

**International Doctoral Cluster**  
**Cities and infrastructure in a global age**

**PhD Project Proposal Form**  
**The University of Manchester and The University of Toronto**

Completed proposals should be prepared jointly by the PIs from Manchester and Toronto and submitted to [kevin.ward@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:kevin.ward@manchester.ac.uk) with the email subject heading “IDC: Cities and infrastructure in a global age” by Friday 4 December (17.00 pm Canada/22.00 pm UK)

**PURPOSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL DOCTORAL CLUSTER**

Infrastructure is a concept over which many disciplines claim some intellectual ownership. This includes those in engineering, the environmental and medical, as well the social, sciences. Within the latter we can include anthropology, architecture, business, economics, geography, history, planning, political science and sociology. While for some of these disciplines the interest in infrastructure is long standing, for others it is a more recent development, where there appears to have been something akin to an “infrastructural turn” (Dodson, 2015: 87). One area in which recent years have seen insights from a number of these disciplines converge and overlap is that on infrastructure and urbanization. As cities are increasingly understood as sites – in a both territorial and networked sense – through which planetary futures are being made and remade, so there appears some utility in using “infrastructure” as a lens onto the dynamic, open-ended, relationally-constituted and variegated process of urbanization.

On the one hand, as part of this “turn”, we have witnessed a growth in studies of the different kinds of infrastructure that maintains, nourishes, supports, sustains and underwrites the urban system, while, of course, being constitutive of it. That is both the material infrastructure (and its uneven presence/absence in and between cities) such as that around energy, health, transport, waste and water and the less material or tangible infrastructures such as that which gives coherence and shape to expertise, finance, and master-planning. On the other hand, there has also emerged a parallel discussion on infrastructure *qua* infrastructure. Specifically, on the ways in which the term infrastructure might, itself, be used most productively. So, for Appel et al (2015: np) infrastructure is, “a productive metaphor—for critical theory and the analysis of social life more broadly”, for Carse (2016: 28) it is a collective noun that “ refers to the subordinate parts of many projects, from the built systems that move water, sewage, people, and power to components assembled under the rubrics of security, information, health, finance, political mobilization, and environmental management”, while for Wiig and Silver (2019: 913 ) they understand it as verb, incorporating “the making, maintaining, and use of

infrastructure in the reordering of world economy and city-regions.”

This thinking through the different ways in which infrastructure comes to be present in cities, the nature of its relationship with urbanization and how this might involve, perhaps even necessitate, a rethinking of the concept itself, is the overarching focus for this International Doctoral Cluster (IDC). It will bring together faculty and staff from across disciplines to support a series of graduate projects. The IDC will support the comparison and exchange of conceptual, empirical and methodological insights into the past, present and future work of cities and infrastructure in a global age, with the building in of a strong element of engagement, impact and outreach with private, public and third sectors users.

Within the overall program themes that might be the focus of projects include:

- Every day and incremental infrastructures
- Financing infrastructures
- Governing infrastructures
- Infrastructure of adaptation and resilience
- Infrastructures of climate change
- Infrastructures of mobility and transport
- Infrastructure as visioning and worlding strategy
- Infrastructural citizenship
- Infrastructure and global urbanisms/global sub-urbanisms
- Infrastructure and statecraft
- Infrastructure and sustainable urbanism
- Low carbon infrastructures
- Race, Gender and Infrastructure
- Social infrastructures

## FUNDING

<b>University of Manchester</b>
Stipend awarded/ dual PhD candidate (equivalent to UKRI standard)
Tuition-fee waivers for PhD candidates
Research Training Support Grant (RTSG) - £500 per year plus student Travel allowance of £2000 per annum over 3.5 year program

## PROJECT PROPOSAL CALL

- Projects must be led by one primary supervisor from each institution
- Duration of projects is 42 months.
- At least 9 months of the project should be spent at Toronto

Release project proposal call	Monday 26 October 2020
Deadline for project proposal applications	Friday 4 December 2020 (17:00 pm Canada/ 22:00 pm UK)
Panel to discuss and approve project proposals	December 2020 (decision outcome early January)
Advertise successful projects for PhD recruitment	January 2021
Interview and recruitment due dates	May 2021

## ELIGIBILITY

This call for project proposals is open to a supervisory team of at least two principal investigators (PI). One PI must be employed by The University of Manchester and the other must be employed by The University of Toronto. Each PI must meet the supervisor eligibility criteria set by their own institution and each PI is responsible for checking their own eligibility.

The Supervisory team must meet Manchester's criteria as set out in the [University's Policy on Supervision for Postgraduate Research Degrees](#).

Principal investigators must be able to demonstrate existing research relationships and must provide evidence of such collaborative relationships as part of the application.

Adherence to respective equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) policies are a core feature of this program to ensure that all participants can do their best work, thrive and succeed. Applicant teams should consider how they can take meaningful steps in their future collaborations to foster an environment that values, supports and respects a diverse range of views, knowledge and experiences. Applicants should consider EDI as it applies to gender, indigenous peoples, disabilities, career stages and sectors.

Applications that do not satisfy these criteria will **not be eligible**.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

- The history and extent of collaboration between the Manchester and Toronto PIs
- How the projects combine mutual areas of interest and strength at Manchester and Toronto.
- How the projects articulate the need for, and benefit of, spending a minimum of 9 months at Toronto.
- The capacity for future collaboration/funding: What is the extent to which future collaborations are

possible as a result of the proposed exchange activities? What is the ability of the proposal to leverage future external funding?

- The capability of the project to seed the development of a larger network of researchers across the two universities within this research area.

## **SUBMISSION AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

A single, jointly prepared application must be submitted to [kevin.ward@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:kevin.ward@manchester.ac.uk) with the email subject heading “IDC: Cities and infrastructure in a global age”.

Toronto projects must ensure Head of School/Department approval is attached to the application.

**Application deadline: Friday 4 December (17.00 pm Canada/22.00 pm UK)**

Please note no feedback will be given on any submissions until the evaluation and has taken place.

**Submission and Manchester contact details:**

**Kevin Ward**

Director, Manchester Urban Institute

The University of Manchester

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