

Policy@Manchester Greater Manchester Fellowship Scheme

Policy@Manchester has been connecting academic research to policy professionals for over ten years, facilitating relationships and networks both regionally and nationally to provide informed evidence for public policy.

Over two years ago we established the GM Policy Hub which has provided a portal for our regional policy stakeholders to connect with the wealth of research within the University and also to establish networks that support wider conversations and discussions both directly with the University but also stakeholder to stakeholder through introductions and events. This has led to an increased connectivity and wider policy discussions across the region.

During this time, we have worked with a number of government departments as they relocate more of their teams into the region alongside our district councils and combined authority and listened to their needs and requirements.

Following this period of consultation, we were delighted to be able to launch our University of Manchester led fellowship scheme which will connect researchers and policymakers who are working on issues and challenges relevant to Greater Manchester and the north-west.

Aims

To run and organise a flexible environment in which policymakers can access research through facilitated meetings, briefings and access to formal network opportunities. This will be facilitated by recruiting a number of fellows each year from across the region.

Each fellow will have the opportunity to receive a bespoke set of briefing sessions with researchers from across The University of Manchester around their working area of interest, this will be combined with an opportunity to undertake lab tours and other areas of interest and enable access to the enviable resources and facilities of the University.

In return fellows may wish to contribute to hosting a seminar, workshop, roundtable, writing an article or publication, encourage knowledge exchange or organise a co-produced piece of research.

The fellowship scheme will create new, and strengthen existing networks, between researchers and policymakers within Greater Manchester and beyond. It is also hoped that the scheme will add to the personal and career development of all participants.

Support

Policy@Manchester will offer support in terms of facilitating these connections, meetings and knowledge exchange meetings with academics and policymakers. There will be no formal contractual expectations around this arrangement, but there will be an opportunity for fellows to be known as such on our website, to be invited to relevant events, and become part of a wider policy alumni as the scheme grows. There will be discreet funding from Policy@Manchester to fund small necessary expenses such as refreshments and travel where necessary, should these be required.

Process and eligibility

Any policymaker is welcome to take part in the fellowship, whilst, they do not have to be based in the region, preference will be given to those who are located in Greater Manchester or multi-sited with a base in Greater Manchester.

Individual's area of work should be relevant to the challenges facing Greater Manchester. We would suggest that applications focus on the themes of academic research across our three faculties – [Faculty of Biology, Medicine, and Health](#); [Faculty of Humanities](#); [Faculty of Science and Engineering](#) – as a place to start.

The above highlights a few areas, but there are limitless opportunities within the University and applicants may wish to cast their net wider in terms of reach within the University. If there are initial questions on areas of focus and expertise, then please reach out to us at Policy@Manchester and we would be happy to assist applications in that way.

Application process

Applicants should answer questions on their area of work and the policy questions where they are looking to gain insight. This is an opportunity to reference existing connections to researchers at the University and to ensure the ambitions and objectives of the fellow can be fulfilled. We have tried to keep this application as light touch as possible, appreciating the time constraints that people work under.

Benefits for fellows are:

- Access to a wealth of research, signposted through Policy@Manchester
- Opportunity to attend events across the University
- Knowledge exchange in their areas of expertise
- Access to the university library
- Invited as guest speakers to meet with PHD researchers, teaching opportunities and public engagement events
- Opportunity to extend networks through contacts with other fellows and alumni

- At the end of the fellowship, you will become part of a ‘fellows alumni’ and receive invitations to an annual dinner and access to a growing regional policy network

Timeline

- **December 2024:** Advertise scheme and disseminate through policy networks ahead of a closing date
- **8 January 2025:** Closing date for applications
- **20 January 2025:** Announce successful applicants
- **February 2025:** Hold an in-person networking session for all fellows and their nominated academic with colleagues from the University
- **February – November 2025:** Hold a number of briefing sessions with academics and GM Policy Fellows. Fellows enjoy access to all benefits as outlined above
- **November/December 2025:** Evaluation of fellow’s experiences
- **December 2025:** Policy fellows and alumni dinner

Policy@Manchester Greater Manchester Policy Fellow Application Form

Name:	Department:
E-mail:	Tel:
Address:	
Please detail any existing connections with the University	
Please detail any previous work undertaken with the University – no more than 300 words	
In no more than 500 words please outline your areas of research interest and the challenges in Greater Manchester that this relates to:	
In no more than 500 words please explain how this fellowship will enhance your development and your personal goals for this application.	

In no more than 500 words, please outline what you would hope to offer as part of the fellowship, for example, participating in:

- Seminars
- Workshops
- Articles
- Knowledge exchange
- Writing of an article or publication around area of interest
- Co-production

If you have already identified an academic within UoM to work with please detail here.

Please include an endorsement from a supervising manager for this application

Max 500 words – Please include any other information that you think might be useful for this application

This form should be returned to policy@manchester.ac.uk