Faculty of Humanities Research Fellowships

Frequently Asked Questions

Eligibility

1. Can I apply for all the advertised fellowships?
   a. Yes, but you must tailor your research proposal for each fellowship accordingly.
2. If my PhD is awarded after the closing date for applications but before commencement of the fellowship, am I still eligible to apply?
   a. Applicants are required to have been awarded a PhD prior to the closing date for applications. We take the date of your successful viva voce examination as the relevant date.
3. Do I need to be within three years of the award of my PhD at the time of applying or on commencement of the fellowship?
   a. The three-year eligibility is calculated from the date of your successful viva voce examination to the closing date for applications.
4. The specification states that the Fellowship Committee will take into account special circumstances in respect of the three-year criteria - how is the Committee defining "special circumstances"?
   a. We will exclude from the calculation of 3 years periods of maternity leave, family commitments, illness, unemployment or other exceptional circumstances. Relevant information must be clearly presented in your application otherwise your proposal may be rejected.
5. What if I have been employed on a 'teaching-only' contract with no scope for research activities?
   a. Periods of teaching-only contracts could be disregarded from the calculation, but the onus is on applicants to demonstrate, within their application, why they think this should be the case based on the nature of their prior academic posts.
6. I have been working in academia since I submitted my PhD, but on a part-time basis. Can the three-year period be calculated on a pro-rata basis (e.g., can my 5-year 0.5 post be considered as equivalent to 2.5 years)?
   a. Periods of part-time academic employment can be calculated on a pro-rata basis. Applicants will need to demonstrate their eligibility clearly in their application. We will undertake eligibility assurance checks on applications once they have been submitted.
7. Does the University have a flexible working policy?
   a. Yes, applications for flexible working can be made from day one of your employment. Further information: (https://www.manchester.ac.uk/connect/jobs/flexible-working/).

8. How is Commonwealth defined for the purposes of this application?
    a. Please refer to this link for further information: [Member countries | Commonwealth](#)
9. Can you help me with visa enquiries?
    a. For questions regarding visas, please see this page for further information: [International applicants | The University of Manchester](#)

Application and research proposal

10. Is the October start date fixed?
    a. An October start is preferred. There is room for flexibility up to 1st January 2027.
11. How many referees should I provide?
    a. You should nominate three referees (at least one should be from outside of your current institution).
12. Who should I first contact within the school?
    a. The relevant Discipline Area or Research Institute/Centre to ensure a good fit with their research priorities.
13. How much research should I put into my research proposal?
    a. Illustrate the wider context, academic context and knowledge of where your research fits at the University of Manchester.
14. Do I need to cover the research interests of the school and research institute in my application?
    a. Concentrate on the fit of your research within the school.
15. Do you encourage work with engages external partners with my research?
    a. Working with external partners is encouraged in all fellowships and is a requirement for the Hallsworth Fellowship in External Engagement and Impact.
16. Do references count towards the word limit for the research proposal?
    a. No, references are excluded from the word count.
17. Is it permitted to include tables or diagrams in the research proposal?
    a. No, the research proposal should be text only.
18. Do I need to obtain a supporting statement from the host school before submitting my application?
    a. Yes, you will need to upload a signed supporting statement from your mentor with your application.
19. Do I need to provide a cover letter with my application?
    a. No, you are not required to provide a cover letter and any documents uploaded other than the 'Supporting Statement' will not be used as part of the assessment of your application.
20. Can I nominate more than one host department/centre/institute?

     a. No, please only indicate one primary host School and department on the application form.

21. Do I need to nominate a proposed mentor for my project?

     a. Yes, you can find information about the research interests of our staff through the Faculty website (https://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/).

22. Can the Fellowships team help me find a suitable mentor?

     a. No, the Fellowships team is unable to recommend a suitable mentor. Please use the Faculty website linked above.

Pay on appointment

23. How will my salary be determined?

     a. For candidates currently employed by the University, starting salary will be at grade 6.5 or two increments higher than current salary, whichever is the higher, dependent on time of appointment. For external candidates, salary will be discussed on offer of the Fellowship. Evidence will be required for requesting a higher starting salary and the upper limit of starting salary is detailed in the job description.

Last updated: 02/12/2025

Humanities Priority Themes 2025

Digital Futures

Digital Futures brings together researchers from different disciplines across all three of the University's faculties into multidisciplinary communities to tackle important research problems, build critical mass in new and emerging research areas and to work with external stakeholders to support Greater Manchester's ambitions as a leading digital city.

Digital Futures is built around challenges and cross-cutting capabilities. Societal Challenges focus on real-world activities that are economically and socially important, building on multidisciplinary strengths within the University. Institutional Challenges focus on the potential for digital technology to transform what we do as a University and how we do it: how we conduct research, what and how we teach, and how we function as an organisation. Cross-cutting

capabilities are digital frameworks, technologies and methods that are important areas of research in their own right and provide the underpinning for addressing the challenges.

The matrix below demonstrates the interactions between our Societal Challenges, Institutional Challenges and Cross-cutting Capabilities.

Sustainable Futures

Realising sustainable futures requires new and integrative solutions to address the interacting global environmental challenges.

Sustainable Futures brings together the unique depth and breadth of internationally leading research at The University of Manchester and builds on the University's track record of successful interdisciplinary working, to produce integrated and truly sustainable solutions to urgent environmental challenges.

Sustainable Futures will develop complete understandings of the environmental systems on which we depend and human interactions with them. It will spur scientific innovation and facilitate societal change at scale and pace to address urgent environmental crises. Sustainable Futures is unique in connecting core environmental expertise and broader societal agendas to develop systemic, innovative and actionable solutions.

Sustainable Futures is arranged around a number of interconnected 'challenge areas'

- **Resilient futures:** fulfilling societal functions in the face of accumulating and disruptive environmental change at various scales, whilst ensuring our natural environments are protected, restored and sustained.
- **Resourceful futures:** providing for human needs in ways that sustainably manage finite resources and recover value from rather than lose materials into the environment.
- **Net-zero futures:** delivering rapid emissions reductions and enhancing our ability to remove and store carbon.
- **Healthy futures:** managing risks to humans and ecosystems and realising the benefits of transitioning to an environmentally sustainable future.
- **Inclusive and prosperous futures:** delivering environmental sustainability through a just transition that enables communities to thrive.

Creativity

Awarded platform status in September 2021, Creative @ Manchester is a new cross-university platform promoting research and engagement for arts, cultural and creative industries. It builds on, but also goes beyond, the Creative @ Manchester initiative, which ran from 2018 – 2021.

The vision for Creative @ Manchester is to:

- Position the University in the Creative Industries sector through 3 core goals
- Strategic Partnerships: Strengthen collaborations with cultural sector
- Development of creative talent pipeline for the ever-growing creative industries
- Contribution to Creative Economy and Local Economy / Civic Engagement

The platform will drive collaborative research around theme themes.

- **Creative Industries and Innovation;**
- **Creative and Civic Futures**
- **Creative Inclusion, Health and Social Change**

Global Inequalities

There are pronounced inequalities across the world, within individual countries, and in our own city of Manchester. While progress has been made on some aspects of inequality, it's still the case that food, healthcare, infrastructure and resources are plentiful in some areas, yet scarce in others. Far too many households struggle with low income and poor job prospects.

Across the world, men and women's opportunities, experiences, their potential and their quality of life are shaped by unequal treatment, prejudice and discrimination due to their personal characteristics or family background.

As we have done for almost two centuries, The University of Manchester is leading the way in addressing all aspects of inequality, from poverty to social justice, from living conditions to equality in the workplace. Bringing together some of the best academic minds in applied medicine, business, law, social sciences and the arts, we're meeting these challenges head on, creating and sharing knowledge to understand our world and directly change it for the better.

Adaptive Societies

This theme grew out of the response by researchers to the Covid-19 pandemic and now covers research that examines the ways in which societies and communities shift through shocks and crises. Researchers working on this theme may also be developing new methods and reflecting on changes to their own research practice in response to external challenges.