

MANCHESTER  
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The University of Manchester

# Research and Impact @Manchester

September 2022



*Research Highlights  
July to September 2022*

Produced by the Research Communications Hub,  
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Please contact the UniNews inbox if you have any suitable  
features for our next edition.

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# Foreword

Colette Fagan, Vice President for Research



Welcome to *Research and Impact @Manchester*, our new quarterly research and impact highlights newsletter. It is designed for you, our colleagues, who together produce and support our research and impact successes, including our fantastic recent REF results. And it's you that continue to make Manchester a great place to do research.

Each quarter we will celebrate our research community's recent successes, including awards and achievements; summarise key updates that support research by enhancing our research environment and which help to deliver the priorities in Our Future - research and discovery strategy; and shine a light on some of the fantastic facilities across the University. The newsletter will complement the great job which colleagues already do in promoting our research and impact to external audiences.



I am proud of the quality and scale of research and impact achieved by research teams at the University and of everyone's contribution to maintaining a research environment that enables our research to thrive.

Please take a look and let us know what you think or what else you would like to see in the months ahead [here](#).

*Colette Fagan, Vice President for Research*



# Awards and Achievements

## British Academy recognises Manchester academics for their expertise

**A number of our academics have been recognised for their knowledge and expertise by being elected as Fellows of the British Academy.**

Dr Melanie Giles, Professor Penny Harvey and Professor Hilary Owen are among 85 scholars to be elected to the prestigious fellowship this year. David Olusoga, Professor of Public History, has also been awarded with an Honorary Fellowship in recognition of his broadcasting and public engagement work.

**David Olusoga's** broadcasting work includes the popular series *A House Through Time*, and the series *Black and British: A Forgotten History* which accompanied his book of the same name. On receiving his Honorary Fellowship, he said: "It's a wonderful and unexpected honour to have been elected an Honorary Fellow of the British Academy - I'm thrilled that my work exploring marginalised histories has been recognised in this way."

**Melanie Giles** is a Senior Lecturer in Archaeology. Her book *Bog Bodies: Face to Face with the Past* won 2022's Book of the Year in the prestigious Current Archaeology Awards. Dr Giles said: "I am both honoured and humbled by this Fellowship, which would not have been possible without the wonderful support of my department of Classics, Ancient History, Archaeology, and Egyptology; the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures; and colleagues in the Manchester Museum. I hope to follow in the footsteps of other female archaeologists and ancient historians to champion the future of our subjects and fulfil the ambitious vision of the British Academy."

**Penny Harvey**, Professor of Social Anthropology, joined our University in 1991. Her research spans the globe, and includes work with Dalton Nuclear Institute.

**Hilary Owen** is a Professor Emerita in Portuguese and Luso-African Studies at our University, as well as being a Senior Research Fellow in the Sub-Faculty of Portuguese at the University of Oxford. Professor Owen said: "I am honoured and delighted at receiving this recognition from the British Academy. I am very much looking forward to contributing to the vital work the Academy does, and to bringing my perspectives from Portuguese Studies."



### **Congratulations also to our colleagues for recent major achievements including:**

Professors **Jonathan Green** (School of Biological Sciences) and **Tim Illidge** (School of Medical Sciences) have been elected as Fellows of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

Professor **Juergen Maier** (Chair, Manchester Graphene Company) has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Dr **Eleanor Chan** (School of Arts, Languages and Cultures) has been named as an AHRC New Generation Thinker 2022.

## Manchester academic awarded UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship

**Criminology lecturer Dr Marion Vannier has been recognised as one of the UK's most promising science and research leaders by being awarded a coveted Future Leaders Fellowship by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).**

Dr Vannier will lead a four-year project which will research the meaning and value of hope in the case of people who are the least likely to be released from prison during their lifetimes - namely elderly prisoners serving life sentences.



*Dr Marion Vannier*

*"I am delighted to receive this fellowship, which gives me the support and resources I need to realise my vision of driving forward a criminological human rights field of research," said Dr Vannier.*

*"In Search of Hope harnesses UK research to challenge assumptions about life imprisonment and to promote humane penal practices and treatment of some of the most vulnerable people in our society."*



## Wolfson funding to refurbish the James Chadwick building to support our research for environmental sustainability

**The University of Manchester has been awarded £1 million from The Wolfson Foundation to begin refurbishment of the James Chadwick Building.**

The Sustainable Hub for Chemical Engineering project will transform the existing chemical engineering pilot plant, based on fossil fuel technology, into a new leading facility to advance processes for green chemical engineering, clean energy and sustainable materials. This investment contributes to advancing environmental sustainability and protecting our planet, which is one of the thematic priorities of our research and discovery strategy.

# Postgraduate Research

## Winners of the Manchester Doctoral College (MDC) Excellence Awards 2022 announced



**The winners of the Manchester Doctoral College Excellence Awards 2022 were announced in June, recognising the outstanding achievements of our postgraduate researchers and supervisors.**

Supervisors, PGR students and colleagues from all faculties nominate individuals based on their research achievements or their successes and contributions outside of their studies.

This is the ninth year the awards have run, and the achievements of the winners have not only made valuable contributions to their own research, but also to the University and wider community.

## **Congratulations to this year's winners:**

### **Best Contribution to PGR Environment**

Poppy Budworth, Faculty of Humanities

### **Best Contribution to Society**

Max Gattie, Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health

### **Best Contribution to Internationalisation**

Chantal Bright, Faculty of Humanities

### **Best Outstanding Output Awards:**

Christopher Below, Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health

Barbora Cernusakova, Faculty of Humanities

Hugo Lefeuvre, Faculty of Science and Engineering

### **Supervisor of the Year Awards:**

Professor Carsten Timmermann, Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health

Prof Francesca Gains, Faculty of Humanities

Dr Lihong Zhang, Faculty of Science and Engineering

We have around 4,000 postgraduate researchers and all make a significant contribution to our research and research environment. We are always delighted to learn of their many accomplishments throughout their time at Manchester, including their doctoral awards and subsequent careers.





## Manchester-Melbourne dual award PhD studentship- call for projects

**We are calling for project proposals to establish pairs of jointly awarded/dual PhD research projects between our University and the University of Melbourne.**

The successful candidates will form the fourth cohort of the Melbourne-Manchester international research training group as part of our Global Doctoral Research Network (GOLDEN).

Each institution has identified funding for up to six PhD studentships under this scheme to start in September 2023 in Manchester and before March 2024 in Melbourne.

Project proposals are open to all research areas, particularly those that are of mutual research strength for Manchester and Melbourne. However, Manchester's Faculty of Humanities particularly encourages applications linked to its five priority research themes: **Global inequalities, Sustainable futures, Digital futures, Creativity, Post-COVID society.**

On successful completion of the programme, each candidate will be eligible to receive a PhD, recognised by two award certificates, one from Melbourne and one from Manchester, stating the joint nature of the award and name of the partner institution.

Each institution has identified funding for up to six PhD studentships under this scheme to start in September 2023 in Manchester and before March 2024 in Melbourne.

### Deadline for project proposals

Friday, 14 October 2022 at 9AM AEDT  
(Melbourne) / Thursday, 13 October 2022 at 12am  
(midnight) BST (Manchester)

### How to apply

Guidelines for project proposals and details on how to apply can be found on our [Dual Awards webpage](#).

### Contacts

Sarah James-Ford, Postgraduate Research and Researcher Development  
Coordinator, [sarah.james-ford@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.james-ford@manchester.ac.uk)

Lanny Sandler, Grants Officer, Research, Innovation and Commercialisation, The University of Melbourne, [res-devschemes@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:res-devschemes@unimelb.edu.au)



# Research Impact, including Business Engagement

## Enhance your research impact - the UKRI harmonised

### IAA call for funding applications

This year for the first time, UKRI has harmonised the IAA, with a single point of application across the participating research councils. IAA grants are available to The University of Manchester academics from AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, MRC and STFC.

IAA funding supports the research and innovation ecosystem to develop wider impacts from research through fast and flexible funding for early-stage knowledge exchange activities.

**Do you have a potential project?** The Knowledge Exchange Partnerships Team provide active support for the development of IAA submissions and will provide

feedback on a draft proposal prior to submission. You are strongly advised to contact the team for support at least one month before the call closing date.

The first Call for Proposals closed in June, but further calls will open on the following dates:

**19 September 2022** (closing on 7 December 2022)

**6 February 2023** (closing on 26 April 2023)

Initial contact should be made via [\*\*kepartnerships@manchester.ac.uk\*\*](mailto:kepartnerships@manchester.ac.uk)

## Share and apply your knowledge with research consultancy

The University launched a new Research and Business Engagement consultancy service in March to help staff get involved in real life challenges and have an impact on society.

Consultancy is an important and effective way for staff at our University to share and apply their research expertise and knowledge working with external clients across public, private and charitable sectors. It also helps our researchers to increase their

experience and develop their research and impact through collaboration to innovate and solve challenges identified through working in partnership.

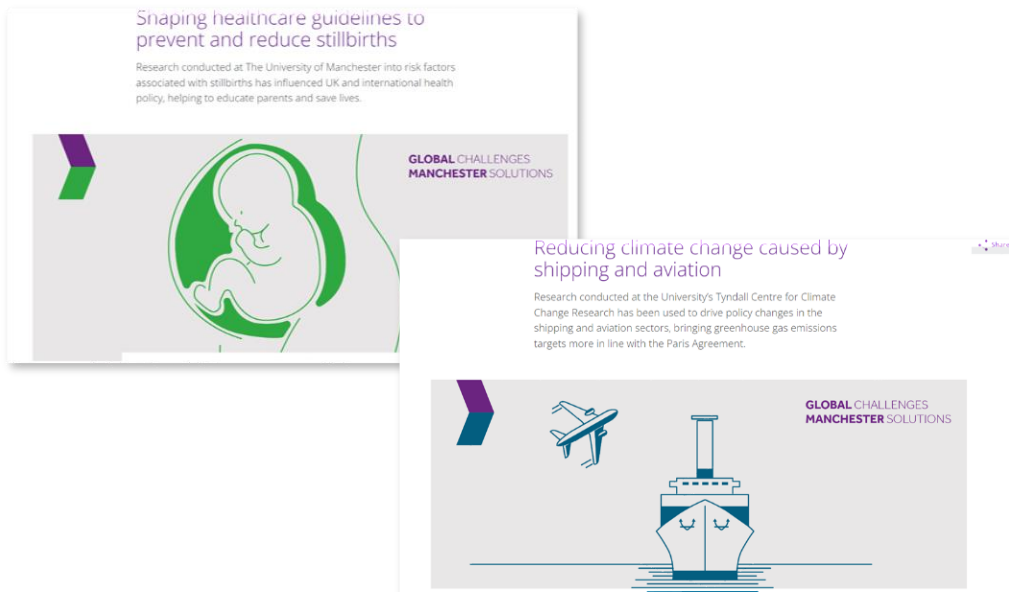
Our dedicated Consultancy Services Team within the Business Engagement team replaces Faculty-based services, making it quicker and easier for staff to consult.

To see how easy it is, or just to find out more, **visit [UoM Consultancy](#)**





# Research Impact Showcase



As part of the REF 2021 assessment, 96% of our impact was judged as world-leading or internationally excellent (3\*/4\*).

The range and scale of this is truly impressive and we have been very proud to present a number of these case studies as part of our [Impact Showcase](#) on the University website.

Each Faculty selected case studies which show the strongest research impacts across five categories of impact, from REF 2021 case studies and beyond:

**Innovation and commercialisation** - We're driving the innovation and commercialisation of new products to deliver faster, more effective solutions, from boosting productivity to inventing technologies that speed up drug discovery.

**Health and wellbeing** - We're revolutionising healthcare guidelines and treatments to transform lives, from widening access to cancer treatments to improving outcomes for people with anxiety and depression.

**Sustainability and climate change** - We're influencing sustainability initiatives to create a greener future, from building a tool to understand social vulnerabilities to climate change to influencing shipping and aviation policies to meet emission targets.

**Economic development and inequalities** - We're improving economic development strategies and revolutionising government policy across a variety of areas, including domestic abuse, inclusive growth and gender inequality.

**Culture and creativity** - We're pioneering new initiatives, from developing emerging writers through our Centre for New Writing to collaborating with the National Trust to reimagine how visitors engage with historical sites.

If you haven't had the opportunity, take some time to take a look out our [\*\*Research Impact Showcase\*\*](#).

# Developments to enhance our research environment



## Visit the Researcher Development website

The new University-wide Researcher Development team was established in November 2021, with a focus on supporting our postgraduate research and research staff.

The **team's website** provides information on personal, professional and career development training and opportunities and colleagues are encouraged to follow the team's activities on **Twitter**.

## Making your research data open access – our new office for open research

**The University of Manchester Library launched the Office for Open Research at the beginning of April.**

This was the first step in a programme to fundamentally change the research environment at The University of Manchester – to build from open access publishing by supporting and encouraging open research practices.

Open research creates more possibilities for collaboration and it is a key part of our strategic priority to provide an 'open and responsible research environment' to support research quality, including our interdisciplinary research and international collaborations.

### A single point of contact

You can email

**[openresearch@manchester.ac.](mailto:openresearch@manchester.ac.uk)**

**uk** for open research support at the University. All messages are directed to a relevant member of the Library's Research Services team or to a member of the Open Research Service partnership.

### Sign up to the newsletter

**[Sign up to the Open Research Digest](#)**, our monthly newsletter

where we share updates on the global open research landscape.

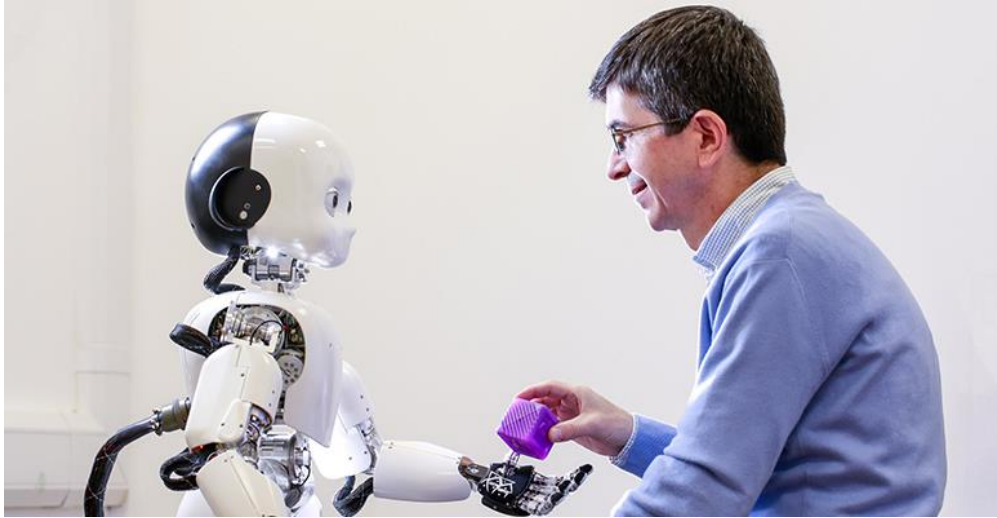
### Visit the website

**[Visit the Office for Open Research website](#)** where we have been showcasing examples of open research practice through a range of **[case studies](#)**.

### Watch the video

**[Watch our explainer video](#)** to find out more about Open Research.

## Research in Focus: Digital and Artificial Intelligence is one of the University's strategic priorities



### How do we ensure that the human is present in the machine?

**Manchester has a long history of innovation in AI, stemming from Alan Turing's time here in the 1940s. Today our researchers continue in the same spirit – both in research and the use of AI to solve problems across other fields.**

Now we need a bold vision to take machines beyond simply responding to our literal inputs and develop systems that use intelligence to infer what's really being asked of them by their imperfect human users.

**Read more:** [Putting the human back into the algorithm.](#)

### Learn about Advances in Data Science and AI

The Institute for Data Science and AI runs fortnightly seminars with external speakers and, for one series, our new Turing fellows, during term times.

The new calendar is being put together but in the meantime, there's a playlist of past seminars: [Institute for Data Science and AI seminars.](#)

### Join our Innovation Clubs

Innovation Clubs help to build communities of practice around key digital research technologies and provide a forum for researchers to share their knowledge, experience and practical skills in these areas.

Our University has five clubs, which meet monthly and have their own Teams space where members can post notices for events and opportunities and also ask each other for advice or propose collaborations. They are VR@Manchester, Mapping and GIS, Additive Manufacturing, Imaging and Data Science.

**For more information and to sign up, visit:** [Digital Futures Innovation Clubs.](#)

### e-research theme lead

Our University has appointed IT and academic leads to oversee Faculty activity linking with existing work or supporting the formulation of activity.

Rob Haines (Head of Research IT) and Dave Topping (academic lead) are the new DF E-Research theme leads, working with faculty leads.

### Digital teaching and learning

Our University is mapping digital-related teaching and learning to align our activity with Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) requirements.

Digital Futures Director, Chris Taylor and Strategy and Operations Manager for the Research Platforms Team, Sarah Barton are working with Steve Pettifer (T&L Lead) and the GMCA digital skills team to map GMCA requirements and our University's provision in this area so we can ensure our provision meets existing and future Greater Manchester requirements.

They are currently looking at what's required to increase capacity for skilled IT managers both at early pre stages (undergraduate and earlier) and to mitigate immediate requirements in current workforce. They have conducted detailed mapping in Digital Futures of courses and training at all levels and types, including graduate destinations and roles, to inform this.

Digital and Artificial Intelligence is one of the University's thematic priorities in our Strategic Plan (along with creativity, environmental sustainability and health). Here are some of the activities underway - you can learn more about other areas of digital and AI research at Manchester via our [Digital Futures](#) research platform.



# Behind the scenes



## The new home for Engineering and Materials – designed for collaboration

**The new home of Engineering and Materials has been designed with collaboration at its heart – and this is clear from the moment you walk in the door.**

The development brings together three Departments from the School of Engineering (Chemical Engineering; Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil and Engineering) and the Department of Materials in the School of Natural Sciences, from across multiple sites into one home.

Standing at over 76,000sq metres, it's comprised of Engineering Buildings A & B, York Street Building, Oddfellows Hall and James Chadwick Building. Workspace and laboratories are located together around shared research interests and goals, helping to further break down disciplinary boundaries and to benefit new and emerging growth areas, including the Robotics and Net Zero Research Themes made up of colleagues from EEE and

MACE.

This enables inter-disciplinary collaboration and knowledge transfer in solving some of the world's most pressing issues.

From September, the first thing you will see is the Maker Space – the first space of its kind at the University of Manchester, where students can test their ideas to come up with innovations of the future.

Walking along the building's "internal street", you're able to see inside the various workshops and teaching labs along the ground floor. Visitors and students can see the work going on around them – inviting more questions and further stimulating collaboration.

This is a significant shift for our Faculty of Science and Engineering, not only in the environment in which we conduct our research but the way we approach it as a result.

### *A fond farewell to North Campus – and a new start*

Having occupied parts of North Campus for almost 200 years, a programme of relocation throughout the year has seen almost 2,000 colleagues, PGRs and PDRAs move into the new home of Engineering and Materials. This is alongside the transfer of 72 laboratories and workshops into new purpose-built facilities.

The first facility to relocate was the High Voltage Lab – into the purpose-built York Street Building.

In a film explaining the process and showcasing the facilities, HV Lab manager Richard Gardner says: "It's a huge step up from what we had. This should enable us to do cutting edge research that we wouldn't have been able to do in the old lab."

"We'd been split across North campus, in a number of buildings," agrees Professor of High Voltage Technology, Ian Cotton.

"We'd been tucked away and a number of labs in buildings that, even after 20 years working here, I probably didn't know about.

"Now we have adjacency to colleagues and are able to share our resources more easily."

This view is one shared by our first students to conduct an experiment, in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering. Postgraduates, they are working to ensure the reliable and sustainable supply of energy while meeting the desire to reduce environmental impact.

Second-year PhD student, Juliana Beca said: "We faced challenges getting used to the new space but the building is an inspiring place to work every day. The facilities are more modern and more secure and being closer together means we can share our thoughts, ideas and feedback more easily to enhance one another's work."

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