

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES GUIDE
26/27



POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2026/27

The FBMH Doctoral Academy oversees a wide range of Postgraduate Research (PGR) funding opportunities which are available for supervisors. A summary of current schemes is included in this document and includes (where confirmed) the relevant dates for calls, applications and offers.

Funded schemes

Each opportunity will also be launched via Faculty Announcements and posted on the Doctoral Academy [intranet pages](#). Many of the schemes are competitive, which means there are more projects advertised than the number of studentships available to ensure the highest quality candidates are selected.

Information for potential candidates will be advertised and made available on the relevant external facing websites when each scheme goes live.

Alternative external funding

Alongside our funded schemes, we strongly encourage supervisors to consider alternative routes to support PGRs. The Doctoral Academy provides costings, advice and support for supervisors wishing to submit applications for externally funded studentships i.e. via charities, the NHS etc. Full details on available externally funded studentships, process and timeframe to support applications can be found on our [intranet page](#).

We will also support and work with the [Business Engagement Team](#) for studentships funded by industry. The Doctoral Academy facilitates advertising of funded studentships which will ensure all processes are followed prior to an offer is made.

Self arranged funding

We receive many applications from candidates with self arranged funding (through sponsors, government, personal funds, employers) which are directed to supervisors following submission of a formal application.

The Admissions team will undertake qualification assessments of applicants and Division PGR Tutors will undertake an independent interview on request. Supervisors are encouraged to submit [self funded projects](#) which will be advertised on [our website](#) and FindAPhD.



APPLICATION DEADLINES

Outside of our funded schemes - which have their own application deadlines - we have fixed application deadlines for each intake. It is important that supervisors understand these deadlines when applying for external funding or engaging with potential applicants, as we cannot accept late applications.

- September entry deadline for applications: 15 June
- January entry deadline for applications: 15 October
- April entry deadline for application: 15 January

PROJECT APPROVAL

Prior to any offer being made, supervisors are required to outline full details of the supervisory team (in line with [University PGR Supervision policy](#)), the project, funding arrangements and training.

For most funded schemes this is gathered as part of the project call documentation, but for all other routes supervisors are required to complete a [PGR Project Approval Form](#)* well in advance (this will be provided by the Doctoral Academy Admissions team).

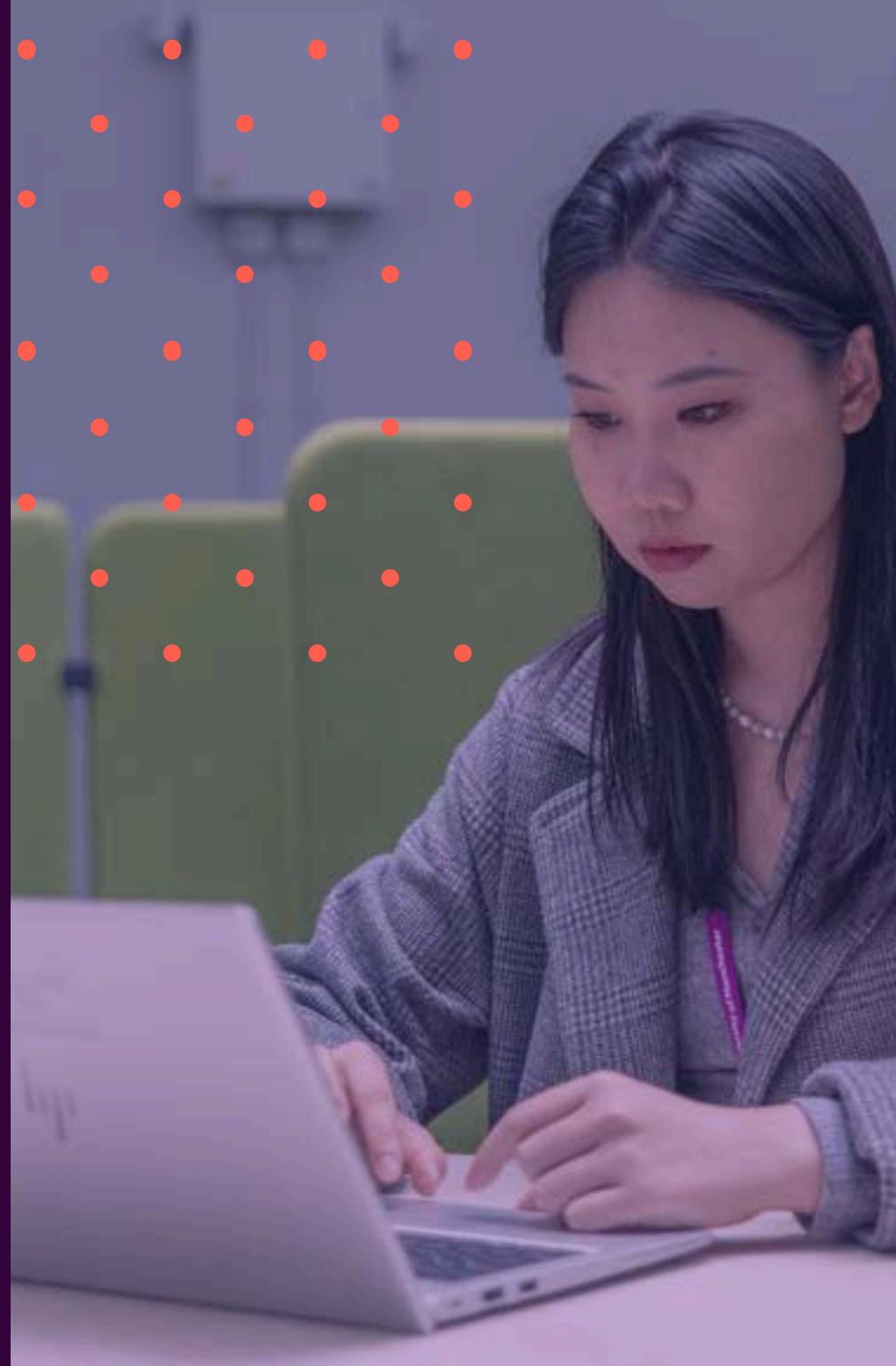
All projects, regardless of route/funding, will need to be approved by the Senior Tutor and/or Head of Division for consistency.

Please refer to our [supervisory eligibility and expectations statement](#) which applies to all projects, regardless of funding.

**Division of Cancer Sciences supervisors have a local version of this form*

NOTE

The dates set out in this document are provisional and subject to change. They will be confirmed once calls are sent out - please contact the Admissions team if you require further information.



SCHEMES AND PROGRAMMES

This year we are launching several major schemes at the start of our recruitment cycle to maximise recruitment of exceptional candidates to support our leading research, while rationalising workload and striving to deliver a fair and equitable approach.

Learn more about each scheme using the links below.

PHASE 1 LAUNCH

- [MRC DTP & CASE](#)
- [BBSRC NWD in Bioscience](#)
- [EPSRC DTP](#)
- [Bicentenary Studentships](#)
- [International PhD Partnership Studentships](#)
- [UoM-University of Melbourne Dual Award](#)

LAUNCHED

- [4WARD North PhD Programme](#)
- [The Alzheimer's Society DTC](#)
- [CRUK Manchester Centre Clinical/Non-clinical Studentships](#)
- [CRUK Manchester Centre MB-PhD](#)
- [CRUK Manchester Institute Studentships](#)
- [ESRC NWSS DTP & CASE](#)
- [Excellence in Diversity PhD Scholarships](#)
- [President's Doctoral Scholar Award](#)
- [UoM-China Scholarship Council](#)



**SCHEMES AND
PROGRAMMES
2026/27**





Biotechnology and
Biological Sciences
Research Council

BBSRC NORTH WEST DOCTORAL PROGRAMME (NWD) IN BIOSCIENCES

The BBSRC NWD in Bioscience is run across UoM (FBMH and FSE) with the University of Liverpool. The programme offers fully funded studentships at both institutions and is delivered in collaboration with industry partners Boots No7, Unilever, Waters and Bionow, who will provide training and research opportunities.

[View call information](#)

Funding	Tuition fees, UKRI stipend, project costs
Eligibility	Home and overseas
Duration	4 years
No. places available	20
Programme Contact	Prof Rasmus Peterson
Call for projects launched	Friday 25 July 2025
Project submission deadline	Friday 26 September 2025
Applications accepted from	Friday 7 November 2025
Application deadline	Sunday 7 December 2025
Panel interviews	W/C 23 February 2026

Find out more:

www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/research/funding-fees/funded-programmes/bbsrc-nwdp/





MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL DTP & CASE

The MRC DTP offers various routes for supervisors/applicants including DTP studentships and student led projects, with 14 awarded by the MRC and 7 match funded.

[View call information](#)

Funding	Tuition fees, UKRI stipend, project costs, training support
Eligibility	Home or overseas applicants (30% overseas quota)
Duration	4 years
No. places available	30 (DTP & CASE combined)
Programme Contact	Dr Rainer Hinz
Call for projects launched	Friday 25 July 2025
Project submission deadline	Friday 19 September 2025
Applications accepted from	Tuesday 7 October 2025
Application deadline	Saturday 8 November 2025
Panel interviews	W/C 19 January 2026

Find out more
www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/research/funded-programmes/mrc-dtp/



MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL CASE

The MRC DTP offers CASE studentships in biomedical, clinical and health services areas in collaboration with an industrial partner, with 6 awarded by the MRC and 3 match funded.

[View call information](#)

Funding	Tuition fees, UKRI stipend, project costs, training support
Eligibility	Home or overseas applicants (30% overseas quota)
Duration	4 years
No. places available	30 (DTP & CASE combined)
Programme Contact	Dr Rainer Hinz
Call for projects launched	Friday 25 July 2025
Project submission deadline	Friday 19 September 2025
Applications accepted from	Tuesday 7 October 2025
Application deadline	Saturday 8 November 2025
Panel interviews	W/C 19 January 2026

Find out more
www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/research/funded-programmes/mrc-dtp/



Medical
Research
Council

MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL CoRE IN EXPOSOME IMMUNOLOGY

The MRC CoRE in Exposome Immunology is run in partnership with the University of Oxford. The programme offers fully funded studentships with candidates choosing their host institution and then selecting up to three supervisors they're interested in working with to shape their project.

Funding	Tuition fees, UKRI stipend, lab expenses, training and conference travel
Eligibility	Home or overseas applicants
Duration	4 years
No. places available	6
Programme Contact	Bruce Humphreys
Call for projects launched	-
Project submission deadline	-
Applications accepted from	Tuesday 9 September
Application deadline	Tuesday 2 December
Panel interviews	January

Find out more:

<https://www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/research/funding-fees/funded-programmes/exposome-immunology/>



Engineering and
Physical Sciences
Research Council

ENGINEERING & PHYSICS SCIENCES RESEARCH COUNCILS DTP

Each year FBMH are allocated funding from the EPSRC DTP award held in the Faculty of Science and Engineering. The Doctoral Academy then co-ordinate an internal call for projects to award studentships.

[View call information](#)

Funding	Tuition fees, UKRI stipend, project costs
Eligibility	Home applicants (potential for overseas)
Duration	3.5 years
No. places available	2-3
Programme Contact	Prof David Bechtold
Call for projects launched	Friday 25 July 2025
Project submission deadline	Friday 19 September 2025
Applications accepted from	Wednesday 15 October 2025
Application deadline	Saturday 15 November 2025
Panel interviews	W/C 9 February 2026

Find out more:

www.manchester.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/funding/opportunities/display/?id=00000469





MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester

BICENTENARY PHD STUDENTSHIPS

To mark our 200th year, the University has invested nearly £10m into the Bicentenary PhD and Fellows Programme. Studentships will drive international research excellence within leading research groups and vibrant training and research environments across four areas of strategic importance.

[View call information](#)

Funding	Tuition fees, UKRI stipend, project costs
Eligibility	Home and overseas
Duration	4 years
No. places available	35
Programme Contact	Prof David Bechtold
Call for projects launched	Friday 25 July 2025
Project submission deadline	Friday 19 September 2025
Applications accepted from	Monday 13 October 2025
Application deadline	Saturday 15 November 2025
Panel interviews	W/C 26 January 2026

Find out more:

www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/research/funding-fees/funded-programmes/bicentenary-scholarships/

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP PHD STUDENTSHIPS

Studentships are available to support collaboration between the Faculty and European institutions. Applications that include collaboration or visits to any European university or research institution will be considered.

[View call information](#)

Funding	Tuition fees, UKRI stipend, project costs, Research Training Support Grant, contribution to PGR travel costs
Eligibility	Home and overseas
Duration	4 years
No. places available	Up to 5
Programme Contact	Professor Qing-Jun Meng
Call for projects launched	Friday 25 July 2025
Project submission deadline	Monday 6 October 2025
Applications accepted from	Friday 24 October 2025
Application deadline	Saturday 22 November 2025
Panel interviews	W/C 16 February 2026

Find out more: www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/research/funding-fees/funded-programmes/international-partnership-phd/





MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester



DUAL-AWARD WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

The Dual Award with the University of Melbourne offers postgraduate researchers with a unique opportunity to work with world-leading experts and world-class facilities at both institutions, starting in Manchester and spending at least 12 months in Melbourne.

[View call information](#)

Funding	Tuition fees, UKRI stipend, project costs, Research Training Support Grant, contribution to PGR travel costs
Eligibility	Home and overseas
Duration	3-4 years
No. places available	2-4
Programme Contact	Prof David Bechtold
Call for projects launched	September
Project submission deadline	Friday 10 October 2025
Applications accepted from	Monday 1 December 2025
Application deadline	Friday, 13 March 2026
Panel interviews	TBC

Find out more:
[Faculty page to be launched soon](#)

CRUK MANCHESTER CENTRE - MANCHESTER CANCER RESEARCH CENTRE STUDENTSHIPS

MCRC-CRUK Manchester Centre manage a number of schemes to support both clinical and non-clinical PhD projects, Black Leaders in Cancer (BLiC) and MB-PhD postgraduate researchers. Timelines below are for clinical, non-clinical and BLiC programmes only. Enquiries regarding MB-PhD programme timelines should be addressed to the email contact below.

Funding	Tuition fees, stipend/salary, project costs
Eligibility	Home or overseas applicants (30% overseas quota)
Duration	3-4 years (depending on scheme)
No. places available	10-11 (across all schemes)
Programme Contact	Dr Yasmin Noori-Jenaghard MCRCtraining@manchester.ac.uk
Call for projects launched	Tuesday 13 May 2025
Project submission deadline	Monday 1 September 2025
Applications accepted from (clin/non-clin)	Monday 6 October 2025
Application deadline (clin/non-clin)	Monday 17 November 2025
Panel interviews (clin/non-clin)	W/C 16 January 2026

Find out more:

PhD: www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/research/funding-fees/funded-programmes/mcrc-training-scheme/

MB-PhD: www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/research/funding-fees/funded-programmes/cruk-mb-phd/

CANCER RESEARCH UK MANCHESTER INSTITUTE STUDENTSHIPS

The Cancer Research UK (CRUK) Institute MI award
non-clinical PhD projects.

Funding	Tuition fees, stipend/salary, project costs
Eligibility	Home or overseas applicants (30% overseas quota)
Duration	4 years
No. places available	6-7
Programme Contact	Prof Tim Somerville/Julie Edwards pjt@cruk.manchester.ac.uk
Call for projects launched	-
Project submission deadline	-
Applications accepted from	Monday 20 October 2025
Application deadline	Friday 28 November 2025
Panel interviews	January/February 2026

Find out more:

www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/research/funding-fees/funded-programmes/cruk-phd-studentships/



Economic
and Social
Research Council

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH COUNCIL NWSS CASE & DTP

Each year FBMH are allocated funding from the ESRC DTP & CASE award held in the Faculty of Humanities. The Doctoral Academy then co-ordinate an internal call for projects to award studentships.

Funding	Tuition fees, UKRI stipend, project costs
Eligibility	Home and overseas
Duration	3-4 years
No. places available	Varies
Programme Contact	Dr Stuart Shields
Call for projects launched	Friday 13 June 2025
Project submission deadline	Thursday 31 July 2025
Applications accepted from	Tuesday 19 August 2025
Application deadline	Tuesday 30 September 2025
Panel interviews	TBC

Find out more:

www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/research/funding-fees/funded-programmes/esrc-nwssdtp/funding/

4WARD NORTH PHD PROGRAMME

4Ward North PhD Programme for Health Professionals is a partnership between the Universities of Manchester, Leeds, Newcastle and Sheffield and funded by Wellcome. Applications are encouraged from a diverse and inclusive range of healthcare professionals, including nursing, midwifery, and allied health. 4Ward North PhD Fellowships should include supervision from at least two of the 4Ward North institutions and be within the Wellcome discovery research remit.

Funding	Salary, tuition fees, project consumables (approx. max. total is £300,000)
Eligibility	Practicing healthcare professionals, registered with professional regulatory body in the UK/Ireland. Medical graduates must be registered on UK/ROI specialist training programme or be a registered GP
Duration	36 months FT (or PT equivalent)
No. places available	5
Programme Contact	Dr Saini Manninen n4@manchester.ac.uk
Applications accepted from	Monday 21 July
Application deadline	Phase 1: Monday 29 September 2025 Phase 2: Monday 26 January 2026
Panel interviews	Thursday 2 April 2026

Find out more:
www.4wardnorth.org.uk





THE ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY DOCTORAL TRAINING CENTRE

The Alzheimer's Society DTC provides fully funded PhD opportunities for UK nationals.

Funding	Tuition fees, UKRI stipend, project costs
Eligibility	Home applicants
Duration	4 years
No. places available	1
Programme Contact	Dr Josie Thomas josephine.thomas@manchester.ac.uk
Call for projects launched	Monday 18 August 2025
Project submission deadline	Friday 24 October 2025
Applications accepted from	Friday 21 November 2025
Application deadline	Saturday 20 December 2025
Panel interviews	W/C 9 March 2026

Find out more:
www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/research/funding-fees/funded-programmes/alzheimers-society-dtc/

EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY PHD SCHOLARSHIPS

These fully funded studentships are for PGR candidates from under-represented groups. There is no internal call for projects as candidates apply for the scholarship and they are supported in finding a supervisor/project following successful interview.

Funding	Tuition fees, UKRI stipend, project costs
Eligibility	Home applicants from under-represented backgrounds (see website for info)
Duration	4 years
No. places available	3
Programme Contact	Dr Anna Hood
Call for projects launched	-
Project submission deadline	-
Applications accepted from	Friday 3 October 2025
Application deadline	Sunday 9 November 2025
Panel interviews	TBC

Find out more:

www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/research/funding-fees/funding-opportunities/excellence-in-diversity-phd-scholarships/



PRESIDENT'S DOCTORAL SCHOLAR AWARD

Fully funded studentships for candidates from overseas. There is no call for projects but candidates apply for the scholarship and need to obtain an academic offer before being nominated by their supervisor for an internal panel review and interview. Supervisors are encouraged to have a self-funded project advertised to attract potential candidates

Funding	Tuition fees (max band 2), UKRI stipend plus £1k p/a enhancement
Eligibility	Overseas applicants with a First Class degree or equivalent
Duration	3.5 years
No. places available	5
Programme Contact	Doctoral Academy
Call for projects launched	-
Project submission deadline	-
Applications accepted from	Monday 6 October 2025
Application deadline	Monday 17 November 2025
Panel interviews	W/C 18 May 2026

Find out more:

www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/research/funding-fees/funding-opportunities/presidents-doctoral-scholar-awards/





THE KENNEDY TRUST MB-PHD

The Kennedy Trust IMPACT Inflammation MB-PhD is a fully funded three year programme aimed at MBChB students who wish to intercalate and train as clinician-scientists.

Funding	Tuition fees, stipend, project costs
Eligibility	Priority given to UoM and St Andrews applicants but open to all institutions.
Duration	3 years
No. places available	4
Programme Contact	Prof Anne Barton
Call for projects launched	-
Project submission deadline	-
Applications accepted from	Saturday 1 November 2025
Intercalation deadline Application deadline	Monday 12 January 2026 Tuesday 30 June 2026
Panel interviews	TBC

Find out more:

www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/research/funding-fees/funded-programmes/kennedy-trust-phd/



UOM-CHINA SCHOLARSHIP COUNCIL SCHEME

Fully funded studentships for candidates from China. There's no call for projects but candidates apply for the scholarship and need to obtain an academic offer before being nominated by their supervisor for an internal panel interview. Selected candidates must then apply to CSC directly for a final decision on awards. Supervisors are encouraged to have a self-funded project advertised to attract potential candidates. This also includes the Innovation pathway.

Funding	Tuition fees (max band 2) covered by FBMH and stipend covered by CSC
Eligibility	Chinese applicants
Duration	3 years
No. places available	6
Programme Contact	Hui Guo
Call for projects launched	-
Project submission deadline	-
Applications accepted from	Monday 1 September 2025
Application deadline	Monday 12 January 2026
Nominated candidates selected	Monday 9 March 2026

Find out more:

www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/research/funding-fees/funding-opportunities/csc-scholarship/



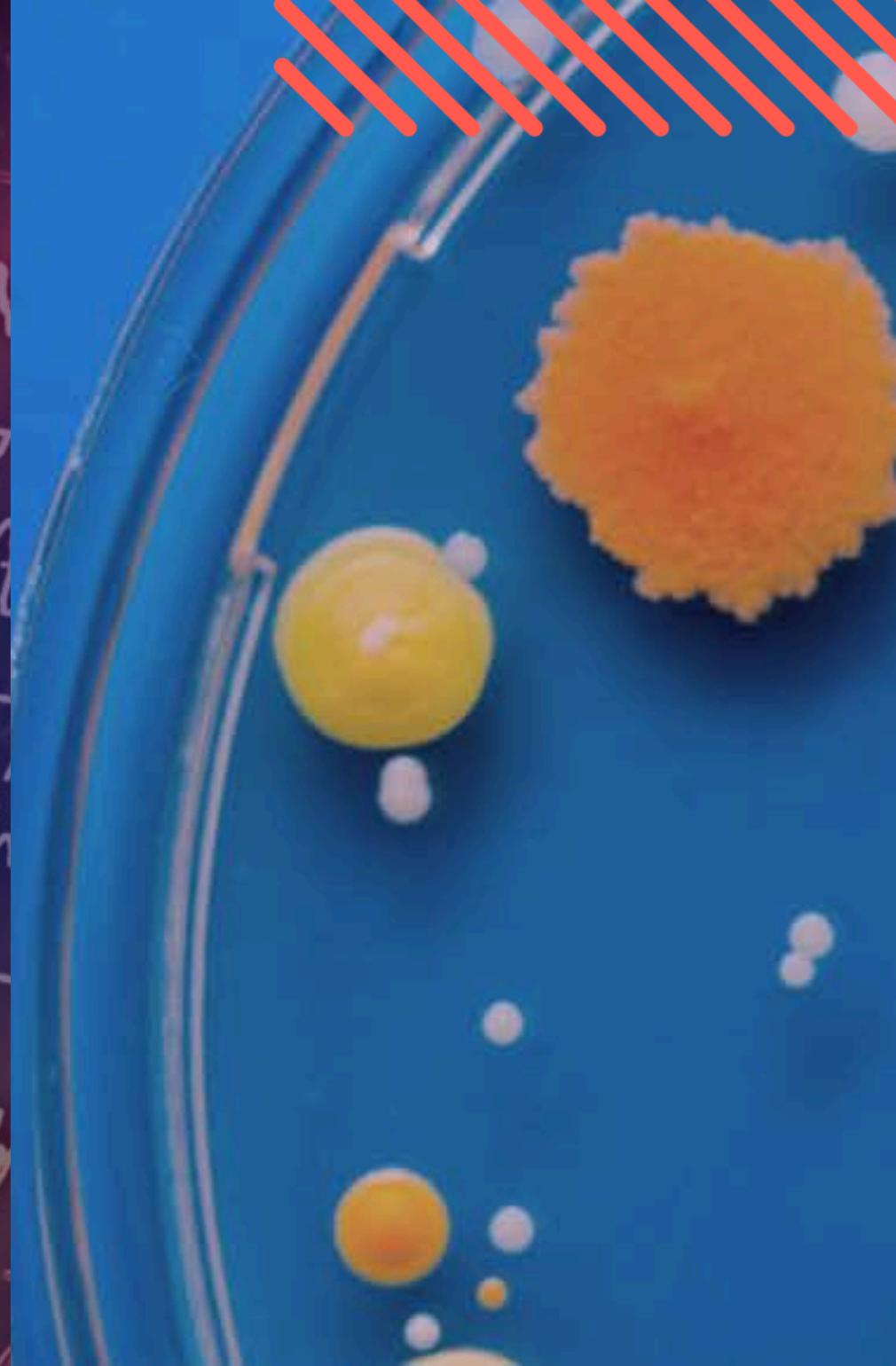
Biotechnology and
Biological Sciences
Research Council

CONTROL AND DESIGN OF BIOENGINEERED MICROBIAL CELLS (CODE-M) PHD PROGRAMME

The Control and Design of Bioengineered Microbial Cells and Systems (CODE-M) PhD programme is a partnership between UKRI, The University of Manchester and the University of Liverpool. The programme is open to home applicants only and offers fully funded studentships including an UKRI stipend, boosted by £10k through the UK government TechExpert pilot.

Funding	Tuition fees, enhanced £31k stipend, project costs
Eligibility	Home applicants
Duration	3.5 years
No. places available	
Programme Contact	Prof Michael Brockhurst michael.brockhurst@manchester.ac.uk
Call for projects launched	-
Project submission deadline	-
Applications accepted from	Friday 6 February 2026
Application deadline	Saturday 7 March 2026
Panel interviews	W/C 27 April 2026

Find out more:





**British Heart
Foundation**

BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION MULTIDISCIPLINARY PHD PROGRAMME

The BHF Multidisciplinary PhD Programme is run in partnership with the CHAIN consortium which includes the BHF, The University of Manchester, the University of Bristol and the University of Liverpool. The fully funded programme is open to home applicants only with candidates applying for a host institution and then co-creating their project with a suitable supervisor during their first year.

Funding	Tuition fees, UKRI stipend, project costs, travel for training and conferences
Eligibility	Home applicants
Duration	4 years
No. places available	4 for Manchester, 4 for Bristol, 2 for Liverpool
Programme Contact	Gina Galli gina.galli@manchester.ac.uk
Call for projects launched	-
Project submission deadline	-
Applications accepted from	Friday 13 March 2026
Application deadline	Monday 13 April 2026
Panel interviews	W/C 11 May 2026

Find out more:

<https://www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/research/funding-fees/funded-programmes/bhf-chain>

ALL PROGRAMMES - SUMMARY OF KEY DATES

Sorted by 'call for project launch' date then project advertise date

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester

Scheme	Call for projects lauched	Deadline for project submission	Prog./projects advertised	Application deadline	Supervisor nominations	Interviews
4WARD North PhD Programme	-	-	-	29-Sep & 26-Jan	-	02-Apr
MCRC (Clinical/Non-clinical/BLiC)	13-May	01-Sep	06-Oct	17-Nov	17-Dec	wc 12-Jan
ESRC NWSS CASE & DTP	13-Jun	31-Jul	19-Aug	02-Feb	TBC	TBC
MCRC (MB-PhD)	23-Jun	01-Sep	13-Oct	09-Mar	13-Apr	wc 27 Apr
MRC DTP & CASE	25-Jul	19-Sep	07-Oct	08-Nov	10-Dec	wc 19-Jan
Bicentenary PhD Studentship	25-Jul	19-Sep	13-Oct	15-Nov	12-Jan	wc 26-Jan
EPSRC DTP	25-Jul	19-Sep	15-Oct	15-Nov	16-Jan	wc 9-Feb
BBSRC NWDP in Bioscience & CASE	25-Jul	26-Sep	07-Nov	07-Dec	09-Feb	wc 23-Feb
International Partnership Studentships	25-Jul	06-Oct	24-Oct	22-Nov	30-Jan	wc 16-Feb
Alzheimer's DTC	18-Aug	24-Oct	21-Nov	20-Dec	06-Feb	wc 09-Mar
Melbourne Dual-Award	-	10-Oct	09-Jan	13-Mar	TBC	TBC
MRC CORE in Exosome Immunology	-	-	09-Sep	02-Dec	-	Jan 26
Excellence in Diversity PhD Scholarships	-	-	03-Oct	09-Nov	-	TBC
President's Doctoral Scholar Award	-	-	07-Oct	09-Nov	-	wc 18-May
CRUK MI	-	-	20-Oct	28-Nov	-	Jan/Feb 26
The Kennedy Trust MB-PhD	-	-	01-Nov	30-Jun	-	TBC
CODE-M PhD Programme	-	-	06-Feb	07-Mar	-	wc 27-Apr
BHF Multidisciplinary PhD Programme	-	-	13-Mar	13-Apr	-	wc 11-May
UOM-China Scholarship Council	-	-	-	12-Jan	13-Feb	02-Mar
PhD by Enterprise	-	-	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC

OTHER FUNDING SCHEMES

There are a number of schemes managed in the Faculty of Science and Engineering, and the Faculty of Humanities which permit FBMH supervisors as the main PI.

Some of these are listed on [our website](#) and supervisors can get in touch with colleagues in FSE or HUMS directly for more information.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Prof David Bechtold - Associate Dean for Postgraduate Research
david.bechtold@manchester.ac.uk

Tasleem Hanif - PGR Services Manager
tasleem.hanif@manchester.ac.uk

James Lister - PGR Recruitment and Admissions Officer
james.lister@manchester.ac.uk

Christian Ward - PGR Student Marketing and Recruitment Officer
christian.ward@manchester.ac.uk

Doctoral Academy - Admissions Team
FBMH.doctoralacademy.admissions@manchester.ac.uk

Senior Tutor / Tutors
<https://documents.manchester.ac.uk/protected/display.aspx?DocID=29711>



USEFUL LINKS

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester

FBMH Doctoral Academy intranet

- <https://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/bmh/research/doctoral-academy/>

FBMH Postgraduate Research website

- <https://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/>

FBMH Doctoral Academy website for current PGRs

- <https://www.doctoral-academy.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/>

Supervisor Toolkit

- <https://www.researcherdevelopment.manchester.ac.uk/supervisors/>

