

# The President Doctoral Scholar (PDS) Awards 2014

The University of Manchester is proud to announce the continuation of the President's Doctoral Scholar Awards. These prestigious awards are open to all new students of all nationalities and research areas.

Within the Faculty of Humanities, PDS funding will be allocated to our most outstanding applicants. The award will cover tuition fees (home/EU or international, as appropriate) and the equivalent of the research council stipend (£13,726 in 2013-14).

PDS students will also have the opportunity to;

- Be invited to attend a series of exclusive events where you will have the opportunity to meet the University of Manchester President and Vice Chancellor, interact closely with our academic community and network with other PDS students.
- Benefit from international research leadership under distinguished scholars.
- Become a PDS ambassador for the University.
- Receive a President's Doctoral Scholar medal at graduation.
- Benefit from our extensive transferable skills training for PhD researchers.

The Faculty of Humanities proposes to make around 40 PDS awards.

The School of Arts, Languages and Cultures, will make 4 such awards. Successful candidates will be chosen by open competition among all students holding an offer of a place on a doctoral programme in the School. These awards will carry limited teaching duties.

## Application Criteria

Applications will be ranked according to two key criteria: your academic track-record, and the quality of your research proposal.

- **Track-record.** You must have a first-class Honours degree (or non-UK equivalent), hold or expect to achieve a Masters-level qualification, which we would expect to be at merit or distinction level, or equivalent. Additional indicators of academic quality will include contributions to publications/articles, promoting your research to a wider audience, setting up research collaborations, prizes awarded and information supplied by your referees.
- **Research Proposal.** Proposals will be judged according to their cogency of exposition and evidence of the project's originality.

## How to apply

You must apply using the President's Doctoral Scholar (PDS) Funding Application Form. You must:

- Submit your online application for a place on your chosen doctoral programme in the School by **31 January 2014** at the latest. All supporting documentation, including references must be submitted by that date.
- Submit your completed PDS Funding Application Form by **Friday 21 February 2014** at the latest.

Please note that the same references can be used for both applications.

## Guidance for Referees

### Referees should comment under the following headings:

#### **Quality of Work**

Please provide a realistic appraisal of the applicant's abilities, based on the quality of their academic performance to date. Include comments on the applicant's overall performance in his/her degree and performance on individual modules or courses. Please give examples to illustrate your comments.

For **professional referees**, please draw on your experience of the applicant's work to give an appraisal of the applicant's professional performance to date. Please highlight the applicant's strengths in the area in which he/she plans to study and work, and note any weaknesses the applicant may have. Please give examples to illustrate your comments.

#### **Academic performance to date**

If the student is currently undertaking their degree, and if you are permitted to do so, please include details of their marks. Where the applicant has a joint degree, please include performance in both disciplines. For assessment purposes, it is important that all marks are given and not only the ones relating to the subject applied for.

#### **Potential for postgraduate study**

Please provide an assessment of the applicant's aptitude and preparedness for the proposed course or programme of study, and for continuing to doctoral study. In the creative and performing arts, please provide an assessment of the applicant's aptitude and preparedness for the proposed programme or programme of study, and for continuing to doctoral study or to a career in research in the higher education sector.

Please provide an assessment of the suitability of the programme, the applicant's potential to complete the studies successfully, his/her motivation and commitment, and any relevant intellectual skills the applicant possesses. You should say how the proposed programme or programme of work relates to the applicant's experience to date, and to his/her future plans. You should make your comments in the context of the applicant's proposed programme of study or programme of work, as the assessors will be looking at the applicant's preparedness for the programme, not just at their abilities. You may wish to address questions such as how the applicant has developed and improved during their undergraduate or postgraduate career.

You should comment on factors such as the applicant's:

- conceptual ability;
- problem-solving skills;
- capacity for independent thought;
- potential for innovation;
- organisational skills;
- communication skills;
- ability compared to other relevant groups or individuals, of whom you have had experience.

**Professional referees** should also comment on the applicant's professional commitment, motivation and potential. It would be helpful to say how the professional experience the applicant has gained has built on his/her academic studies and how it will prepare the applicant to pursue the programme of study and proceed to doctoral research or, in the creative and performing arts, to proceed to doctoral study or to a career in research in the higher education sector.

**Any enquiries regarding PDS funding within the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures should be directed to Mrs Joanne Marsh, Senior Postgraduate Research Administrator. Email: [phdfunding-salc@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:phdfunding-salc@manchester.ac.uk) or telephone +44 (0)161 275 2603.**