

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

22 JANUARY 2025



TODAY'S PANEL



CHRISTIAN WARD

Host; Marketing and
Recruitment Officer



KIRSTY EATON

Recruitment and
Admissions Officer



FELICITY TWIST

Wellbeing and Support
Coordinator



SURAIYA MOHAMMED

Postgraduate Researcher



JACOB PARKES

Postgraduate Researcher



MARYAM SALAUDEEN

Postgraduate Researcher



ALEXANDER NEVE

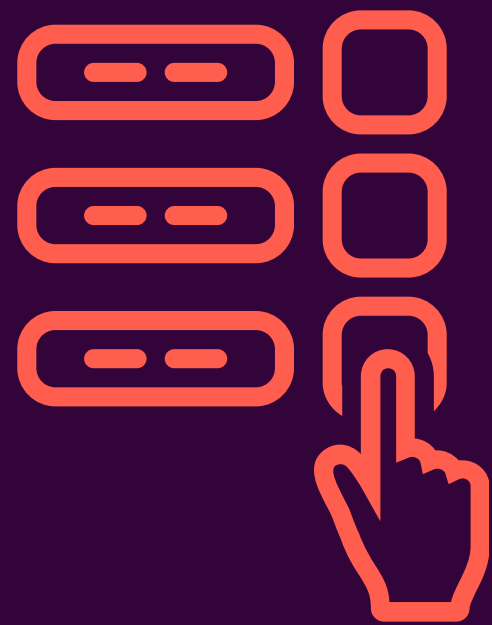
Postgraduate Researcher



HOLLY SEDGWICK

Postgraduate Researcher

POLL

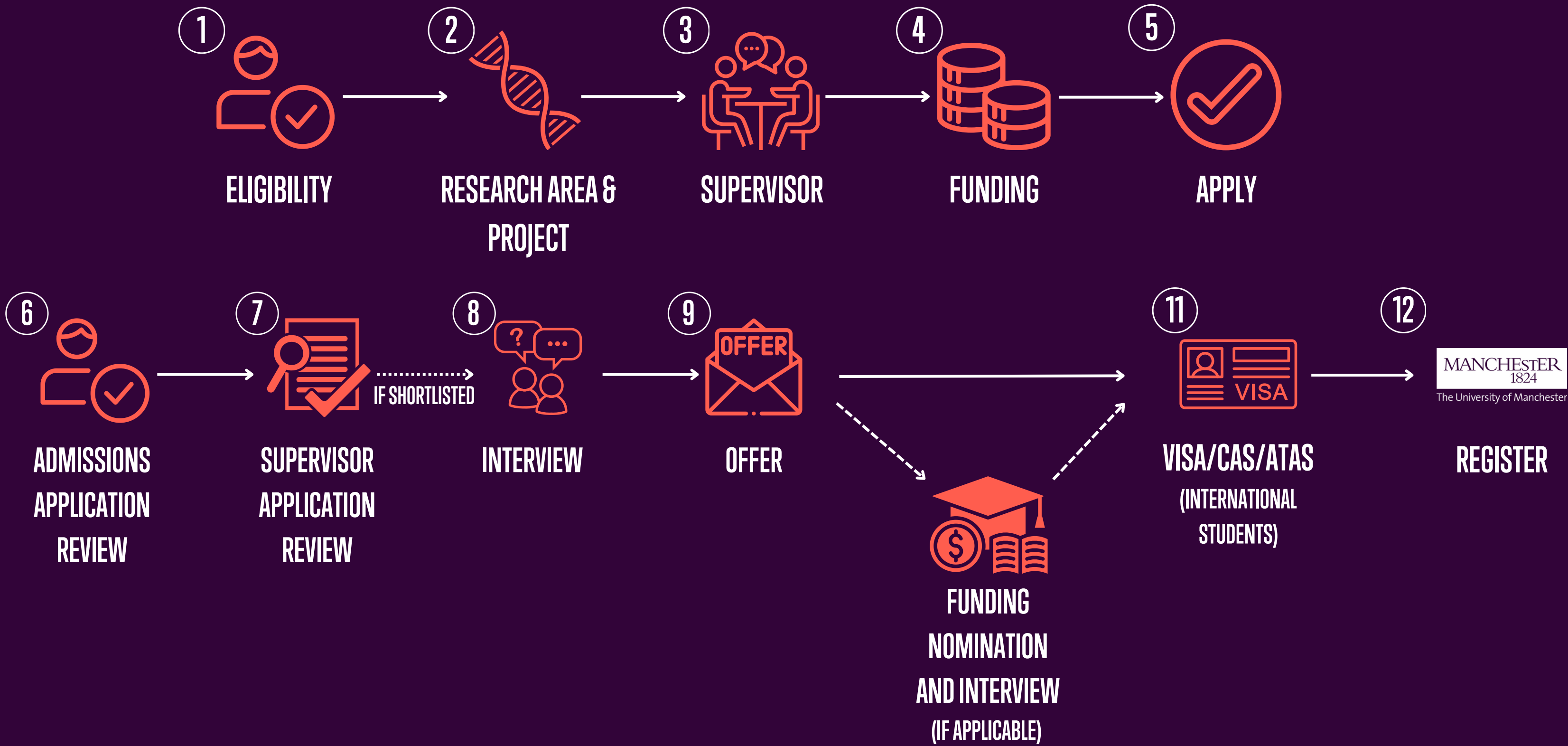


WHAT STAGE OF THE PGR JOURNEY ARE YOU AT?

LET US KNOW VIA THE POLL



STARTING YOUR JOURNEY TO PGR



MEET OUR POSTGRADUATE RESEARCHERS



SURAIYA MOHAMMED

Postgraduate Researcher;



JACOB PARKES

Postgraduate Researcher



MARYAM SALAUDEEN

Postgraduate Researcher



ALEXANDER NEVE

Postgraduate Researcher



HOLLY SEDGWICK

Postgraduate Researcher

SURAIYA

- Before my PhD
 - Studied undergraduate at Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, Nigeria and master's at Texas A&M University, Texas, USA then went into industry.
- My journey to PGR
 - Exposure to Nigeria's oil and gas industry revealed significant research opportunities.
- My research
 - Respiratory Protection Programs
- Why Manchester?
 - Chose Manchester due to reputation as part of Russell Group and cultural diversity of the university and city.
- What next?
 - Aiming to work as a consultant in industry in future.



HOLLY

- Before my PhD
 - BSc in Biomedical Science at the University of York and a MSc in Molecular Biosciences at the University of Bath.
- My journey to PGR
 - Applied to various Doctoral Training Programmes (DTP) including Great Western Four+, South Coast Biosciences, UCL-Birkbeck, and Wellcome Trust (which I ultimately chose).
 - Particularly drawn to immunological DTPs due to great funding, training, and a supportive community.
- My research
 - The interaction between B cells and the extracellular matrix in chronic respiratory diseases.
- Why Manchester
 - It had everything I wanted for my PhD: an active postgraduate research community, incredible facilities, and a vibrant city to keep me busy for four years.
- What next?
 - Continue in postgraduate research, aim for a fellowship in the future!



MARYAM

- Before my PhD
 - Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria.
- My journey to PGR
 - Passion for research was ignited during my undergraduate studies.
 - Realized a PhD was essential for a research career
 - Applied to numerous universities in Europe including Oxford, Cambridge, Leeds, Glasgow, and even Stanford in the US.
 - Secured the President Doctoral Scholarship
- My research
 - Cellular therapies for stroke
 - President's Doctoral Scholar Award
- Why Manchester?
 - Cutting-edge research
 - Rich blend of culture
 - Mentorship here is generally great.
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- What next?
 - Pursue a research career in either academia or industry.



JACOB

- Before my PhD
 - Salford; BSc. Human Biology & Infectious Diseases (1st Class Honours); MRes Biological Sciences – Microbiology
- My journey to PGR
 - Industry – clinical (Associate Practitioner – Microbiology [2020-23]); academic (Research Technician – Molecular Diagnostics [2023-24])
 - Previous success – Glasgow (2022) – dropped project due to cost of living...
 - Why? – life-long interest, challenge – Project: interest due to threat of infectious diseases & AMR
 - Applications – Manchester, Glasgow, LSTM, Leeds, Porton Down (UKHSA) -> two successes (Manchester & Porton Down).
- My research
 - Bacteriophages and the Immune System – Microbiology/Immunology/Multi-omics
 - Medical Research Council Doctoral Training Partnership
- Why Manchester?
 - Renowned research impact – major links with academic/clinical institutions
 - Music – vibrant city-life and home of major bands!
- What next?
 - Still early – 1st year!
 - PostDoc – infectious diseases and climate change -> prevention
 - Civil service/Science communication
 - Clinical Scientist - Microbiology



ALEXANDER

- Before my PhD
 - MSci Neuroscience at University of Nottingham
 - Placement at Children's Brain Tumour Research Centre on a multi-disciplinary bioinformatics project
 - Took a year out and did various jobs, including work at a dementia specialist care home
- My journey to PGR
 - I chose to do a PhD as I loved science and research and wanted to go into academia.
 - Offers I held to choose from were Manchester, Cambridge & Exeter
- Why Manchester?
 - Vibrant & large city with good access to beautiful countryside
 - Large researcher community with strong connections and network
 - The project!
- Project
 - I study an anti-ageing gene as a therapeutic target for Alzheimer's disease & broader neurodegeneration and inflammation
 - Biochemistry & cell biology
 - Medical Research Council Doctoral Training Partnership
- What next?
 - Career in science policy/health policy



PANEL Q&A

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



NEXT STEPS

BROWSE AVAILABLE PROJECTS



uom.link/bmh-pgr-webinar-projects



FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY



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