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| The University of Manchester EPSRC Postdoctoral Pathway Fellowship 2025/26  **APPLICATION FORM**  ***\*\*Please read the notes at the end of this application form before completing your application\*\**** | | | |
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| **1. APPLICANT DETAILS** | | | |
| **Title** |  | | |
| **Surname/Family Name** |  | | |
| **Other Names** |  | | |
| **E-mail address** |  | | |
| **Address** |  | | |
| **Mobile telephone number** |  | | |
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| **2. PhD DETAILS** | | | |
| **PhD thesis title** | |  | |
| **Awarding university** | |  | |
| **Department or School** | |  | |
| **Name & e-mail address of supervisor** | |  | |
| **PhD start date** | |  | |
| **PhD first thesis submission date**  *(actual or expected: see notes 5 & 6)* | |  | |
| **PhD award date and classification**  *(*if applicable*)* | |  | |
| **Source of PhD funding**  *(e.g. EPSRC project studentship, EPSRC Doctoral Training Grant: see note 4)* | |  | |
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| **3. EPSRC POSTDOCTORAL PATHWAY FELLOWSHIP: PROJECT SUMMARY** | | | |
| **Title of proposed project:** | | | |
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| **Name of Project Sponsor**  *(*in whose lab you will be based and that will act as your line manager*. This* ***cannot*** *be your current supervisor: see note 11)* | |  | |
| **School and Faculty** | |  | |
| **Requested Start Date**  *(normally up to 12 months after application deadline date: see notes 5,6,7 & 8)* | |  | |
| **Duration of Project requested**  *(see note 1)* | |  | |
| **Consumable costs requested (£)** | |  | |
| **Travel costs requested (£)** | |  | |
| **Outreach costs requested (£)** | |  | |
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| **4. PROJECT PROPOSAL** | | | |
| 1. **Please make your case for support in the space below, and include:**  * Your main objectives and work plan for the duration of your award * A clear outline of timescales and targets to be achieved. Your proposed research programme may involve work to maximise the benefit of work already done in your PhD **but primarily it must focus on research that will help you take your first steps as an independent researcher**   ***Maximum of 750 words*** | | | |
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| **Word Count** | | |  |
| 1. **Expected outputs from proposed research programme**   The University expects your proposed research programme to generate concrete deliverables, which can include publications, knowledge transfer outcomes etc. Please state expected deliverables below. | | | |
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| 1. **Ethical information**   Has consideration been given to any ethical matters raised? Please provide details. | | | |
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| 1. **Please provide a detailed and *fully* *itemised* justification for all costs (consumables, travel etc.) requested in sections 3 and 4. Applications will be rejected without this information.** (see note 13) | | | |
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| **5. OUTREACH WORK PROPOSAL** | | | |
| **As part of the Postdoctoral Pathway Fellowship award, successful candidates must deliver a Public Engagement component as part of their proposed research programme. This involves activities engaging with non-academic audiences.**  Please describe the Public Engagement activities you would deliver during your Postdoctoral Pathway Fellowship if your application is successful.  Please include details of the costs required: The University suggests an indicative figure of £300 - £500 for this work, but recognises that the budget may vary widely beyond this, depending on the nature of work proposed.  **You must provide an itemised justification of any costs requested.**  ***Maximum of 500 words*** | | | |
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| **Word Count** | | | |
| **6. CAREER DEVELOPMENT STATEMENT** | | | |
| **The principal aim of the Postdoctoral Pathway Fellowship is to support a candidate’s development as an independent researcher.**  **Please explain how a Postdoctoral Pathway Fellowship would help you achieve this, and your aspirations beyond a Postdoctoral Pathway Fellowship award. Give a clear timeline for your career plans. You can include anticipated applications for prestigious fellowships or for post-doctoral positions in high quality research groups.**  ***Maximum of 500 words.*** | | | |
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| **Word Count** | | |  |
| **7. developing academic relationships beyond the university of Manchester** | | | |
| **Developing your career as an independent researcher requires building national and international academic relationships. Please state how you plan to do this during your proposed research programme.**  ***Maximum of 400 words***  **Word Count** | | | |
| **8. REFEREE DETAILS** | | | |
| **Referee 1 (Principal PhD Supervisor)** | | | |
| Name (block capitals): | | | |
| Contact telephone number: | | | |
| Contact e-mail address: | | | |
| Institution/Organisation: | | | |
| Position: | | | |
| Contact Address | | | |
| **Referee 2** | | | |
| Name (block capitals): | | | |
| Contact telephone number: | | | |
| Contact e-mail address: | | | |
| Institution/Organisation: | | | |
| Position: | | | |
| Contact Address | | | |

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| **Where did you see the *University of Manchester Postdoctoral Pathway Fellowships 2025/26* advertised?** |

**IMPORTANT**

Please see an indicative timetable for each phase below.

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| **Application Deadline** | **Interviews** | **Project start dates** |
| Monday 18th August 2025 | September 2025 (exact date TBC) | * October 1st, 2025– 30th September, 2026 |

* Please ensure that you email your proposed Head of Department and Project Sponsor, and your PhD supervisor, a copy of your completed application form.
* **In order to apply, please submit the following documents electronically by 17.00PM on Monday 18th August 2025 to** [fse.doctoralacademy.specialistprogrammes@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:fse.doctoralacademy.specialistprogrammes@manchester.ac.uk)

1. A completed application form;
2. A brief CV (1 page maximum: Arial font size 11 or equivalent). Please attach a separate list of publications;
3. Letter of Support from the Head of the Department where you intend to conduct your Postdoctoral Pathway Fellowship research. The completed form should be signed and returned as a PDF document;
4. Evidence of qualifications (scanned certificates or transcripts);
5. A scanned copy of your passport (if you will need a visa to study in the UK);
6. A completed data monitoring form;
7. A copy of your EPSRC funding letter (external applicants ONLY).

**Notes for candidates:**

Eligibility

1. Candidates may apply for funding for not less than six months and not more than 12 months.
2. Proposed project end date must not exceed September 30th, 2026.
3. Candidates must be able to demonstrate a clear commitment to remaining in academia.
4. Candidates must have been funded for their PhD studies by the EPSRC in the form of fees and stipend OR be a full member of an EPSRC or UKRI AI Centre for Doctoral Training cohort (and registered as such in Je-S or its successor) in order to be eligible for an EPSRC Postdoctoral Pathway Fellowship.
5. If candidates have already submitted their thesis at the time of application, this must not be more than six months before commencing an EPSRC Postdoctoral Pathway Fellowship (e.g. 28th February 2025 submission date for a 1st October 2025 start).
6. Although candidates are not required to have submitted their thesis prior to application**, successful applicants must have submitted their PhD thesis before they can start to receive EPSRC Postdoctoral Pathway Fellowship funding (e.g. in order to start at the latest start date for 2025/26 you have to have an expected submission date of 31st July 2025)**. They may commence their Fellowship while awaiting viva, but may have their Fellowship withdrawn if they subsequently achieve a result lower than Aii at first viva examination.
7. Start dates must be agreed with the proposed Project Sponsor and Head of Department and will be subject to approval by the EPSRC Postdoctoral Pathway Fellowship awarding Panel.
8. Fellowships that have not started within twelve months of the funding award may be withdrawn.

Project

1. Candidates should propose a Fellowship research project. This may include the publication and development of work from their PhD, but a ***major*** part of the proposed research programme ***must*** include substantive new work which will allow the candidate to take their next steps in terms of developing as an independent researcher.
2. The principle of the Postdoctoral Pathway Fellowship is to support PhD students in becoming independent researchers and future research leaders. The project sponsor **cannot**, therefore, be the current PhD supervisor.
3. Proposals should explain how the candidate will manage the project and how this will be facilitated by the project sponsor with whom they are working.
4. All EPSRC Postdoctoral Pathway Fellows are expected to engage in Public Engagement work as part of their fellowship.
5. EPSRC Postdoctoral Pathway Fellowship funding will provide maintenance costs and the consumables and travel costs associated with a project. It may also be used for attendance at conferences to present the results, but will ***not*** support purchase of equipment. Please be aware that no overheads will need to be included in the costings

Assessment procedure

1. Applications will be assessed and short-listed by an appointing Committee consisting of Associate Deans for PGR.
2. The Committee will fund proposals that are of sufficient quality, subject to available funds. Candidates should be in the top 10-15% of PhD students.