraining.wordpress.com/2010/02/09/new-research-staff-micro-mentoring-scheme](https://researchstafftraining.wordpress.com/2010/02/09/new-research-staff-micro-mentoring-scheme)

The University also offers the Manchester Gold scheme available through the Staff Training and Development Unit. Through this scheme researchers can be linked with professionals from a wide range of sectors within or outside of higher education.

[www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/employment/training/mentoring/manchestergold](http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/employment/training/mentoring/manchestergold)



## Researcher networks: getting involved and having your say

### Representation on School Research Committees and Boards

There may be opportunities in your School and Faculty to sit on committees as a research staff member or as a representative. Ask your line manager or Faculty administration for details of opportunities.

### Faculty Research Staff Networks

Within each Faculty there is a network of research staff representatives who sit on or feed into School/Faculty committees voicing researcher ideas and concerns. There are many other professional/discipline specific networks helping researchers share ideas and foster interdisciplinary collaborations e.g. the psychological support group and clinical trainee fellows' forum (for the contact details of your rep, consult your Faculty Researcher Development Team).

### The University's Research Staff Development Working Group

The University's Research Staff Development Working Group (RSDWG), chaired by the Vice President for Research, Professor Matt Lambon Ralph, has been set up to identify and encourage University-wide best practice in relation to the employment, management, training, and personal and career development of the University's research staff. Each Faculty has a research staff representative on the Group so you can raise any issues that you wish to be discussed at the Working Group with your representative (consult your Faculty Researcher Development Team for the name of your Faculty RSDWG rep).

### Research Staff Association

The University has a very active research staff association providing networking opportunities, training and social events. The RSA feed into the Research Staff Development Working Group (see above) influencing University policy and the Researcher Development Agenda. They are part of a wider network of over 50 RSAs in institutions across the UK. For further information see their website [www.rsa.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.rsa.manchester.ac.uk) and blog [rsamanchester.wordpress.com](http://rsamanchester.wordpress.com)

### Incite Newsletter

*Incite* is a University wide Newsletter specifically for research staff. It is written by research staff for research staff and contains up-to-date news on topics such as funding opportunities, skills training, conferences, events and opportunities to enhance research careers. It is published quarterly by an Editorial Team made up of research staff recruited from each Faculty. There is also an *Incite* blog that complements the Newsletter [manchesterincite.wordpress.com](http://manchesterincite.wordpress.com).

Hard copies of the Newsletter are distributed to key sites around your School and Faculty so keep your eyes open for these. If you wish to receive a copy electronically, speak with your Faculty Researcher Development Team who will arrange this for you.

### Careers in Research Online Survey

The University invites all research staff to participate in the Careers in Research Online Survey (CROS) every two years. The survey is aimed at anonymously gathering data about working conditions, career aspirations and career development opportunities for research staff in UK HEIs. It is important that you participate in the survey as it is your opportunity to feedback to the University your views on important issues that affect your career and personal development. The results of the survey are used by the University to review procedures and practices to support research staff. You will be notified when the University is next participating in the survey and be encouraged to complete it.

## Health and safety

Health and safety is about understanding how your actions (or inactions) can cause harm, either to yourself or others, and what you need to do to prevent the harm, or to reduce the likelihood of harm actually occurring to an acceptable level. For research activity, this usually requires some careful thinking. The most effective approach is to integrate health and safety into your routine work as much as you can, i.e. during planning and preparation of your research, during its execution and its completion. If you don't do this, you could find that there are unexpected costs of complying with health and safety legislation, or considerable time delays and frustrations in applying for all the correct licences, approvals, registrations, etc.

The specific health and safety arrangements will vary tremendously, depending on the research being undertaken. But you will always need to carry out some form of risk assessment, to use that assessment to develop and implement risk control strategies, and to communicate these to your team or colleagues. There are plenty of sources of information and assistance, including:

- Your immediate manager, research group leader, or colleagues already working in similar areas of research
- Your own school safety advisor and specialist local safety advisors (e.g. for work with bio/GM material, radiation sources, lasers, etc)
- Many schools have their own safety webpages, and make available risk assessments carried out for typical activities

- The University's health and safety webpages, at [www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/healthandsafety/index.htm](http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/healthandsafety/index.htm)
- Your University Safety Co-ordinator, at [www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/healthandsafety/safetycontacts.htm](http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/healthandsafety/safetycontacts.htm)
- The Staff Training and Development Unit's health and safety courses, at [www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/employment/training/courses/bytopic/index.htm?topic=Health](http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/employment/training/courses/bytopic/index.htm?topic=Health)
- The Health and safety Executive's webpages, at [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)
- If commercial or industrial collaborators are involved, reputable companies will often have a wealth of health and safety information and expertise, certainly about good and best practices within the sector.
- *Managing health and safety aspects of research in higher and further education*, HSC/ESAC, 2000, 0/7171-1300-3 (available free via the John Rylands Library electronic databases, select O for Occupational Health and Safety Information Services, OHSIS, password required).

## Research ethics, integrity and governance

The University expects the highest standards of research integrity from all the researchers it supports including all staff and students, and other individuals working on University premises or using University facilities. The principles are stated here briefly and detailed guidance is provided on the University's Research Governance web pages which can be found at: [www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/researchoffice/governance](http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/researchoffice/governance)

In particular, see *The Code of Good Research Conduct*, which sets out what the University expects of anyone conducting research: [www.researchsupport.eps.manchester.ac.uk/documents/policy/UOMgoodresearchconductcode.pdf](http://www.researchsupport.eps.manchester.ac.uk/documents/policy/UOMgoodresearchconductcode.pdf)

Also, see the *The Good Research Practice*, which is a guide to good research practice and provides advice on how to succeed in it: [www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/researchoffice/governance/goodresearchpractice](http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/researchoffice/governance/goodresearchpractice)

The University has a responsibility for ensuring that the research undertaken in its name is conducted:

1. in accordance with the law and any other regulatory requirements;
2. in accordance with relevant professional and ethical standards;
3. with the highest standard of probity;
4. consistently with accepted best research practice.

The governance and legal requirements for different types of research vary and are often complex. You need to be aware of these and must comply with them. Your School will provide general guidance on this and where to get further information.

The need for ethical conduct applies to all aspects of human activity. Research is no exception and the University expects its researchers to follow the highest ethical principles and standards of ethical conduct in all aspects of research. The key issues are respect for the autonomy of research participants, avoidance of harm, maintenance of confidentiality and researcher integrity. There is a formal requirement for ethics approval of research involving human subjects in many circumstances and guidance provided on the University's Research Governance web site will aid you in deciding whether you need this for your research. Failure to seek ethics approval where it is required may be construed as research misconduct by the University and, in certain circumstances may be in breach of the law.

The University also expects ethical conduct in research involving animals. The use of animals must only be undertaken in accordance with the necessary statutory requirements, by appropriately trained researchers following best practice. Animal use must be restricted to research where this is absolutely essential.

Researchers need to demonstrate the highest standards of probity in all aspects of their research. This includes how research funding is sought and used, how research is conducted and findings stored, shared and disseminated, and peer-review of funding applications and publications.



## Equality and diversity

The University of Manchester is committed to providing equality of opportunity for all. The dedicated Equality and Diversity Team works with all areas across the University to advance equality eliminate discrimination and promote an inclusive working and learning environment. Key activities specific to advancement of academic careers include:

- A measurable commitment to improve the representation of female and black and minority ethnic academic staff in senior positions.
- An active engagement in the career advancement of female academics, through the women in leadership project and our participation in Athena SWAN and Project JUNO.
- Involvement in a pilot working with the Equality Challenge Unit on initiatives to support and develop black and minority ethnic staff at the University
- Participation in the University's Research Excellence Framework submission through the development and application of the University's Code of Practice.

[www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/services/equality-and-diversity](http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/services/equality-and-diversity)

The Disability Support Office (DSO) has a dedicated disability adviser for staff to provide advice, guidance and support about a range of practical adjustments in the workplace. Below is a list of some of the support that they can offer:

- Liaise with you and your line manager to discuss any adjustments you require in the workplace, and any barriers that are preventing you from fulfilling your role;
- Facilitate access to, and funding for, assistive equipment, travel to and within work, support workers and adaptations to premises and equipment;
- Assist with the administration required for Access to Work Assist with making car parking arrangements;
- Advise on some disability related benefits and support available at home;

[www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/personalsupport/disabled-staff](http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/personalsupport/disabled-staff)

There are a number of staff network groups that provide a vibrant forum to exchange views. These groups provide an authoritative voice that helps shape the direction of Equality and Diversity policy within the University:

- Black and Minority Ethnic Staff Network Group
- Buddhist Staff Network Group
- Christian Staff Network Group
- Disabled Staff Network Group
- International Staff Network Group
- Lesbian, Gay Bisexual, Transgender Staff Network Group
- Muslim Staff Network Group
- Returning from maternity leave support group
- Women in Science, Engineering and Technology (WISSET)

[www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/services/equality-and-diversity/staff-network-groups](http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/services/equality-and-diversity/staff-network-groups)



## Research commercialisation – UMIP

UMIP is the University's agent for intellectual property (IP) commercialisation. Our role, through engagement with our academic colleagues, is to bring as much of the University's ground-breaking inventions and software, as is relevant, into the commercial world through licensing or the creation of spin-out companies.

UMIP's faculty specific Commercialisation Executives are your first point of call for any questions you may have should you have an idea or observation and are wondering if it has potential value. You will find a list on the UMIP website:

[www.umip.com](http://www.umip.com)

Our online IP Awareness Resource has been created for academics and research staff – its aim is to increase the awareness of IP and demonstrate the benefits of its commercialisation to the University and the IP generator through a series of videos and guides:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/ipresource](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/ipresource)

UMIP is wholly owned by The University of Manchester which has over a 20 year history of IP commercialisation. UMIP and The University of Manchester Innovation Centre ([www.umic.co.uk](http://www.umic.co.uk)) are divisions of The University of Manchester I<sup>3</sup> Ltd:

[www.umi3.com](http://www.umi3.com)

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## Sustainability

The University of Manchester understands the challenges posed by the threat of climate change/global warming and is committed to actions that respond meaningfully to these challenges. The University's strategic plan *Advancing the Manchester 2015 Agenda* states that "sustainability is a principle guiding the management and development of the University towards 'best practice' in all aspects of energy use and efficiency, waste management and environmental responsibility".

To help turn principle into 'best practice' the University has established a Carbon Management Plan (CMP) which is a five-year action plan which contributes significantly towards reducing the University's carbon emissions by 40% by 2020, a target approved by the Board of Governors in October 2009. The reasons for the CMP include:

- It's the right thing to do: universities must be foremost in responding to the major threats in our fragile world

- The UK Government's current target is a reduction on carbon emissions of 34% by 2020 and 80% by 2050
- The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) has committed the Higher Education sector to achieving at least these targets
- Financial penalties for failing to meet these targets are already in place and will likely increase in severity

A network of Sustainability Enthusiasts in most Schools/Directorates across the University has been created to help achieved the above goals. They can help with specific environmental impacts in your School.

For more information on sustainability issues, the Carbon Management Plan and Sustainability Enthusiasts visit

[www.manchester.ac.uk/sustainability](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/sustainability)



## Appendix 1: Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences key contacts and weblinks

Faculty website:  
[www.eps.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.eps.manchester.ac.uk)

Faculty Intranet:  
[www.staffnet.eps.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.staffnet.eps.manchester.ac.uk)

### Faculty Senior Management:

- Colin Bailey Vice-President and Dean
- Rachel Brealey Head of Faculty Administration

### Faculty Associate Deans:

- Stephen Yeates Research
- Ann Webb Graduate Education
- Danielle George Teaching & Learning
- Tim O'Brien Social Responsibility
- Steve Flint Internationalisation

### University Research Faculty Structure:

The Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences is currently divided into 9 Schools, and 4 Institutes

### Heads of School:

- Stephen Watts School of Physics and Astronomy
- Paul O'Brien School of Materials
- Mike Sutcliffe School of Chemical Engineering and Analytical Science
- Jim Miles School of Computer Science
- Peter Duck School of Mathematics
- Tony Brown School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Andy Gibson School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering
- Christopher Whitehead School of Chemistry
- Hugh Coe School of Earth, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences

### Directors of Institutes

- Andrew Sherry Dalton Nuclear Institute
- Richard Winpenny Photon Science Institute
- Costas Soustis UMARI
- Philip Withers BP-ICAM

Key contacts for each School/Research Area are:

### Directors of Research:

- Peter Wilkinson School of Physics and Astronomy
- Stuart Lyon School of Materials
- Philip Martin School of Chemical Engineering and Analytical Science
- Robert Stevens School of Computer Science
- Nick Higham School of Mathematics
- David Foster School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Peter Stansby School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering
- Mike Anderson School of Chemistry / MIB
- Kath Morris School of Earth, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences

Key contacts for each School/Research Area are (continued):

### Heads/Deputy Heads of School Administration:

- Colin Baines School of Physics and Astronomy
- Nicky Snook School of Materials
- Catherine Grills School of Chemical Engineering and Analytical Science
- Karen Varty School of Computer Science
- Diane Masterson-Kerr School of Mathematics
- Ursula Hayes School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Anne McGourlay School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering
- Rachel Barker School of Chemistry
- Steve Olivier School of Earth, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences

### Faculty Research Support Services

Please contact your School Research Support Manager in the first instance for advice and support regarding the submission of external funding bids and other research related queries. Contact details for the your School's Research Support Manager and local Research Support Services Team can be located at the following link:

<http://www.staffnet.eps.manchester.ac.uk/academicservices/research/rss/rsscontacts>

Head of Research Support Services for Engineering and Physical Sciences – Vicky Holt

### Faculty Researcher Development

[www.researchsupport.eps.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.researchsupport.eps.manchester.ac.uk)

Email: [eps-researchstaff@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:eps-researchstaff@manchester.ac.uk)

Faculty Researcher Development Officer – Gemma Muckle / Catherine Lillie

### Faculty Social Responsibility and External Affairs

- Zabina Kosar-Ahmed External Relations Manager (on maternity leave)
- James Tallentire Marketing and Communications Manager
- Aeron Haworth Media Officer for EPS

### Human Resources

[www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/employment](http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/employment)

Email [HRServices@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:HRServices@manchester.ac.uk)

Tel 0161 275 4499

Keeping records of your research outputs in the University's electronic repository eScholar:

[www.escholar.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.escholar.manchester.ac.uk)



## Appendix 2: Further useful information

**Annual Events dedicated to Research Staff:** e.g. Faculty Away Days and the Research Staff Conference  
[www.21centuryresearcher.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.21centuryresearcher.manchester.ac.uk)  
Pathways  
[www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/students/postgraduates/pathways](http://www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/students/postgraduates/pathways)

**Careers Service**  
[www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/staff](http://www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/staff)

**Counselling service**  
[www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/personalsupport/counselling](http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/personalsupport/counselling)  
The Counselling Service is available for all students and staff at The University of Manchester. It is free and consists of a team of professional counsellors with extensive experience of helping people cope better with all kinds of personal problems affecting work or well-being.

**Disability Support Office**  
[www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/personalsupport/disabled-staff](http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/personalsupport/disabled-staff)  
The Disability Support Office provides up-to-date information for students, prospective students and applicants with specific learning difficulties, disabilities, sensory impairments, mental health difficulties and medical conditions. It is also intended that staff can use this information to enable them to support disabled students and work towards making The University of Manchester a more inclusive place to study.

**Family-friendly policies**  
[documents.manchester.ac.uk/DocuInfo.aspx?DocID=3095](http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/DocuInfo.aspx?DocID=3095)  
[www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/employment/staff-benefits/family-friendly](http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/employment/staff-benefits/family-friendly)  
The University has developed a comprehensive range of family and flexible working related policies and practices, designed to help staff maintain a work-life balance. Information about family-related leave policies, childcare facilities and childcare vouchers are provided at the web link above.

**Faculty intranet and databases:** These provide information about the various administrative offices, as well as information on the Faculty strategy, resources, news and events. Links may also be provided to all of the School intranet sites.

In particular, the link to the site providing information about the training and support available to research staff, available courses, as well as information about online career development and funding opportunities should be given.

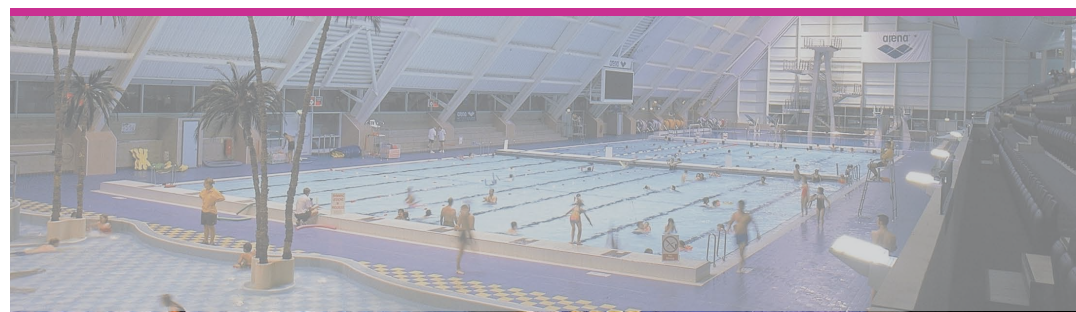
**Faculty Researcher Development Teams and Training Programmes:** see see page 11 for your Faculty Researcher Development websites.

**Legal Advice Centre**  
[www.law.manchester.ac.uk/lac](http://www.law.manchester.ac.uk/lac)  
The Legal Advice Centre is based in the University Precinct Centre and is run by the School of Law. Members of the public, University staff and students of any department are welcome to seek advice in the Centre, which is open during teaching semesters only.

**Research Funding:** Please consult your Faculty Researcher Development Teams for information on what resources the Faculty employs to notify research staff of funding opportunities.

**Research Staff Fora:** Research Staff Fora provide researchers with the opportunity to meet, share ideas, air their concerns and propose actions to overcome these for consideration by senior management. For further details, contact your Faculty Researcher Development Team.

**Research Staff Representatives on School, Faculty and University Committees:** speak with your Faculty Researcher Development Team for further information including how to get involved (see also page 15).



**Sporting facilities**  
[www.sport.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.sport.manchester.ac.uk)  
The University has a wide range of sporting facilities, which are available to staff. Details on facilities and courses designed to help maintain your health and well being are provided at the web link above.

**Staff Net**  
[www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk)  
Provides information on University policies and procedures and services, as well as updates on news, events and current job vacancies.

**Staff Training and Development Unit (STDU)**  
Provides a broad range of courses and workshops on CVs, interviews, finance, management and teaching skills. All staff are welcome to attend STDU courses, which are free of charge.  
[www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/employment/training](http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/employment/training)

**Staff Portal**  
The Staff Portal is an online faculty that provides information relevant to working life at the University. It is accessed via the Staff Net home page (see above for the link) by clicking on the "Staff portal" tab at the bottom left of the home page. You will need to enter your University IT login credentials to access your Staff portal. Once accessed, the tabs across the top of the page give you specific information; you can also customise your Staff portal home page by clicking on the "Add Content" tab.

**The International Society**  
[www.internationalsociety.org.uk](http://www.internationalsociety.org.uk)  
The International Society is an independent, not-for-profit organisation unique to the city of Manchester. They aim to provide international students with a warm and friendly welcome when they arrive in the city and to make their time in the UK a wonderful experience. The International Society is open to everyone. Many of their members are British students and members of the local community in Manchester who enjoy meeting people from overseas and learning about other cultures.

**The John Rylands University Library**  
[www.library.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.library.manchester.ac.uk)  
Provides a large number of services and resources, including the most extensive range of electronic resources of any UK Higher Education library. Information about the library service and resources, including Athens usernames and passwords, is provided on the Library's website.

**University of Manchester Staff Association (UMSA)**  
[www.manchester.ac.uk/umsa](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/umsa)  
Open to all members of staff. As well as providing a social club with bar, dining and recreational facilities on the main campus, the club organises trips and activities.

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**Research and Business Engagement Support Services (RBESS)**

2nd Floor Christie Building  
University of Manchester  
Oxford Road  
Manchester  
M13 9PL

tel: 0161 275 4388

fax: 0161 275 2445

[www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/researchoffice/resstaffdev](http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/researchoffice/resstaffdev)