

Postgraduate Students of the Year 2014

The criteria against which their nominations were judged state:

“The nominee should be an outstanding postgraduate student who has excelled in some significant manner for example after the presentation of a thesis based on the recommendation and judgment of the external examiner; or has had a major research achievement during a PGR programme e.g. high quality journal publication; research spin off, etc. Alternatively he or she could have coupled excellent academic achievement with either major external activity (top level sport or music) or be inspirational through having overcome major difficulties.”

Dr Chris Miller, Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences, FMHS

Dr Chris Miller is described as an outstanding clinical researcher. He completed his thesis and was awarded his PhD 4 months early having published a number of high quality papers along the way. He then applied successfully for a National Institute for Health Research funded clinical lectureship. He has been awarded the Daniel Turnberg Cup for the trainee who has made the biggest contribution to research and has been placed highly in a number of young research worker competitions run by major scientific societies. He has combined an exceptional research output with clinical training in advanced cardiac imaging and is now mentoring several junior research fellows.

Chris is described as an outstanding academic cardiologist who is putting Manchester’s research on the map internationally.

Denis Volkov, School of Arts, Languages and Cultures, FHUMS

In his doctoral research project Denis Volkov, from the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures, explores the degree of potential interdependence between Late Imperial/early Soviet Academic Persian Studies and Russo/Soviet-policies toward Iran ca. 1870 to 1941 within a Foucauldian framework

Coming from an essentially Soviet academic tradition, wishing to adapt to the research culture of the UK presented Denis with a very steep learning curve. Yet he has succeeded in winning several prestigious awards and has built up an outstanding publication record.

Two of his articles have already appeared in esteemed peer-reviewed journals and these have been widely praised. A further journal article has already been accepted for publication, while another is currently under review.

Denis’s speed in producing quality output and achieving a strong scholarly presence within two fields at the same time, namely Russian *and* Iranian Studies, would be the envy of many an established academic. For a doctoral student this is described as nothing short of a sensation.

Dr Charlotte Brassey, Faculty of Life Sciences

Dr Charlotte Brassey is described as being the epitome of a 21st century scientist.

Charlotte crosses traditional discipline boundaries by working across the biological, engineering and geological sciences in order to better understand how mammals and birds have evolved, and how they function. She has produced excellent outputs in terms of both her published papers, in her international impact, and closer to home, in her public outreach work in schools and elsewhere.

She is both focused and curious - two key characteristics for any scientist - and these characteristics are what will enable her to progress as an outstanding independent researcher.

Andrew Welfle, School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering, FEPS

Andrew Welfle's PhD focuses on Bioenergy and has been undertaken in the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research within the School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering.

In addition to undertaking his research, Andrew has represented the University at the 2014 Global Young Scientists' Summit in Singapore, acted as Post-Graduate Chairman of the University's Student Sustainability Forum and as Student Representative for the University's Carbon Leadership Group.

He is the PhD representative within his Centre's Strategy Group, and has tutored and lectured students, helped the Tyndall Centre gain Green Impact Award certification and developed research proposals alongside academic staff.

Andrew has presented his work to peers at conferences including the European Biomass Conference in Copenhagen and has also presented by invitation to, and carried out consultancy work for, the UK Department for Energy & Climate Change (or DECC).

More recently he has secured a secondment to DECC as well a three year post on an Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council Project.