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

**Call for PhD Projects 2025/26 Entry**

We are celebrating 200 years of achievement in research-driven learning, development and innovation with our prestigious Bicentenary Postgraduate Research and Fellows Programme. This new initiative represents a major University investment to recruit and fund more than 200 early-career researchers between 2025/26.  Through our pioneering research groups, centres and institutes, our Bicentenary Scholarships will proudly support PhD students across our key themes and 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 2025.

**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 PGR Directors/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 (2024/25 rate £19,237pa)
* 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(s) 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 | 2 October 2024 |
| Projects submitted to the Doctoral Academy Admissions Team | 17 November 2024 |
| School PGR Directors to review projects for supervisory team eligibility | 6 December 2024 |
| Faculty Panel to consider and rank projects | 6 December 2024 |
| Project supervisors are informed of the outcome of their project | w/c 9 December 2024 |
| Shortlisted projects advertised in line with the advertising process | 16 December 2024 - 24 January 2025 |
| Closing date for formal candidate PhD application | 24 January 2025 |
| Supervisors to complete and return nomination form for their selected candidate(s) for panel interview | 14 February 2025 |
| Faculty Panel to review/shortlist candidates for interview | w/c 24 February 2025 |
| Independent Interview panel(s) to be held for selected candidates | w/c 10 March 2025 |
| Candidates informed of the outcome, formal offer and funding letter issued | w/c 17 March 2025 |
| Cohort 1 to commence.  Doctoral Academy welcome and induction activities  Promotion of opportunities to support training and development | October 2025 |
| ***The above steps are to be repeated for the October 2026 cohort***  ***(successful primary supervisors from 25/26 cannot apply again for 26/27)*** | |

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 **Sunday 17 November 2024**. 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.