

**MANCHESTER**  
1824

The University of Manchester

**YOUR GUIDE TO  
POSTGRADUATE**

**RESEARCH  
STUDY**



If you're looking for information on postgraduate taught study, please flip this booklet over.

# 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)

# 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)

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## 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)

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



### **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.