



Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health Bicentenary Early Career Research Fellowships 2025

Frequently asked Questions

To celebrate 200 years of research-driven learning, development and innovation, The University of Manchester is investing nearly £10 million into postgraduate research and early careers research in the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health. As part of this significant investment, the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health Bicentenary will sponsor up to three Early Career Research Fellowships.

These Fellowships - which will commence by 2026 - have been established to support exceptional early career researchers with strong potential, providing them with the opportunity to grow into future leaders in bioscience, biomedical, and health research.

FAQ Categories

Click on the links below to read frequently asked questions from each category:

- **Eligibility**
- **Application form and process**
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- **Clinical applicants**
- **External to University of Manchester applicants**
- **Other generic questions and terms explained**



Eligibility

1. Am I eligible to apply if my research project does not align with the research priority themes?

The proposed research project should address at least one of the [priority research themes](#) in FBMH for the applicant to be considered for funding.

2. I am not sure my research project addresses the research priority themes. How can I check?

If you would like to check whether your proposed project fits within the remit of the FBMH Bicentenary Fellowships' scheme, please contact Aleks Rea at FBMHFellowshipacademy@manchester.ac.uk with your enquiry.

3. Does my project need to include an interdisciplinary collaboration for me to apply?

As this Fellowship is for those at a relative early career stage, we are not expecting to see established interdisciplinary collaboration, although where these exist or are developing details can be provided. All applications will be strengthened by indicating plans and opportunities for interdisciplinary activities that can be developed in the Fellowship and the potential of this to support professional and research growth.

4. Will I still be considered if I have not published a paper?

To be competitive for the scheme you will need to demonstrate success during your PhD studies and/or within the 3 years following, where you have been active in research. Publishing original peer reviewed research articles or at least having them available in a public repository, is an important indicator of being able to bring your work to fruition and present it to a wider research audience. While you are still eligible to apply without publications, you are likely to be in a less competitive position than other applicants. We recognise that there are some cases where PhD research is intercalated into wider prestige publications. If this is the case, providing clarity about your contribution to the work will help make this clear.

5. I am outside of the eligible period for my PhD submission, but I have had a career break. What sort of evidence is required in the application for this career break?

If you have had a career break, please specify the reason and duration clearly in the relevant section in the application form – please include dates and periods away from



post-doctoral research activity or periods of significant disruption so that we can use this to decide on eligibility. No formal documentation is required at this stage, however, if appointed you may be asked to provide additional supporting evidence.

Application form and process

6. Who can be an academic sponsor?

An academic sponsor can be any permanent staff at the University of Manchester.

7. Can the academic sponsor be my current supervisor in the University of Manchester?

Yes, your academic sponsor can be your current supervisor, if this is the case however, you will need to think about demonstrating how you plan to develop your own portfolio of work that will support your career trajectory. The fellowship is intended to help you on your journey to establishing your research independence. It should serve as a stepping stone for you to develop and lead your own programmes of work over time.

8. Does the academic sponsor have to be my host lab/group?

Yes, it is expected that if appointed, you will carry out your research project as part of the research group or research lab of your academic sponsor.

9. Can I include preprints that are deposited on bioRxiv or other public repository, as publications on my application form?

Yes, you can include preprints that have been deposited on a public repository.

10. Am I expected to include PPIEP activities in the application?

PPIEP (Patient and Public Involvement, Engagement and Participation) is an essential part of most research activities. We recognise however that applicants may have different level of experience of this depending on their research background. Where applicable, we recommended to include brief information about PPIEP to date or what is planned. For further information on PPIEP at the University of Manchester, as well materials on the website of funders you may be targeting in the future, visit <https://www.manchester.ac.uk/about/social-responsibility/better-health/patient-and-public-involvement-and-engagement/> and



<https://www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/connect/social-responsibility/public-patients/resources/>

11. What is the selection process for this award?

All applications will be reviewed by University of Manchester academic staff and further discussed at a panel meeting chaired by the FBMH Associate Dean for Fellowships and Individual Awards. The panel will select applicants to be invited for an interview. Following the interview process, up to 3 Fellowships will be awarded to successful candidates.

12. When does the Fellowship start?

It is expected that all research projects will commence by 31st January 2026 the latest.

13. When can I expect to be notified of a decision?

We expect for applicants to be notified as to whether they have been invited for an interview or not, by June 2025. Interviews will take place in July, and outcomes are expected to be communicated shortly after.

14. Can my academic sponsor or collaborator be my referee as well?

Yes, your academic sponsor or collaborator can serve as your referees.

15. Will the Bicentenary Fellowship scheme run again next year?

The scheme is expected to run again in 2026.

Funding

16. Do I need to contact Research Services to cost my application?

No, it is not required at this stage to contact Research Services to calculate the full economic cost of the application. Instead, please provide approximate cost estimates that are necessary for you to carry out the project. It is recommended to seek advice from your academic sponsor to ensure these estimates are as accurate as possible.

17. Does the funding cover animal costs?

Yes, you can request funding to cover animal costs. Please consult with the Biological Service Facility (BSF) about the latest costing guidelines.



18. Does the funding cover conference costs and associated travel and accommodation expenses?

Yes, the funding can cover costs for conferences, travel and accommodation.

19. Do I need to include costs that total £30k for each year of the fellowship?

It is not necessary to request the full £30k allowance for each year of the fellowship. The cost estimates that you include should be justified based on the research needs.

20. Can I hire staff with this funding (e.g. technician)?

No, the fellowship will not cover staff salaries other than the award holder's.

Clinical applicants

21. I am a medical doctor in clinical training. How will my appointment work alongside my clinical commitments?

We have support from the local Deanery about undertaking academic training alongside clinical training on this occasion. It is likely this will run in a similar manner to an NIHR Academic Clinical Lectureship posts with 50% Fellowship time and 50% Trust funded time over the three years. Specifics can be discussed on a case-by-case basis.

External to University of Manchester applicants

22. I want to come to Manchester, but I am unsure who should be my sponsor, how can I start these discussions?

Your choice of academic sponsor should align with the research area you are proposing to pursue (i.e. you need to identify a research group/lab whose expertise can support your project or part of your project, if collaborators with additional expertise will be included). To find suitable academic sponsors you should search for academics who have published research in your field of interest. You can use this [link](#) to explore academics at the University of Manchester. If you have a potential sponsor in mind, consider reaching out via email to explain why you are contacting them and request a meeting to discuss your research.



Other generic questions and terms explained

23. What kind of support can I expect for my career development?

The University of Manchester has held the European Commission's [HR Excellence in Research Award](#) since 2011, recognising our full adoption of the principles of the [Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers](#). The University is committed to the Concordat's principles, ensuring that research staff receive high-quality support in their professional growth. As part of this commitment the University provides training and development opportunities to enhance research, leadership and transferable skills. For more information visit our webpages on [researcher development](#) and [talent development](#).

24. What are the expectations for applying to external fellowships following this award, and what support will I receive to do so?

A key aim of this Fellowship is to support you in developing further competitive funding applications that may include grants and external fellowship awards. All Bicentenary Fellowship holders will receive extensive support from their sponsors and the group members around them, via mentorship programmes at the University, from access to a large portfolio of training and development activities including those focused at researchers with [Fellowships](#). The Research Services team, Research Development Managers and the Fellowship Academy in FBMH also provide an important point of contact for bespoke support and advice when developing future Fellowship applications. and advice when developing future Fellowship applications.

25. Will the information webinar be recorded?

Yes, the information webinars will be recorded and become available on the [FBMH Bicentenary Fellowship website](#).

26. What is considered a career break or long-term leave?

A career break or long-term leave is defined as a period during which the individual is not engaging with research activities (within or outside the University). This can occur for various reasons including personal reasons, ill health, parental leave or other caring responsibilities.



27. What does the term interdisciplinary research mean?

Interdisciplinary research involves the integration of knowledge, methods and approaches from multiple disciplines to create a new perspective or solution. For example, studying climate change by combining climatology, economics and political sciences to develop comprehensive policies. This should not be confused with multidisciplinary research, where the disciplines are kept separately, and the work is done in parallel. For example, a project on cancer treatment could involve biologists, doctors and engineers working on different aspects of the treatment, without blending their expertise into a unified approach.