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**Faculty of Humanities Doctoral Academy** **Bicentenary Scholarship**

**Call for PhD Projects 2026/27 Entry**

We are celebrating 200 years of achievement in research-driven learning, development and innovation through our prestigious Bicentenary Postgraduate Research and Fellows Programme. Launched as part of our Bicentenary celebrations, this major University investment continues to support the recruitment and funding of over 200 early-career researchers across 2026/27. Through our pioneering research groups, centres and institutes, the Bicentenary Scholarships proudly support PhD students aligned with our key research themes and strategic priorities:

* AI, New Technologies and Society
* Digital Media and Culture
* Inequalities (including Ageing, Children and Young People, Employment and Productivity, Environment, Ethnicity and Racism, Health and Social Care and Poverty and deprivation, migration, and governance)
* Resilient Communities.

We will be supporting six full scholarships for September 2026.

Supervisors may submit only one project as the main supervisor. Those who were awarded a Bicentenary Scholarship commencing in October 2025 are not eligible to apply in this round.

Projects submitted in the previous round that did not result in a candidate being appointed may be resubmitted for consideration. These must be submitted using the current round’s project proposal form.

**Project Proposal Evaluation and Approval Process**

A formal faculty panel chaired by the Vice Dean (Research), will evaluate project proposals. This panel will also comprise the Associate Dean (Research), the Associate Dean of Postgraduate Research, the Deputy Associate Dean for Postgraduate Research, and the Research Development & Innovation Manager. The faculty panel will assess the project proposal based on the assessment criteria outlined below.

Proposals will also be reviewed by Department/Division Coordinators and School PGR Directors to verify the eligibility of the supervisory team. The process will be supported by the Doctoral Academy Admissions Team.

We anticipate that more project proposals will be selected for advertisement than scholarships available.

**Assessment Criteria**

Projects will be assessed based on the following criteria:

* The quality of the project, including its conceptual and methodological approach, ethical and risk considerations, and feasibility within the proposed timeframe.
* Alignment of the project with the supervisory team, focusing on the team’s expertise and ability to effectively support the recruited PGR.
* Collaboration with external partners: How well the project aligns with external partners, and the value those partners bring to the project.
* Inter-disciplinarity: The extent to which the project fosters interdisciplinary collaboration and engagement.

**Funding**

The 4 year fully funded scholarship will cover the following:

* Full Home Tuition fees\*
* Annual stipend at the minimum UKRI rate (2025/26 rate £20,780pa)
* An annual Research Training Support Grant (RTSG) towards project running costs/consumables, conference/workshop attendance, and career development opportunities (£1,000 pa).
* The visa cost for the successful candidate (reimbursed after issue)

\*The difference between the Home and Overseas tuition fees will be covered by the School should an international candidate be recruited.

**Candidate Nomination, Interviews & Offers**

Supervisors are required to complete a nomination form to recommend their top candidate for consideration in a formal faculty panel interview. The Doctoral Academy Admissions Team will handle the scheduling and organisation of these interviews.

Scholarship offers will be extended after all interviews are conducted and in collaboration with the faculty panel. It is expected that up to 30% of the offers issued will be awarded to international candidates across the Programme.

**TIMELINE**

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| **Action** | **Deadline** |
| Internal call for projects launched | 25 July 2025 |
| Projects submitted to the Doctoral Academy Admissions Team | 19 September 2025 |
| Department/Division Coordinators and School PGR Directors to review projects for supervisory team eligibility | By 3 October 2025 |
| Faculty Panel to consider and rank projects | By 3 October 2025 |
| Project supervisors are informed of the outcome of their project | w/c 6 October 2025 |
| Shortlisted projects advertised in line with the advertising process | 13 October 2025 – 14 November 2025 |
| Closing date for formal candidate PhD application | 14 November 2025 |
| Applications assessed and sent to project supervisors | By 28 November 2025 |
| Supervisors to complete and return nomination form for their selected candidate(s) for panel interview | 12 January 2026 |
| Faculty Panel to review/shortlist candidates for interview | By 16 January 2026 |
| Independent Interview panel(s) to be held for selected candidates | w/c 2 February 2026 |
| Candidates informed of the outcome, formal offer and funding letter issued | w/c 9 February 2026 |
| Cohort 2 to commence.  Doctoral Academy welcome and induction activities  Promotion of opportunities to support training and development | October 2026 |

Please complete the following project proposal form and return this to the Doctoral Academy Admissions Team ([hums.doctoralacademy.admissions@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:hums.doctoralacademy.admissions@manchester.ac.uk)) with ‘Bicentenary project proposal’ in the subject line.

Do not convert the completed document to PDF. The deadline for submission is **19 September 2025**. Approval will be sought on your behalf and outcomes communicated as indicated in the timeline.

All queries should be directed to the Doctoral Academy Admissions Team.