

'THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTACTING A SUPERVISOR'

27 NOVEMBER 2024



TODAY'S PANEL



CHRISTIAN WARD

Host; Marketing and
Recruitment Officer



DAVID BECHTOLD

Associate Dean for
Postgraduate Research



KIRSTY EATON

Recruitment and
Admissions Officer



PARSA PIRHADY

Postgraduate Researcher;
Cancer Research UK
Manchester Centre



TAQYA ARSLAN

Postgraduate Researcher;
Division of Nursing,
Midwifery and Social Work

YOUR JOURNEY TO POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH

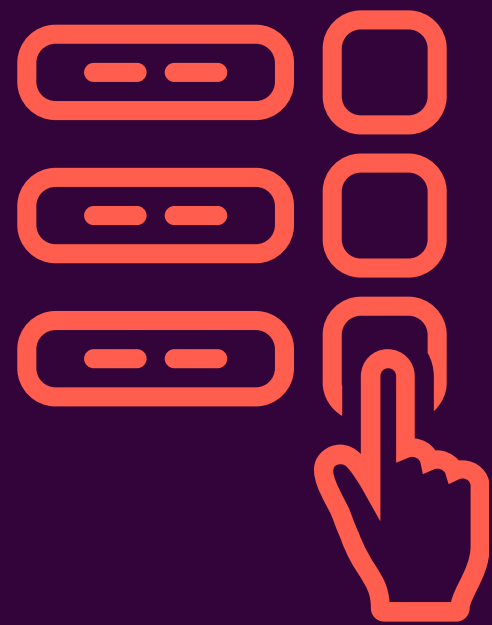


‘THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTACTING A SUPERVISOR’

- ***WHAT ROLE DO SUPERVISORS PLAY?***
- ***WHY IS CONTACTING SUPERVISORS IMPORTANT?***
- ***FINDING YOUR SUPERVISOR***
- ***PREPARING TO CONTACT A SUPERVISOR***
- ***WRITING YOUR EMAIL***
- ***TIPS FOR SUCCESSFULLY CONTACTING A SUPERVISOR***
- ***WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?***



POLL



WHAT STAGE OF THE PGR JOURNEY ARE YOU AT?

LET US KNOW VIA THE POLL



STARTING OUT



***HOW TO KNOW YOU'RE SUITABLE
BEFORE YOU CONTACT A SUPERVISOR?***

WHAT ROLE DO SUPERVISORS PLAY?

ACADEMIC GUIDANCE

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PERSONAL MENTORSHIP

RESEARCH EXPERTISE



WHY IS CONTACTING A SUPERVISOR IMPORTANT?

- **ALLOWS SUPERVISOR TO ENSURE YOU'RE A GOOD FIT**
 - Helps the supervisor to learn more about you and your suitability.
 - Gives them insight into your strengths, passion, experience and potential.
- **STRENGTHENS YOUR APPLICATION**
 - They can endorse your application or nominate you for funding.
 - Makes them aware of your strengths and experience when reviewing applications.
- **ALLOW YOU TO CHECK IT'S A GOOD FIT FOR YOU**
 - Chance for you to make sure it's right for you too!
 - Learn more about them, their research and style.
 - Find out more specifics about the project, labs, funding etc.
- **BUILD RAPPORT**
 - Demonstrates your initiative and enthusiasm for their field of research.
 - Helps make a good first impression and begin to build a relationship with them ahead of potentially working with them.
- **SAVES YOU TIME**
 - Prevents you having to complete numerous speculative application forms for projects that interest you without knowing if they'll be successful



FINDING YOUR SUPERVISOR

PROJECT LISTINGS

[www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/
study/research/projects-
programmes-degrees](http://www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/research/projects-programmes-degrees)

Modelling the ecology and evolution of microbial communities
Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health

PhD Research Project Self Funded

Dr Katharine Coyle, Dr C Knight

Application Deadline: Applications accepted all year round

[View Details](#)

(International Partnership Studentship) Understanding the molecular interactions between bacteriophages and plasmids
Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health

PhD Research Project Competition Funded Students Worldwide

Prof Michael Brockhurst, Dr Claudia Igler

Application Deadline: 29 November 2024

[View Details](#)

(International Partnership Studentship) Precision guiding of spermbots to detect and eradicate pre-invasive ovarian cancer lesion
Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health

PhD Research Project Competition Funded Students Worldwide

Dr C.K Schmidt, Prof R Edmondson, Prof I Larrosa

Application Deadline: 29 November 2024

[View Details](#)

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH EXPLORER

[www.research.manchester.ac.uk/
en/organisations/faculty-of-
biology-medicine-and-health](http://www.research.manchester.ac.uk/en/organisations/faculty-of-biology-medicine-and-health)

MANCHESTER 1824
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Home Profiles **Research units** Research output Projects Impacts Activities Press/Media Search...

Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health
The University of Manchester

Website
<https://www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk>

Overview Network Profiles (1801) Research output (44811) Projects (845) Impacts (246) Activities (4909)

Organisation profile

Organisation profile

The Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health delivers a truly translational approach to the life sciences, from pure discovery science through to clinical application and patient care.

We develop and deliver the highest quality education and training for health professionals and life scientists in partnership with the NHS and industry, contributing to the University's tradition of innovation and improvements in the health of people around the world.

INSTITUTE, NETWORKS AND CENTRES WEBSITES

[www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/
research/institutes-centres/](http://www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/research/institutes-centres/)

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The University of Manchester

Study Research **Connect** About

Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health / Research / Institutes, networks and centres

Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health

Research

Impact and innovation

Research by school and division

Institutes, networks and centres

Technology platforms

Support for researchers

Research staff

Institutes, networks and centres

Much of the research within the Faculty takes place in institutes, networks and externally funded centres. These bring together researchers from across a broad range of disciplines and benefit from excellent links with charities, industry and the NHS.

View a list of our research centres, institutes and networks below.

You can also [browse further research by school and division](#) in the University's Research Explorer.

Institutes

- [Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute](#)
- [Christabel Pankhurst Institute for Health Technology Research and Innovation](#)
- [Lydia Becker Institute of Immunology and Inflammation](#)
- [Cathie Marsh Institute for Social Research](#)
- [Manchester Institute for Collaborative Research on Ageing](#)
- [Institute for Health Policy and Organisation](#) (Alliance Manchester Business School)
- [Institute for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence](#) (Faculty of Science and Engineering)

NETWORKING, REFERRALS, CURRENT ACADEMICS, RESEARCH PAPERS



PREPARING YOUR EMAIL

- **CHECK THE PROJECT LISTING AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

- Familiarise yourself with the project listing
- Make sure you understand what it's about and that it's right for you
- Ensure you meet the entry criteria set out in the project listing

- **RESEARCH THE SUPERVISOR**

- Familiarise yourself with their recent publications and ongoing projects.
- Understand their research group's focus and collaborators.

- **EMAIL CONTENT**

- Clear and specific subject line e.g., "Prospective PhD Applicant: Interest in....".
- Introduction including a brief overview about you, your current level of study and academic background, your relevant academic, research or industry experience;
- Outline why you're suitable for their specific project, why you're passionate about the area of research and any prior knowledge you have about them/the research
- Be professional tone, use formal language and proofread for errors.



TIPS FOR SUCCESSFULLY CONTACTING A SUPERVISOR



KEEP IT CONCISE



TAILOR EACH EMAIL



BE PATIENT



FOLLOW-UP



**PERSEVERE BUT
KNOW WHEN TO
MOVE ON**



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?



POSITIVE RESPONSE

- **Discuss the opportunity in more detail**
 - Supervisor will follow-up with you if interest,
 - They may request for more information and ask you questions or just ask you to apply.
 - Be prepared to elaborate and ask any questions you have too.
- **Prepare for a potential meeting**
 - Supervisor may then arrange an informal meeting or call before any formal interviews.
 - Expect to discuss your research interests in more detail.
 - Have thoughtful questions about their work and expectations and any further questions you have
- **Refine detail or discuss funding**
 - Supervisor will provide insights into project and
 - Don't forget to discuss funding and what opportunities there are or they are aware of (if your project isn't funded)



NEGATIVE RESPONSE/NO RESPONSE

- **No response**
 - Follow-up politely after 1-2 weeks
 - Review your application and where your qualifications or experience may not match that particular project
 - Focus your efforts elsewhere on projects that match your experience and interest more closely
- **Declined**
 - Thank them, politely ask for any feedback to help your future search.
 - Use feedback to re-start your search

PANEL Q&A

GOT A QUESTION?
ADD IT TO THE Q&A CHAT



MEET OUR POSTGRADUATE RESEARCHERS



PARSA PIRHADY

Cancer Research UK
Manchester Centre



TAQYA ARSLAN

Division of Nursing,
Midwifery & Social Work

PANEL Q&A

GOT A QUESTION FOR OUR PANEL?
ADD IT TO THE Q&A CHAT



NEXT STEPS

BROWSE AVAILABLE PROJECTS

 uom.link/bmh-pgr-webinar-projects



FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY

 uom.link/bmh-pgr-webinar-more



CHECK YOUR INBOX

 You'll receive a post-event email with a recording of today's session and the slides.

SIGN-UP TO OUR MAILING LIST

 uom.link/bmh-pgr-webinar-mailinglist



FUNDED STUDENTSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Open for 2025/26 applications:



International Partnership PhD Studentships
Alzheimer's Society Doctoral Training Centre

President's Doctoral Scholar Award

Kennedy Trust MB-PhD

Cancer Research UK Manchester Centre
Studentships and MB-PhD

Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute
Studentships

Plus, prestigious funding to be launched tomorrow and more in early December

UPCOMING EVENTS

11 DEC 24

'THE PGR APPLICANT JOURNEY FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS'

1PM - 2PM
(GMT)

8 JAN 25

'PREPARING FOR A
PGR INTERVIEW'

1PM - 2PM
(GMT)

22 JAN 25

'PHD LIFE IN THE FACULTY OF BIOLOGY,
MEDICINE AND HEALTH'

1PM - 2PM
(GMT)

BOOK YOUR PLACE [UOM.LINK/BMH-PGR-WEBINAR-BOOK](https://uom.link/bmh-pgr-webinar-book)

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

**LET US KNOW YOUR FEEDBACK VIA
OUR POST-EVENT SURVEY**

[UOM.LINK/BMH-PGR-SURVEY](https://uom.link/bmh-pgr-survey)

