

**YOUR GUIDE TO**

**POSTGRADUATE**

**RESEARCH STUDY**

## Your guide to postgraduate research study

As a Manchester postgraduate researcher, you'll undertake independent research under the supervision of one of our senior academics. You'll contribute at a high level to the body of professional knowledge in your specialist area and our thriving research culture at Manchester.

Some programmes, such as doctoral training programmes, may involve a taught element, or specific training in research skills; others may focus on interdisciplinary research or involve a partnership with another institution or external organisation.

### TYPES OF POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
- Collaborative PhD
- Professional, engineering and enterprise doctoral programmes
- Doctor of Professional Management (DProfPM or DProfREAM)
- Doctor of Business Administration (DBA)
- Doctor of Medicine (MD)
- Master of Philosophy (MPhil)
- MSc by Research
- Master of Enterprise (MEnt)

For full details on the different types of postgraduate research programmes we offer at Manchester, visit:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/pgr-types](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/pgr-types)

### DEVELOPING OUR RESEARCHERS

As a postgraduate research student at Manchester you'll be part of our Manchester Doctoral Centre (MDC) community. The MDC unites students, supervisors, administrators and external collaborators in working to improve facilities, locate funding and give you an excellent research experience.

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

Each of our Faculties offers an extensive Researcher Development Programme, blending cross-disciplinary and generic skills training opportunities to equip you with the skills, attributes and knowledge to thrive as an independent researcher and/or professional.

[www.manchester.ac.uk/researcher-development](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/researcher-development)

Our innovation company, UMI3, works with researchers, entrepreneurs, business people, professional advisers and investors to handle hundreds of invention disclosures submitted by our academics, and to help create companies and social enterprises based on our current (and perhaps your future) research.

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

### POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH FEES

Tuition fees cover the cost of your study with us, as well as charges for registration, tuition, supervision, examination and graduation. They also entitle you to membership of our libraries, Students' Union and Manchester Doctoral College.

Tuition fees vary for different programmes. For all our current fees information, including details for individual programmes, visit:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/pgr-fees](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/pgr-fees)

### Funding

#### Research Councils funding

Every year the seven government-funded UK Research Councils invest approximately £3 billion in research. To discover what funding is available in your subject area, visit:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/pgr-funding](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/pgr-funding)

#### Studentships

We offer various studentships based on academic excellence, giving the brightest applicants from around the world the opportunity to pursue postgraduate research. Before applying for a studentship, read the eligibility criteria thoroughly and note the closing deadline.

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

#### President's Doctoral Scholarship Award

Each year we offer a number of elite studentships across our three Faculties to individuals who demonstrate academic excellence and leadership potential. As a President's Scholar you'll have the opportunity to meet our President and

Vice-Chancellor, interact closely with our academic community and network with other PDS Award scholars.

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

#### Doctoral loans

The UK government has confirmed that new doctoral loans of up to £25,000 will be available for all types of doctoral study (eg PhDs and equivalent doctoral programmes such as DBA or EdD) at all UK universities for 2018/19. For details of eligibility and further information, visit:

[www.gov.uk/doctoral-loan](http://www.gov.uk/doctoral-loan)

### CONSIDER A DOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

Fully funded opportunities with competitive living costs, a doctoral training programme might be for you if you're looking for collaborative work with industry and a pre-defined research project that's more structured than the traditional PhD.

Based in multidisciplinary centres of expertise, Doctoral Training Partnerships (DTPs) and Centres for Doctoral Training (CDTs) are predominantly funded by the Research Councils. They offer you a unique opportunity to be part of a team conducting groundbreaking research that will affect real-world issues.

We have a huge number of CDTs. For a list and more details, visit:

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

## APPLYING FOR A PHD

1

### Identify your research idea or area

Read extensively around your subject to hone your idea. If you're generating your own research proposal – as opposed to applying for a predefined research project – identify potential sources of funding and seek guidance on their suitability.

2

### Select the appropriate School

Find out where the right expertise lies to support your research at Manchester.

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

3

### Contact a potential supervisor

Identify an academic member of staff with experience in your field and contact them to discuss your research proposal and key objectives before you submit a formal application. This will enable you to fine-tune your proposal and check that we can identify a suitable supervisory team for you.

[www.manchester.ac.uk/choose-supervisor](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/choose-supervisor)

4

### Compose your research proposal

This crucial part of most doctoral applications needs to make a positive and powerful impact. Take time to clarify your ideas and plan a coherent structure. Find out how at:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/research-proposal](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/research-proposal)

5

### Apply

Complete and submit our online application form – make sure you have relevant documentation to hand, such as your CV, certificates, transcripts and evidence of English language ability (if applicable). Remember to make a note of application deadlines.

[www.manchester.ac.uk/pg-research-apply](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/pg-research-apply)

6

### Funding

Securing funding can be a challenge for many research students. Start looking as early as possible and ensure that you're aware of deadline dates for the various funding bodies. Read our information and advice online.

[www.manchester.ac.uk/pg-funding](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/pg-funding)

**Good luck!**



**Kirsty McIntyre**

Doctoral Researcher in Maternal and Fetal Health

I wanted a university that supported my values. Manchester was the one. Here, I've worked with schools and the public, widening access to higher education and broadening access to science while progressing my professional development. I've been a student rep, a schoolteacher and a project leader. The University offers excellent support: funding, and an ethos of giving back. Manchester helped me to discover that I am strong, resilient and proactive, and that I value making a difference to other people.

**SEE OVERLEAF**  
For details of postgraduate taught study