



The University of Manchester

# Faculty of Humanities Doctoral Academy

Post-induction session for PGRs:  
Knowledge Exchange and Placements  
October 2025

# What is knowledge exchange (KE)?

Bring expertise, provide new perspectives on, and develop innovative solutions to local, national and global challenges.

**A flow  
of ideas, insights,  
evidence and  
expertise between  
academic and  
external contexts.**

KE activities include partners as participants in and/or co-producers of new knowledge

# Types of knowledge exchange activity

**Public  
engagement**

**Research  
partnerships**

**Business  
engagement**

**IP and  
commercialis  
ation  
(Innovation)**

**Public and  
third sector  
engagement**

**Regional  
engagement  
and  
regeneration**

# Types of knowledge exchange activity



## Public engagement

**Public engagement is how we share ideas and knowledge, inspire discussion, debate and creativity, and inclusively involve the public in our work.**

- [Public engagement case studies](#)
- [Public engagement opportunities](#)
- [Universally Manchester Festival](#)

# Types of knowledge exchange activity



## Research partnerships

Research partnerships are collaborative relationships between university and external organisations, such as industry, third sector, business, government and other institutes, to conduct research, development and innovation activities to create new knowledge and solutions.

- Collaborative Doctoral Programme (AHRC CDA & ESRC CASE)
- Industry partner
- NHS

# Types of knowledge exchange activity



- [Business engagement case studies](#)

**Business engagement connects researchers with external organisations to engage in research projects, consultancy, knowledge exchange, sharing facilities, professional development and recruiting talent.**

# Types of knowledge exchange activity

**Intellectual property (IP) and commercialisation at the University involves turning original research discoveries into products or services.**

**IP and  
commercialisation  
(Innovation)**

- Masood Entrepreneurship Centre
  - Researcher Launchpad - Researcher to Innovator Programme (final year PGRs)
  - Venture Further Awards (start-up funding competition)
- University of Manchester Innovation Factory

# Types of knowledge exchange activity

- [Policy@Manchester](#)
  - [Training resources and mailing list](#)

## UKRI-funded PGRs:

- [UKRI Policy Internships](#)
- [Open Innovation Team PhD placements](#)

The University engages with government and non-profit organisations in the public and third sectors through research, consultancy, partnerships, and initiatives supporting information, policy and services for the public.



Public and  
third sector  
engagement

# Types of knowledge exchange activity

## Civic Engagement

- Social inclusion
- Prosperous communities
- Better health
- Environmental sustainability
- Cultural engagement
- Public engagement

Working in partnership with communities, organisations and civic leaders from across Manchester and Greater Manchester, the University believes it will improve our own practice, and the lives of people in the region.

**Regional  
engagement  
and  
regeneration**

# What is a PGR placement?

**Integrated**

**A project or programme of work where a PGR may apply their research skills, methodologies and/or specific academic subject knowledge on a defined topic for a specified period of time.**

**Optional**

# KE & Placements: Why take part?

**Create  
impact and  
develop skills**

**Boost your  
professional/  
personal  
development**

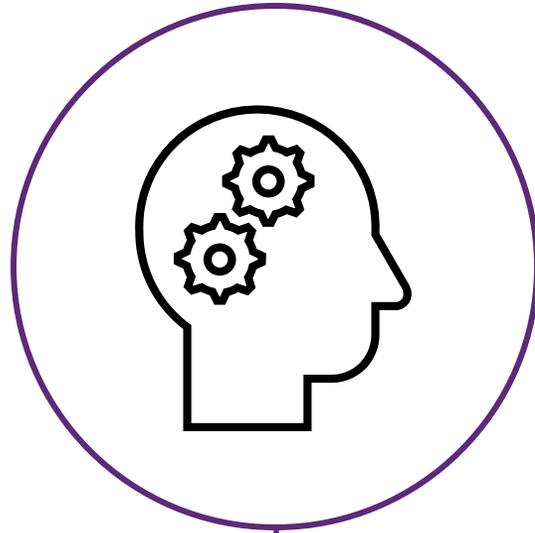
**Experience  
collaboration  
and public  
engagement  
firsthand**

**Build and  
enhance  
professional  
networks**

**Enhance  
your PGR  
experience  
and make  
connections  
beyond your  
PhD**

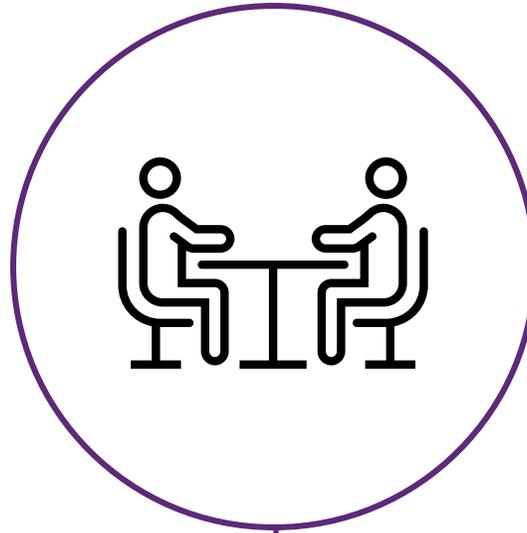
**Gain  
increased  
appreciation  
of value of  
research**

# Types of placement



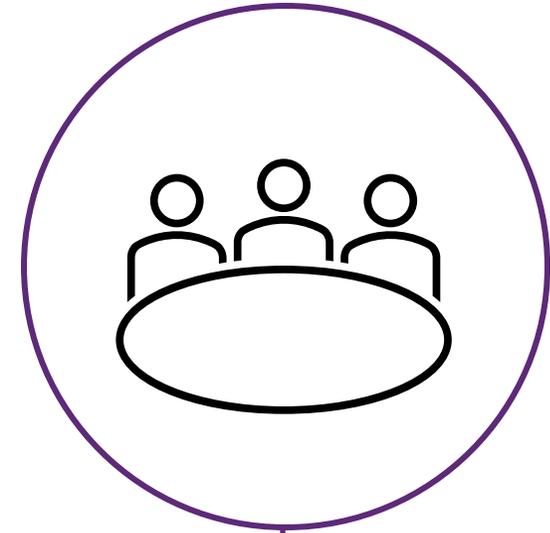
1

Researcher-led



2

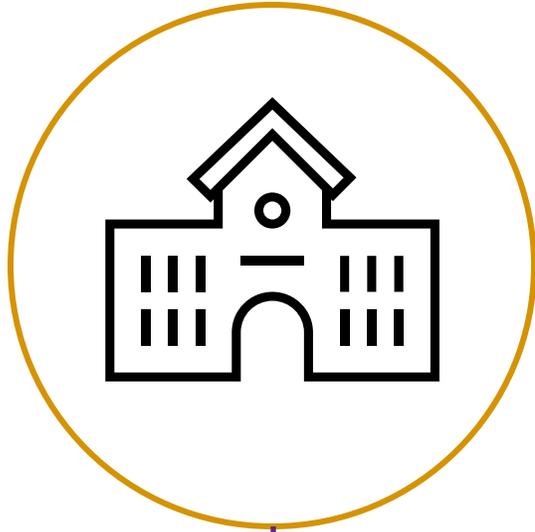
Partner-led



3

National/  
international  
competitive schemes

# Placement opportunities



1

Local



2

National



3

International

# Funding for optional PGR placements\*

## AHRC & ESRC placement funding

For PGRs already funded by:

**AHRC – NWCDDP**  
[Knowledge Exchange  
Placement Scheme](#)

or

**ESRC – NWSSDTP**  
[Research in Practice  
Placement Scheme](#)

## DA PGR placement scheme

A scheme exclusively for  
**PGRs registered in the  
Faculty of Humanities**,  
funded by the  
Doctoral Academy.

[DA PGR Placement Scheme](#)

## Turing scheme: placements for PGRs

**UK Government's global  
programme** for studying  
and working abroad.  
Funding provided to and  
**administered by the  
University.**

[The Turing Scheme](#)

## External national and international placement schemes

Open to PGRs from across  
the UK and globally. **PGRs  
apply directly to the  
organisation.**

E.g. [British Library](#), V&A,  
[Kew Gardens](#)

# General guidance on eligibility

Be in active research phase of PhD programme – not in submission pending (writing up) or examination period

Supervisor support – often require a supporting statement

International PGRs studying on a visa must check compliance with their individual visa conditions **before** applying

Sponsored PGRs must gain approval from their sponsor **before** applying

Eligibility varies by scheme

All interested PGRs are encouraged to read the guidance for each individual scheme carefully and in full before starting an application.

# General advice on applying to placement schemes

Research & contact the organisation to discover their priorities

Prepare well in advance of deadlines – supporting information required

Keep your CV up to date

Explain your personal motivation for taking part

Faculty approval required to study away - apply via [MyPlacement](#)

# MyPlacement: **Apply to study away**

**Apply a  
minimum of 6  
weeks in  
advance**

**Supervisor  
statement  
must be  
included in the  
application  
form**

**Approved risk  
assessment  
must be  
included**

## What PGRs say

**“There have been so many benefits from this placement! The opportunity to explore potential careers has been invaluable. I would definitely suggest that PhD students take the time to undertake a placement and expand their career horizons.”**

## What supervisors say

**“By providing a ‘real-world’ context for research, knowledge exchange placements have the potential to greatly augment the quality and reach of postgraduate research, and to develop professional networks.”**

# Support for PGRs to take part

**Information  
and guidance  
sessions**

**Training and  
development  
activities**

**Case study  
examples**

**Pre-  
application  
support**

**Symposium  
and  
celebration  
event**

# Interested? Next steps

- **Supervisory support required** – start discussions with your supervisors about your ideas and options for placements or knowledge exchange activities. (It's never too soon!)
- Look at options **offered by your funder**, if applicable, or look out for **open opportunities** shared by the Doctoral Academy.
- **Get inspired!** Speak to peers who have undertaken a placement or knowledge exchange activity. Read about previous placement projects and organisations in the [PGR handbook](#).
- **Explore** your University community and be **curious!**



The University of Manchester

# Questions? Get in touch

[beth.taylor@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:beth.taylor@manchester.ac.uk)