

MDC Excellence Awards 2017/2018

The annual MDC Excellence Awards were established in 2014 in recognition of the achievements of our postgraduate research students and celebrate their success. This year sees the introduction of a new award for Best Supervisor of the Year.

Awards for 2017/2018 will be given in six categories:

- PGR Student of the Year (President's Distinguished Achievement Award)
- Best Outstanding Output
- Best Contribution to PGR Environment
- Best Contribution to Society
- Best Contribution to Internationalisation
- Best Supervisor of the Year

PGR Student of the Year (President's Distinguished Achievement Award) (one award per faculty)

The nominee should be an outstanding **research** 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 publications; research spin off, etc.

Best Outstanding Output (one award per faculty)

The Best Outstanding Output award recognises research outputs of the highest quality and acknowledges the continuing importance of high quality research to the University.

Best Contribution to PGR Environment (one overall award)

The Best Contribution to PGR Environment award recognises outstanding achievement/contribution of an individual towards the enhancement of the postgraduate environment. An award will be made to a student who has made a positive impact, demonstrated innovation and creativity in their actions, and been an inspirational role model to other students. Examples of this include organising events which bring together the postgraduate community; identifying an area of development within the postgraduate community and providing a solution to this.

Best Contribution to Society (one overall award)

The Best Contribution to Society award recognises outstanding achievement/contribution of an individual who has offered their time and energy to make a difference to the social and economic well-being of our communities. Examples of this could include community volunteering, working with local schools or charities, organising public engagement events/activities.

Best Contribution to Internationalisation (one overall award)

The Best Contribution to Internationalisation award will be made to a student who, in the opinion of the MDC Panel, encapsulates the spirit of internationalisation at Manchester. Examples of this include a student that has demonstrated their ability to work internationally and be an exemplar global citizen; a student that had driven forward an initiative to enhance the international student experience at Manchester.

Best Supervisor of the Year (one award per faculty)

The nominee should be an individual who has created the most supportive, stimulating and inspirational research environment for doctoral students.

1. Criteria for Postgraduate Research Student Awards

- a) At the time of being nominated for an award, students must be registered for a postgraduate research degree at the University of Manchester, be under examination for a postgraduate research degree at the University of Manchester or have completed their doctoral degree within the past six months.¹

2. Making a Postgraduate Research Student Award Nomination

- a) Faculties are asked to coordinate their nominations so that;
- a single submission can be considered for the PGR Student of the Year
 - a single submission for the Best Outstanding Output
 - a single submission can be considered for the Best Contribution to PGR Environment
 - a single submission can be considered for the Best Contribution to Society
 - a single submission for the Best Contribution to Internationalisation
- b) **All nominations must be made via the Faculty. Nominations made directly to MDC will not be considered**
- c) A decision on which Faculty nominations will go forward to MDC will be undertaken at the respective Faculty meetings. These meetings will only review nominations coming directly through the Schools and that have been subsequently approved for consideration.

For timeframes and details of where nominations should be made please use the following contacts;

- **Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health** – doctoralacademy@manchester.ac.uk
 - **Faculty of Humanities** – Louise.davies@manchester.ac.uk
 - **Faculty of Science and Engineering** – Lee.wilkinson@manchester.ac.uk
- d) Nominators must be a current University of Manchester staff member
- e) All nominations must be made through the completion of the MDC Postgraduate Excellence Research Award Nomination Form or the PGR Student of the Year Form. **You are asked to note that all nominations MUST be accompanied by a minimum of two statements of support, and no more than four, from either the nominee's peers or relevant members of academic or PSS/Library/CIs' staff.**
- As part of the nomination form, nominators are required to provide a very brief summary of the nominee's achievements i.e. no longer than 100 words.**
- If the nomination is successful these 100 words will be used to form the basis of the citation at the awards ceremony. You are asked therefore to be clear, concise and mindful of the diverse range of people who will be in the audience at this event, particularly when constructing the shorter statement.
- f) Students can be nominated for multiple awards but a separate **MDC Postgraduate Excellence Research Award Nomination Form** must be completed for each award.
- g) The institutional deadline for Faculties to submit their nominations for **PGR Student of the Year Award** to MDC is 5pm on **Monday 8th January 2018**

¹ The date of nomination is deemed as the date on which the School submits a nomination to the Faculty for consideration

Nominations, marked **Private and Confidential**, should be sent electronically as **Word** documents to:

Claire Hughes, MDC Manager
Research and Business Engagement Support Services
Email: Claire.Hughes@manchester.ac.uk Tel: 58792

- h) All Faculty nominations for **PGR Student of the Year** will then be presented to the MDC Committee on **Thursday 17th January 2018** for consideration and a decision taken on the award recipients.
- i) MDC will submit the nomination for the **PGR Student of the Year Award** to the President's Office by **Friday 19th January 2018**
- j) Notification of the name of the winner of the **PGR Student of the Year Award** will be given after the meeting of the Awards and Honors Group (**April 2018**)
- k) The President and Vice Chancellor will present the **PGR Student of the Year Award** winner with their medal/award at a special ceremony (**June 2018**)
- l) The institutional deadline for Faculties to submit their nominations for;
 - **Best Outstanding Output**
 - **Best Contribution to PGR Environment**
 - **Best Contribution to Society**
 - **Best Contribution to Internationalisation**

to MDC is 5pm on **Monday 7th May 2018**

Nominations, marked **Private and Confidential**, should be sent electronically as **Word** documents to:

Claire Hughes, MDC Manager
Research and Business Engagement Support Services
Email: Claire.Hughes@manchester.ac.uk Tel: 58792

- m) All Faculty nominations for the Best Outstanding Output Award, Best Contribution to PGR Environment, Best Contribution to Society, and Best Contribution to Internationalisation Award will then be presented to the MDC Committee² on **Thursday 16th May 2018** for consideration and a decision taken on the award recipients.
- n) The winners of the Best Outstanding Output Award, Best Contribution to PGR Environment, Best Contribution to Society, and Best Contribution to Internationalisation Award will be notified by **Monday 21st May 2018**
- o) The Associate Vice President for Research and Director of the MDC will present the PGR Excellence Award winners with their medal/award at the 2018 Postgraduate Summer Research Showcase (**26th June 2018**)

² The MDC Committee is chaired by the Associate Vice President (Research) and Director of the Manchester Doctoral College, with membership including each Faculties Associate Dean for Postgraduate Research

3. Making a Supervisor of the Year Award Nomination

a) The qualities Schools, Faculties and the MDC will be looking for in candidates include:

- Evidence of outstanding results of their supervision over a number of years: have students from a range of backgrounds been encouraged to pursue a doctorate? What have they gone on to achieve?
- A pioneering approach to supervision: what has the individual done above and beyond that which is expected of any good supervision? What innovative approaches to problem solving and motivating students can be evidenced?
- A demonstrable commitment to supporting the personal, professional and career development of PGRs supervised, including evidence of proactive identification of tailored training and development needs reflecting the needs and strengths of individual PGRs
- Demonstrable enthusiasm for the role and going the extra mile to help students navigate through difficulties, academic or otherwise
- Challenging students intellectually and helping them to make substantial contributions to their academic field
- Providing additional support and facilities to give greater scope to their research
- Providing supervision to an exceptional number of candidates over time.

a) Faculties are asked to coordinate their nominations so that;

- a single submission can be considered for the Supervisor of the Year award by members of the MDC Committee

b) **All nominations must be made via the Faculty. Nominations made directly to MDC will not be considered**

c) A decision on which Faculty nominations will go forward to MDC will be undertaken at the respective Faculty meetings. These meetings will only review nominations coming directly through the Schools and that have been subsequently approved for consideration.

For timeframes and details of where nominations should be made please use the following contacts;

- **Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health** – doctoralacademy@manchester.ac.uk
- **Faculty of Humanities** – Louise.davies@manchester.ac.uk
- **Faculty of Science and Engineering** – Lee.wilkinson@manchester.ac.uk

d) Nominations can be made by individuals or by a group. Both staff and students can submit a nomination.

e) All nominations for Supervisor of the Year must be made through the completion of the MDC Supervisor of the Year Award Nomination Form. **You are asked to note that all nominations MUST be accompanied by a minimum of two statements of support, and no more than three.**

As part of the nomination form, nominators are required to provide a very brief summary of the nominee's achievements i.e. no longer than 100 words.

If the nomination is successful these 100 words will be used to form the basis of the citation at the awards ceremony. You are asked therefore to be clear, concise and mindful of the diverse range of people who will be in the audience at this event, particularly when constructing the shorter statement.

- f) The institutional deadline for Faculties to submit their nominations for **Supervisor of the Year** to MDC is 5pm on **Monday 7th May 2018**

Nominations, marked **Private and Confidential**, should be sent electronically as **Word** documents to:

Claire Hughes, MDC Manager

Research and Business Engagement Support Services

Email: Claire.Hughes@manchester.ac.uk Tel: 58792

- g) All Faculty nominations for **Supervisor of the Year** will then be presented to the MDC Committee on **Thursday 16th May 2018** for consideration and a decision taken on the award recipients.

The three Supervisors of the Year winners will then be presented to members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) in order to ascertain which one will go forward to the national Times Higher Education 'Outstanding Supervisor of the Year award.

- h) The winners of the **Supervisor of the Year** award will be notified by **Monday 21st May 2018**
- i) The Associate Vice President for Research and Director of the MDC will present the PGR Excellence Award winners with their medal/award at the 2018 Postgraduate Summer Research Showcase (**26th June 2018**)

4. MDC Excellence Awards Publicity

- a) The MDC Excellence Awards will be promoted via members of the MDC Committee, Graduate Administrators Group, and the Graduate Education and Researcher Development Team.
- b) Details of the awards will also be made available via Staffnet News, Graduate Education webpages and Faculty intranet pages

5. Further Information

For further information on the operation of the MDC Excellence Awards please contact Claire Hughes (claire.hughes@manchester.ac.uk), Manchester Doctoral College.

MDC Excellence Awards 2017/2018

TIMETABLE

Date	Action	Lead
September 2017	Call for Distinguished Achievement Awards and MDC Excellence Awards to be released	Deborah Black (DAA) Claire Hughes (MDC)
Monday 8 th January 2018	Deadline for Faculties to submit their nominations for PGR Student of the Year Award (DAA)	Helen Eccles (FBMH) Louise Davies (HUMS) Lee Wilkinson (FSE)
Thursday 17 th January 2018	Faculty nominations for the PGR Student of the Year Award (DAA) to be presented to the MDC Committee for consideration.	Claire Hughes (MDC)
Friday 19 th January 2018	Nomination for the PGR Student of the Year Award to be submitted to the President's Office.	Claire Hughes (MDC) Deborah Black (DAA)
April 2018	Awards and Honours Group meeting followed by notification of the name of the winner of the PGR Student of the Year Award.	Deborah Black (DAA)
Monday 7 th May 2018	Deadline for Faculties to submit their nominations for Best Outstanding Output Award, Best Contribution to PGR Environment, Best Contribution to Society, Best Contribution to Internationalisation Award, and Supervisor of the Year Award	Helen Eccles (FBMH) Louise Davies (HUMS) Lee Wilkinson (FSE)
Thursday 16 th May 2018	Faculty nominations for Best Outstanding Output Award, Best Contribution to PGR Environment, Best Contribution to Society, Best Contribution to Internationalisation Award, and Supervisor of the Year Award to be presented to the MDC Committee for consideration.	Claire Hughes (MDC)
May 2018	Winners of the Supervisor of the Year Award to be presented to members of SLT for a decision to be taken as to which will go forward to the THE Outstanding Supervisor of the Year Award.	Claire Hughes (MDC)
26 th June 2018	The Associate Vice President for Research and Director of the MDC will present the Excellence Award winners with their medal/award at the 2018 Postgraduate Summer Research Showcase.	Claire Hughes (MDC)
June 2018	The President and Vice Chancellor will present the PGR Student of the Year Award (DAA) winner with their medal/award at a special ceremony.	Deborah Black (DAA)

MDC Celebrating and Sharing Success

MDC are seeking to capture PGR stories of success and to formally recognise these achievements. All Schools/Faculties are asked to make the MDC aware of any outstanding PGR achievements as soon as they are known, emailing details to mdc@manchester.ac.uk. The MDC will also email out monthly requests for PGR success stories.

A letter congratulating the student will then be sent from the MDC Director and appropriate Associate Dean for Graduate Education. Those students who are considered to have been exceptionally outstanding will be put forward for the MDC PGR Student of the Year Award.

MDC also intend to highlight PGR success stories on the new MDC website.

Postgraduate Research Student of the Year Award Nomination Form 2017/2018

Please complete this form for nominations for PGR Student of the Year only

All nominations must be presented to the relevant Faculty first before being considered by members of the MDC Committee. Please consult with your Faculty MDC Excellence Award point of contact (detailed under point 2C in the guidance notes) for details on the local deadline for School nominations.

Nominee Details

Name	
School	
Email Address	
Programme of Study (e.g. PhD, MPhil)	

Nominator Details

Name	
School	
Email Address	
Role (e.g. supervisor)	

Please provide a supporting statement, which is no longer than 350 words, outlining the reasons why the student should be nominated for **Postgraduate Research Student of the Year**.

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Nominations MUST be accompanied by a minimum of two statements of support, and no more than four, from either the nominee's peers or relevant members of academic or PSS/Library/CIs' staff. Please provide the names of those that have supplied statements of support and confirm these have been attached.

Name	Supporting Statement Attached (Yes / No)
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

In addition, nominators are required to provide a very brief summary of the nominee's achievements - no longer than 100 words. If the nomination is successful these 100 words will be used to form the basis of the citation to be read out at the Distinguished Achievements and MDC Awards Ceremonies. You are asked therefore to be clear, concise and mindful of the diverse range of people who will be in the audience at the awards ceremony.

MDC Postgraduate Research Student Excellence Awards

Nomination Form 2017/2018

Please complete this form for nominations for Best Outstanding Output, Best Contribution to PGR Environment, Best Contribution to Society and Best Contribution to Internationalisation

If a student is being nominated for multiple awards a separate nomination form must be completed for each award

All nominations must be presented to the relevant Faculty first before being considered by members of the MDC Committee. Please consult with your Faculty MDC Excellence Award point of contact (detailed under point 2C in the guidance notes) for details on the local deadline for School nominations.

Nominee Details

Name	
School	
Email Address	
Programme of Study (e.g. PhD, MPhil)	

Nominator Details

Name	
School	
Email Address	
Role (e.g. supervisor)	

Please highlight the award the student is being nominated for:

Name of Award	Please Tick (v)
Best Outstanding Output	
Best Contribution to PGR Environment	
Best Contribution to Society	
Best Contribution to Internationalisation	

Please provide a supporting statement, which is no longer than 350 words, outlining the reasons why the student should be nominated for the specified award.

Nominations **MUST** be accompanied by a minimum of two statements of support, and no more than four, from either the nominee’s peers or relevant members of academic or PSS/Library/CIs’ staff. Please provide the names of those that have supplied statements of support and confirm these have been attached.

Name	Supporting Statement Attached (Yes / No)
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

In addition, nominators are required to provide a very brief summary of the nominee’s achievements - no longer than 100 words. If the nomination is successful these 100 words will be used to form the basis of the citation to be read out at the MDC Award Ceremony. You are asked therefore to be clear, concise and mindful of the diverse range of people who will be in the audience at the awards ceremony.

MDC Supervisor of the Year Award

Nomination Form 2017/2018

Please complete this form for nominations for Supervisor of the Year award

All nominations must be presented to the relevant Faculty first before being considered by members of the MDC Committee. Please consult with your Faculty MDC Excellence Award point of contact (detailed under point 2C in the guidance notes) for details on the local deadline for School nominations.

Nominee Details

Name	
School	
Email Address	

Nominator Details

Name	
School	
Email Address	
Role (e.g. colleague, student)	

Please provide a supporting statement, which is no longer than 350 words, outlining the reasons why the supervisor should be nominated for Supervisor of the Year.

Nominations MUST be accompanied by a minimum of two statements of support, and no more than four. Please provide the names of those that have supplied statements of support and confirm these have been attached.

Name	Supporting Statement Attached (Yes / No)
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

In addition, nominators are required to provide a very brief summary of the nominee's achievements - no longer than 100 words. If the nomination is successful these 100 words will be used to form the basis of the citation to be read out at the Distinguished Achievements and MDC Awards Ceremonies. You are asked therefore to be clear, concise and mindful of the diverse range of people who will be in the audience at the awards ceremony.