

[Find us on Twitter @SLTatUoM](#)

The University of Manchester has opportunities for new graduates and practising SLT clinicians to become involved in research and to gain qualifications to enhance your career. Whether you have an idea that you want to follow up in a small-scale project or if you want to gain a PhD in Communication Disorders or a PhD in Psychology, there is a range of choices to suit you.

On the following pages, you will find information about postgraduate training and the degree programmes relevant to your own circumstances.

Information about getting into SLT research is organised into whether you are:

**A qualified speech  
and language  
therapist**

**Pages 2-7**

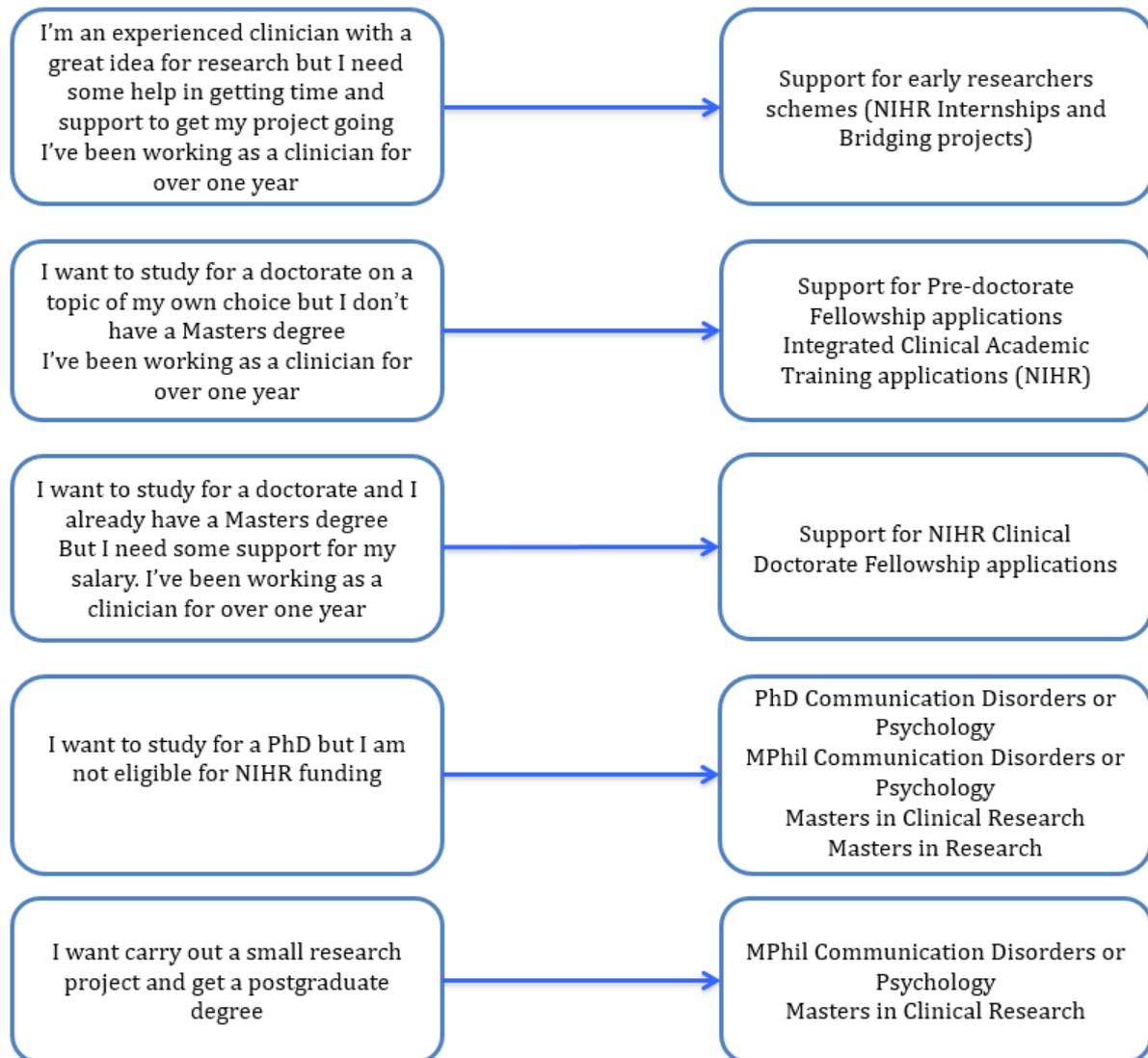
**A final year  
student or newly  
qualified  
practitioner**

**Pages 8-10**

**An international  
student or  
graduate speech  
and language  
therapist living  
outside the UK  
Pages 11-12**

Further information about each type of support or qualification appears below.

**If you are already qualified as a speech and language therapist... look here**



***Finding support***

The best ideas for clinical research come from clinicians. You may have a great idea and can see that there is a need for an answer to your question but don't quite know where to start with research. It can seem very daunting to step into the research field at first. However, there are painless routes into developing your clinical research ideas.

The first step is usually to find a potential supervisor who can help you to find the right support. This is usually a person in a university – who maybe a speech and language therapist or a non-clinical academic, such as a psychologist. You can also find information via your Trust R&D departments if you work in the NHS. If you want to find a supervisor at the University of Manchester, please browse some of our work:

Language development and disorders research is based in the Division of Human Communication Development and Hearing

[https://www.research.manchester.ac.uk/portal/en/facultiesandschools/division-of-human-communication-development--hearing\(99281489-4997-4a79-83bd-9d2ad66510c1\).html](https://www.research.manchester.ac.uk/portal/en/facultiesandschools/division-of-human-communication-development--hearing(99281489-4997-4a79-83bd-9d2ad66510c1).html)

Aphasiology research is based in the Division of Neuroscience and Experimental Psychology

[https://www.research.manchester.ac.uk/portal/en/facultiesandschools/division-of-neuroscience--experimental-psychology\(56df8793-4074-4d32-b197-a40989cfefc7\).html](https://www.research.manchester.ac.uk/portal/en/facultiesandschools/division-of-neuroscience--experimental-psychology(56df8793-4074-4d32-b197-a40989cfefc7).html)

Or contact one of us using the email addresses at the end of this document.

If you are a **practitioner with a research idea who wants to develop this into a research project and qualification**, there are several possible routes to a postgraduate degree for practitioners, depending on your preference and access to funding. Some options are shown here and further explanations are set out underneath the table.

<b>What do you want to do?</b>	<b>What we would recommend</b>	<b>Is funding available to support your studies?</b>
I have a research idea but I need some help in getting time and support to get my project going	<b>ICA Internships</b> <b>ICA Bridging awards</b>	<b>Funding is available via the National Institute for Healthcare Research Integrated Clinical Academic (NIHR ICA) training programme. A mentor /host is required</b>
I want to study for a doctorate on a topic of my choice but I don't know what I want to do and I don't have a Masters degree	<b>You could apply for an NIHR Pre-doctorate Fellowship (see below for more information)</b>	<b>Funding available through NIHR ICA training scheme competitions</b>
I want to study for a PhD and I already have a Masters degree but I need some support for my salary	<b>You could apply for an NIHR Clinical Doctorate Fellowship</b>	<b>Funding available through NIHR ICA training scheme competitions</b>
I want to do a PhD but I am not eligible for NIHR funding because I don't work for the NHS or haven't worked there long enough (less than one year)	<b>You can apply for a PhD in Communication Disorders at the University of Manchester</b>	<b>Funding schemes are available but are competitive</b>
I want to carry out a small research project and get a postgraduate degree	<b>You could opt to do an MPhil in Communication Disorders or a Masters in Clinical Research</b>	<b>You would need to fund this yourself or apply for funding (see below)</b> <b>Self-funding is an option</b>

## ***Getting your research idea going***

### **I have a research idea but I need some help in getting time and support to get my project going**

The National Institute for Health Research takes the view that clinical research should be actively encouraged from all practitioners. Currently (2020-21) it has two schemes that you can access for funding. Both routes provide funding to backfill salary for the days spent on research (usually one or two days a week) so you would continue in your NHS post whilst you completed the project.

These schemes are run by the Integrated Clinical Academic Training Programme (ICA) and not the University of Manchester. The University's role may be to assist you to develop a project and find an appropriate supervisor. Further information comes from the ICA webpages:

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/academy-programmes/hee-nihr-integrated-clinical-academic-programme.htm>

**Scheme 1: ICA Internships** are short-term periods of funding aimed at individuals who are new to research and last for only a short period of time. You will have an expert supervisor (appointed by ICA) and develop your project ideas or complete a small-scale project. Your salary would be covered for the days that you spend on the Internship. ICA Internships are managed by local Health Education England (HEE) teams in England. Further details of the scheme and contact details for your local team are available from the website.

<https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/clinical-academic-careers/research-internships>

**Scheme 2: The ICA Bridging awards** can support speech and language therapists and other AHPs to build on their previous academic training and to develop PhD proposals with the longer-term aim of having a clinical academic career. ICA Bridging awards are also managed by local HEE teams. Further details can be found at

<https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/clinical-academic-careers/integrated-clinical-academic-ica-programme/bridging-scheme>

Experienced staff at the University of Manchester are able to both access these schemes with you and offer supervision where appropriate.

If you are interested in finding a supervisor at the University, please contact the local PGR coordinator Cathy Adams at [Catherine.adams@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:Catherine.adams@manchester.ac.uk) or our Divisional Research Lead [antje.heinrich@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:antje.heinrich@manchester.ac.uk) who will be able to direct you to a supervisor, or ask your own existing specialist at the University for more information.

## ***Doing a postgraduate research degree***

First of all, some useful information about what all these different degrees are described at this website:

<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/programmes/types/>

**Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)** – lasting between three and four years (full-time) or six to eight years (part-time) and awarded in recognition of the successful completion of a programme of supervised research within the allocated time, the results of which show evidence of originality and independent, critical judgement and constitute an addition to knowledge. Although instructional courses may be included in the training, you spend

most time undertaking independent research, with progress closely monitored throughout the period of study. Assessment is based upon an oral examination of your final thesis.

**Master of Philosophy (MPhil)** – usually lasting 12 months (full-time) or two years (part-time) and assessed by the submission and examination of a shorter thesis than that required for a PhD, setting out the results of an original, individual programme of investigational research. Where appropriate, successful completion of the MPhil (including the preparation of a detailed plan for a doctoral research project) may be followed by registration for a PhD.

**Research master's (MClin, MRes)** – a 12-month programme including subject-specific taught course units, research skills training and a substantial research project, or series of research projects. This is often taken in preparation for a PhD degree and may be mandatory for certain funding routes.

### **Postgraduate degree options**

#### **1. I want to study for a doctorate on a topic of my choice but I don't know what I want to do and I don't have a Masters degree**

The NIHR through its Integrated Clinical Academic (ICA) training programme offers **NIHR Pre-doctoral Clinical Academic Fellowships (PCAF)**. These offer successful candidates backfill and fees to undertake master's level study (usually something like the University's Masters in Clinical Research) and to prepare a Clinical Doctoral Research Fellowship application. Applicants must have at least one year's clinical experience and you must be committed to a clinical academic career.

You must be a member of an eligible profession to apply for ICA funding. Speech and language therapy is an eligible profession.

If you think this might be the route for you, check out the details of the funding online because the scheme tends to change from year to year.

Please read details of this scheme on the relevant ICA website.

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/academy-programmes/hee-nihr-integrated-clinical-academic-programme.htm>

If you think you might be interested in applying but don't quite know where to start, we can assist you in finding a supervisor and making an application. Note that all fellowship applications are very competitive, therefore it is likely that you will need help in making the application successful.

#### **2. I want to study for a PhD and I already have a Masters degree but I need some support for my salary**

**The NIHR Clinical Doctoral Research Fellowship (CDRF) scheme** funds registered healthcare professionals to undertake a PhD by research and, concurrently, to undertake further professional development and clinical practice. You must have at least one year's experience of clinical practice and enough research training that you are ready to start a PhD. The duration of funding is up to 3 years full time/6 years part time.

This is a competitive scheme with funding that backfills the candidate's salary for the duration of the award. Further information can be found at NIHR ICA website but note that these details tend to change year on year.

The best starting point would be to find yourself someone who could supervise your PhD and who is a member of an eligible university – the University of Manchester is eligible to host these fellowships.

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/documents/clinical-doctoral-research-fellowship-scheme-applicant-guidance-notes/22095>

and

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/documents/ica-pcaf-round-2-applicant-guidance-2019/22107>

If you are interested in pursuing either of these options within The University of Manchester, please contact Cathy Adams in the first instance who can direct you to an appropriate supervisor and explain the application process.

Further information can be found at:

<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/programmes/list/11033/phd-communication-disorders/>

It is important to note that a PhD in Communication Disorders is not a clinical qualification. This means that it does not give the candidate a licence to register and practise as a speech and language therapist. Instead, it offers opportunity for in-depth study of a particular research question or set of questions. Typically, graduates will pursue a research and/or teaching career in academia.



## My research journey

**Dr Alex Sturrock**

**Specialist speech and language therapist (Autism)**

I was working in a specialist speech and language therapy role and wanted to discover more about communication profiles and needs in young women with autism. I'm a mature student so I decided to self-fund and continue to work clinically at the same time. I have just successfully completed a 6-year part-time **PhD in Communication Disorders** at the University. I've been able to publish my research and have developed additional skills in public and patient engagement in research. On a personal level, it's been a fantastic journey. I would recommend all speech and language therapists to engage in some research activity that keeps our profession evidence-based and competitive at the forefront of allied health professional services.

### **3. I want to do a PhD but I am not eligible for NIHR funding**

Our **PhD in Communication Disorders programme** enables you to undertake a research project that will improve understanding of Communication Disorders.

Communication disorders research is based in the world leading Division of Human Communication, Development and Hearing (HCHD) providing an exciting and rewarding experience. We have particular research strengths in the areas of developmental language disorders (DLD) and language development as well as social communication and pragmatics intervention, aphasiology, literacy and memory. Manchester is also home to the [ESRC International Centre for Language and Communicative Development](#) (LuCiD), one of the largest centres worldwide for research in language acquisition. Members of LuCiD are available to supervise PhD research in both typical and atypical language development.

The project will usually be outlined by an applicant seeking to work within a particular research area with a focused plan of research in mind, usually shared and discussed with the potential main supervisor.

Alternatively, the project will be part of a research programme and such projects are usually outlined by the academic supervisor offering the study.

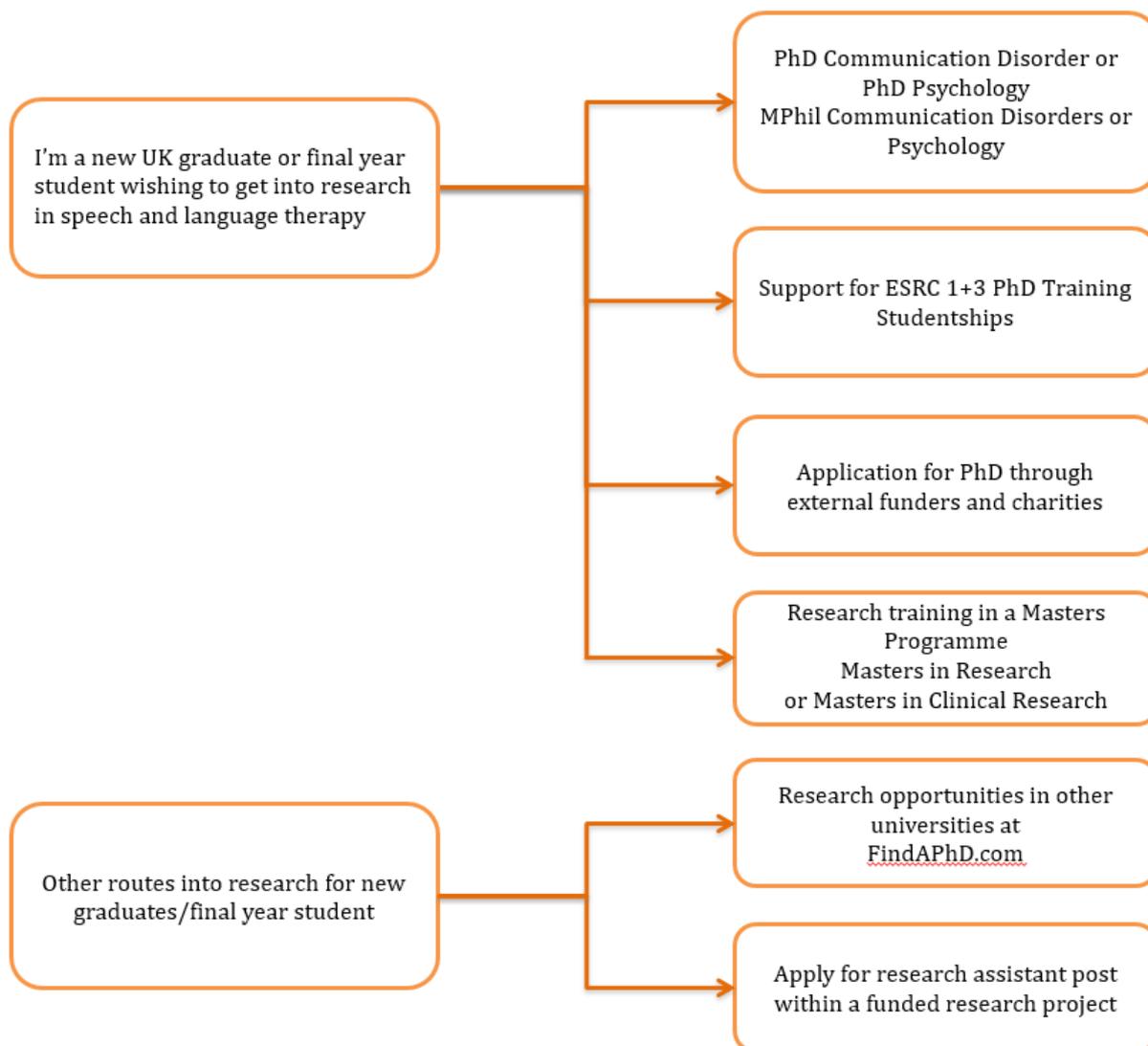
Postgraduate research study is personalised; flexibility is allowed for the research to evolve and investigate findings not envisaged at the outset of the work. This is complemented by a training structure that provides critical skills training, personal development and progression milestones.

### **4. I want to carry out a small research project and get a postgraduate degree**

Our **MPhil (Masters in Philosophy in Communication Disorders) or Masters in Clinical Research programmes** are open to you if you are intending to focus your research in communication disorders. Applications for postgraduate degrees are very welcome from practitioners. MPhil programmes are typically shorter than PhDs and can be taken full-time (one year) or part-time (up to two years). The University appoints experienced clinical and academic researchers to supervise research degrees. There is a skills training programme available for those with less research experience.

Details of other Masters programmes such as the **Masters in Research** and the **Masters in Clinical Research** are set out in the section below.

**If you are a newly qualified practitioner or a final year student.... look here**



Speech and language therapy final year students and graduates are eligible to prepare an application for a PhD with a chosen supervisor.

**a) PhD funding via the ESRC Social Science Doctoral Training Programme (NWSSDTP), otherwise known as the ESRC 1+3 PhD Programme Competition**

The Economic and Social Research Council funds a small number of 1+3 (one year Masters plus 3 years PhD) across the North West of England. These are very competitive applications which are run by the North West Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership (NWSSDTP). If you are interested in applying for this programme

you will need a) a first class or upper second class degree and b) to talk with a potential supervisor about your proposed PhD project. If you are unsure what you want to study within a specific area then talk with one of your tutors or email Cathy Adams at [catherine.adams@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:catherine.adams@manchester.ac.uk). This will provide the basis for an application. You can also view our research groups and academic profiles in this area as a starting point.

Proposals should then be refined and developed in collaboration with your supervisor, where appropriate. Your tutor will be able to give you more information about the application process. ESRC funding provides full support for UK/EU tuition fees, and an annual tax-free maintenance stipend. Financial support towards training costs (equipment, surveys, conference attendance, etc) can be sought through the NWSSDTP following registration onto the PhD.

Further information is available at

<https://www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/research/funded-programmes/esrc-nwssdtp/>

Note that preparation for the PhD without a masters degree may be required by completing the MRes Psychology

<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/masters/courses/list/02055/mres-psychology/>

### **b) Other PG research opportunities: Masters in Clinical Research (research masters degree) or Masters in Research (Psychology)**

The best preparation for an academic career and a PhD is to obtain a Masters degree after your undergraduate degree. The University of Manchester runs an ESRC-approved **Masters in Research** which is an excellent preparation for a doctorate. Outside of ESRC awards, you would need to find your own funding for this programme.

The **Masters in Clinical Research** is aimed at health professionals who wish to enhance their skills and knowledge in clinically focused research. The course provides comprehensive training in research, providing an excellent foundation for students who wish to go on to study for a PhD.

This course may be available with sponsorship/fees paid as part of the NIHR Clinical Academic Training Programme (see below) but only if you have at least one year's clinical experience. This may be an appropriate route for those of you doing NQP year before taking up a research training route.

<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/masters/courses/list/08175/mclin-res-clinical-research/>

Have a look at the funding section below to get more information about alternative funding.

### **c) Research opportunities in other universities; research assistant work and research funded by charities**

Universities around the UK and overseas sometimes have PhD or other opportunities to do research that they advertise. These are usually in the form of a studentship for a PhD which is funded via a specific route or a university bursary or which is part of a larger project based at that university.

Opportunities like this usually appear on University websites, so the best thing to do would be to follow the adverts from universities you know do your kind of research and see what they have to offer.

You might also **find a PhD opportunity** you like through the most comprehensive advertising space, which is Find A Phd.com. This website shows a list of current opportunities across the whole of the UK and beyond with named supervisors. Note that not all of these will come with funding attached. The site also has information about postgraduate research fairs and postgraduate funding.

<https://www.findaphd.com/>

Another route that may help you get into research is **applying for a research assistant post**. Research assistants are junior posts for graduates with a good degree; they typically involved being part of a large research group or project and will be mainly concerned with data gathering and administration for a specific grant. Speech and language therapists can consider working on communication disorders grants but also on those concerned with psychology, neuroscience or language development.

Research Assistant posts are sometimes circulated around from other universities and we pass them on to our final year students. Many of them also appear on relevant websites from specific universities and on the higher education jobs website: Jobs.ac.uk

<https://www.jobs.ac.uk/>

There are some **charities that may fund postgraduate study** either through funding to candidates or projects – but you may have to work very hard to find them and it would be best to try and find a supervisor before you go down this route. They will have knowledge of charitable funding in your chosen area of research.

## **My research journey**

**Dr Jackie Kindell**

**Speech and Language Therapist**

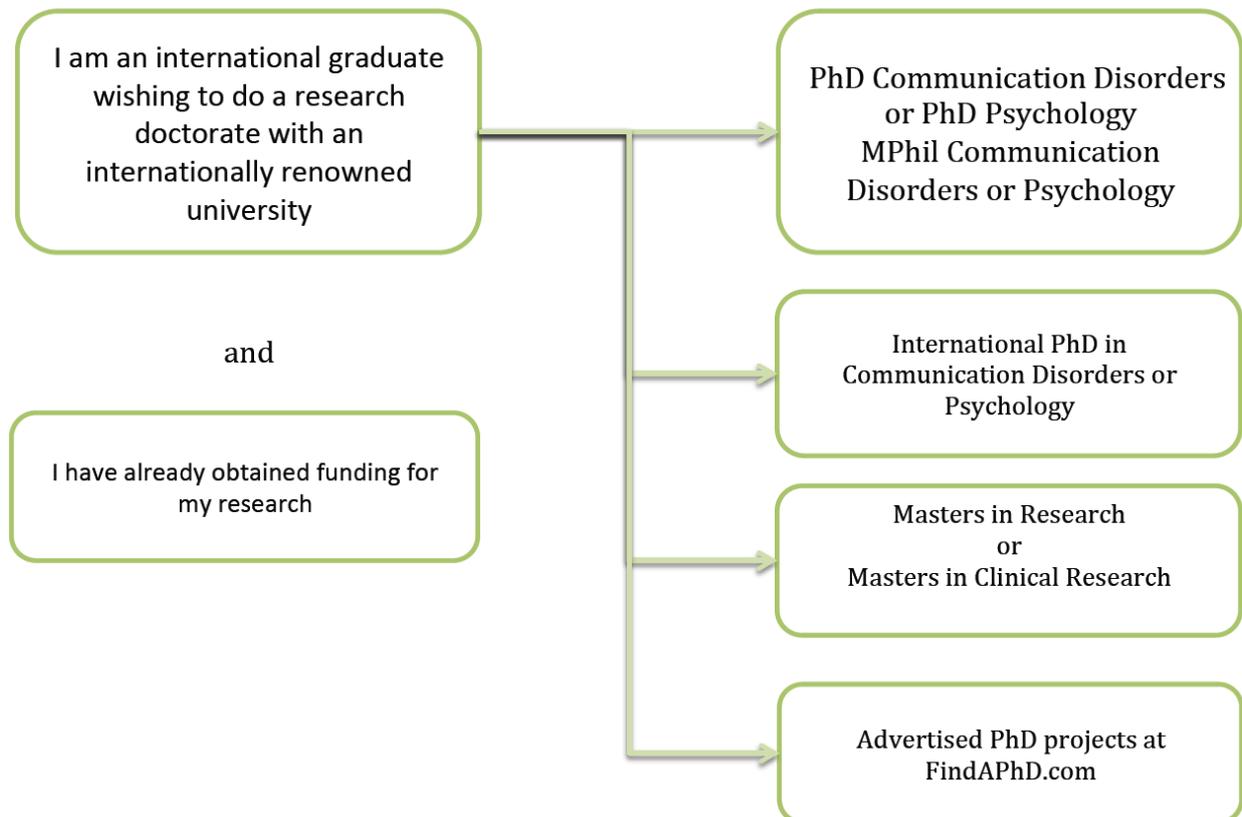
**Therapy Team Clinical Lead**

**Pennine Care NHS Foundation  
Trust**



I have always been interested in keeping up with the latest research in dementia care. **The Masters in Clinical Research at the University of Manchester** gave me the time and opportunity to pursue this interest in more depth and learn how different research methods might address the questions I had about my clinical practice. Through this and with support from staff at the University I was then successful in obtaining funding from The Dunhill Medical Trust to study for a **PhD in Psychology** looking at conversation and life story work in rarer dementias.

**If you are an international student or graduate in speech and language therapy or a closely related discipline, look here**



**Postgraduate taught and research degrees for international candidates**

If you are an international candidate and wish to study for a PhD in Communication Disorders, please visit our information for international students at <https://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/international/>.

We have specialists in language development, developmental language disorders, bilingualism, aphasiology and social communication disorders in children who supervise PhD projects.

International PhD students can study part or full time for a PhD. There is an option for funded international students to opt for an extra year in the PhD in order to undertake appropriate research training if they do not have a Masters degree containing substantial research methods training.

Search by subject area or supervisor

<https://www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/research/projects/>

**International students PhD projects are advertised by the University on the Find a PhD website.**

You might also find a PhD opportunity you like through the most comprehensive advertising space, which is Find A Phd.com. This website shows a list of current opportunities across the whole of the UK and beyond with named supervisors. Note that not all of these will come with funding attached. The site also has information about postgraduate research fairs and postgraduate funding.

<https://www.findaphd.com/>

## **Useful information**

### **General information about postgraduate research at the University of Manchester**

<https://www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/research/apply/>

#### **Information about funding**

<https://www.findaphd.com/funding/>

#### **Start dates**

PhD studies usually start in late September but enrolment in January and April is possible.

#### **Fees**

Tuition fees for your PhD/MPhil will cover the cost of your study at the University, as well as charges for registration, tuition, supervision, examinations and graduation.

Payment of fees will also entitle you to membership of the Library, the Students' Union and the Athletic Union. For general fee information, including paying your fees, visit the University's [postgraduate research fees](#) pages.

#### **PhD/MPhil costs**

Fees for PhD, MPhil and MD programmes fall into one of our standard fee bands. Your primary supervisor will determine which is appropriate according to the nature and complexity of your research project. The band is displayed within the project description for self-funded projects, or will be confirmed during the interview/offer stage.

Some of our programmes attract a non-standard fee and these are displayed on the [specific programme pages](#), for example in Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work, Dentistry/Clinical Dentistry and History of Science, Technology and Medicine.

#### **Fees for UK/EU students**

For the academic year **2020/21** (September 2020 entry onwards), the UK/EU fees are:

Standard - £TBC

Band 1 - £9,000 per year (low consumable research project)

Band 2 - £16,000 per year (medium consumable research project)

Band 3 - £21,000 per year (high consumable research project)

The band for each PhD project is indicated within the advertised project description. Fees for UK/EU students are generally not quoted in adverts where they are covered by a funded studentship.

### **Postgraduate research programmes commencing in the 2020/21 academic year**

The Department for Education has now confirmed that EU students applying for university places in England in 2020/21 will continue to be eligible for student loans and grants, and entitled to home fee status for the duration of their course, even past the point that the UK leaves the EU. Students wishing to undertake a PhD programme will be assigned the home fee status for the duration of their programme.

### **Contact us – we are here to help**

Please apply for further information on expertise in speech and language therapy research and related areas such as language development and hearing - [catherine.adams@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:catherine.adams@manchester.ac.uk) or [antje.heinrich@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:antje.heinrich@manchester.ac.uk)

### **Applications**

Candidates should apply through the University of Manchester's Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health Postgraduate Research admissions procedure at

<https://www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/research/apply/>

Note that you will need to allow time to prepare and contact a potential supervisor. Applicants for standard MPhil or PhD programmes should ideally apply at least four months prior to the date of registration.

**Version 6 CA: 17 June 2020**