

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester

Post-Graduate Research in the School of Social Sciences

GREIG CHARNOCK

SOSS PGR DIRECTOR

Our PGR Provision

- Member of the North-West Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership (ESRC) and in receipt of AHRC Doctoral Landscape Awards.
- Each Department has its own PhD Programme with its own specificities, but all form part of SoSS PGR and share rules/resources/practices.
- We have around 300 active PhD students in the School across all departments (a further 100 are in various stages of submission pending, awaiting their viva, etc).
- Research students are a valued part of our research culture and environment.
- PGRs are also part of the Doctoral Academy and can access comprehensive training provision and support to enhance their research skills and career development.



Duration and funding sources

- Duration: normally 3.5 years; up to one year for writing up (“submission pending” or “SubP”)
- Funding:
 - Internal
 - ESRC/AHRC
 - Other funding bodies
- See also our Bicentenary Studentships (advertised at findaphd.com)

Session running order

- Bioethics and Medical Jurisprudence – Dr Alex Mullock
- Criminology – Dr Laura Bui
- Economics – Dr Craig Webb
- Law – Dr Dimitrios Doukas
- Philosophy - Dr Thomas Smith
- Sociology – Prof Nicholas Thoburn
- Social Anthropology – Dr Chika Watanabe
- Social Statistics – Dr Kingsley Purdam
- Politics – Dr Paul Tobin

Bioethics and Medical Jurisprudence (BMJ) Doctoral Programme

Centre for Social Ethics and Policy
(CSEP)

Law Department

What is the BMJ PhD?

- Publication-based PhD (publications within a thesis)
- Original research question, on a wide range of topics in ethics and law, as applied to medicine and public health (research ethics, AI, negligence, mental health, animal uses)
- Open to students with different backgrounds

How?

- After the candidate is accepted
- Year 1: workshops designed to give solid research skills
 - Refining your research questions
 - How to perform literature reviews
 - How to do interdisciplinary research
 - Various methodologies in bioethics and law
 - How to prepare a paper for publication
 - How to present at conference
 - 2 larger sessions where candidates present their work to the cohort and supervisors

Where?

- Candidates are members of the Centre for Social Ethics and Policy, within the Department of Law
- Take part in Centre research seminars and other department events
- A distance learning pathway is also possible

Yearly Review

- Taught elements are not assessed, but are compulsory (though we are flexible/sensible!)
- Progress is monitored by supervisors
- Year 1 concludes with the production of a report, which outlines the contextual legal and philosophical issues that underpin the research questions and a draft outline of the first research paper
- Every year the students are assessed by an independent reviewer (who in normal circumstances remains the same)

The route

- Year 2 and 3 continue with supervision meetings and attendance at presentation events.
- During these years it is expected that the candidates will produce research for at least 3 publishable journal articles within a structured doctoral thesis.
- Candidates will also be encouraged to attend and present at relevant conferences.

Part-time PhD

- In line with University policies this programme also runs part time.
- However, students will still have annual reviews.

Dual PhD and international collaborations

- We have 2 scholarships for the collaborative programme Melbourne/Manchester.

Final assessment

- The report and the articles are assessed according to the general rules in the university.
- The three publishable/published pieces will be included in a coherent narrative and form the main core of the final thesis, which is submitted to the examiners for the oral exam.

Supervisors

- Candidates will usually have 2 supervisor, one for the ethical and one for the legal aspects of the work

Methodologies

- Empirical bioethics is emerging as a new branch of traditional philosophical bioethics, and we can supervise candidates that propose to engage in empirical research

Advantages of the BMJ compared to traditional doctorate

- It really depends on the student and on the research.
- Prepares students to write journal articles v having the basis for a monograph.
- Most of our students do publish 2 + articles on peer reviewed international journals.
- Employability and CV.
- Many of our students have been employed in higher education before completion of the PhD.

- Questions?



UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

Dr Laura Bui

Criminology Postgraduate Research Director (PGRD)

laura.bui@manchester.ac.uk

Overview

- Undertaking a PhD in criminology
 - Current number of
 - PGR students: 29
 - Staff: 34
 - Fosters career development
 - Fellowships and lecturer positions
 - Events to share works-in-progress
- Strong global and local representation and collaborations
 - Rigorous research
 - publications and editorial board positions
 - external engagement – public and organisational
- Research groups
 - Drugs (RESDrugs)
 - Manchester Organisational Non-Compliance Initiative (MONI)
 - Punishment, police, violence research (RESPun)
 - Quantitative criminology (RESQUANT)
 - Violence, Abuse Exploitation and Intersectionality Group

Overview

- Programme format
 - First year
 - Second year
 - Third + year
- On requirements and application process:
 - Bachelor's (Honours) degree 2:1 or above
 - Master's degree - with an overall average of 65% or above, a minimum mark of 65% in your dissertation and no mark below 55%
 - Evidence of English language proficiency
 - Research proposal:
 - 1,500 words (including the references)
 - [PhD Criminology \(2026 entry\) | The University of Manchester](#)



Sample of Current Research Topics

<https://www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/criminology/about/people/>

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Prisons, Periods, and
Reproductive Body
Politics

Perpetrators of
stalking and victim
support

Trans Identities in
Policing

DRUGS

Conservative States
and International
drug policy

Women's access to
drug treatment

Progressive penal
populism &
prohibition of drugs
in Romania

FINANCIAL CRIME

Authorised Push
Payment Fraud and its
control

Anti-money laundering
compliance in banks and
investment firms

Commercial bribery
within the Chinese
context

VIOLENCE

Measuring psychopathy
in Argentina and Chile

Pathways to adolescent
knife-carrying

Frozen conflict &
affirmative biopolitics:
exploring the Cyprus
Problem

VICTIMISATION

Cyber and online
sextortion in
Bangladesh

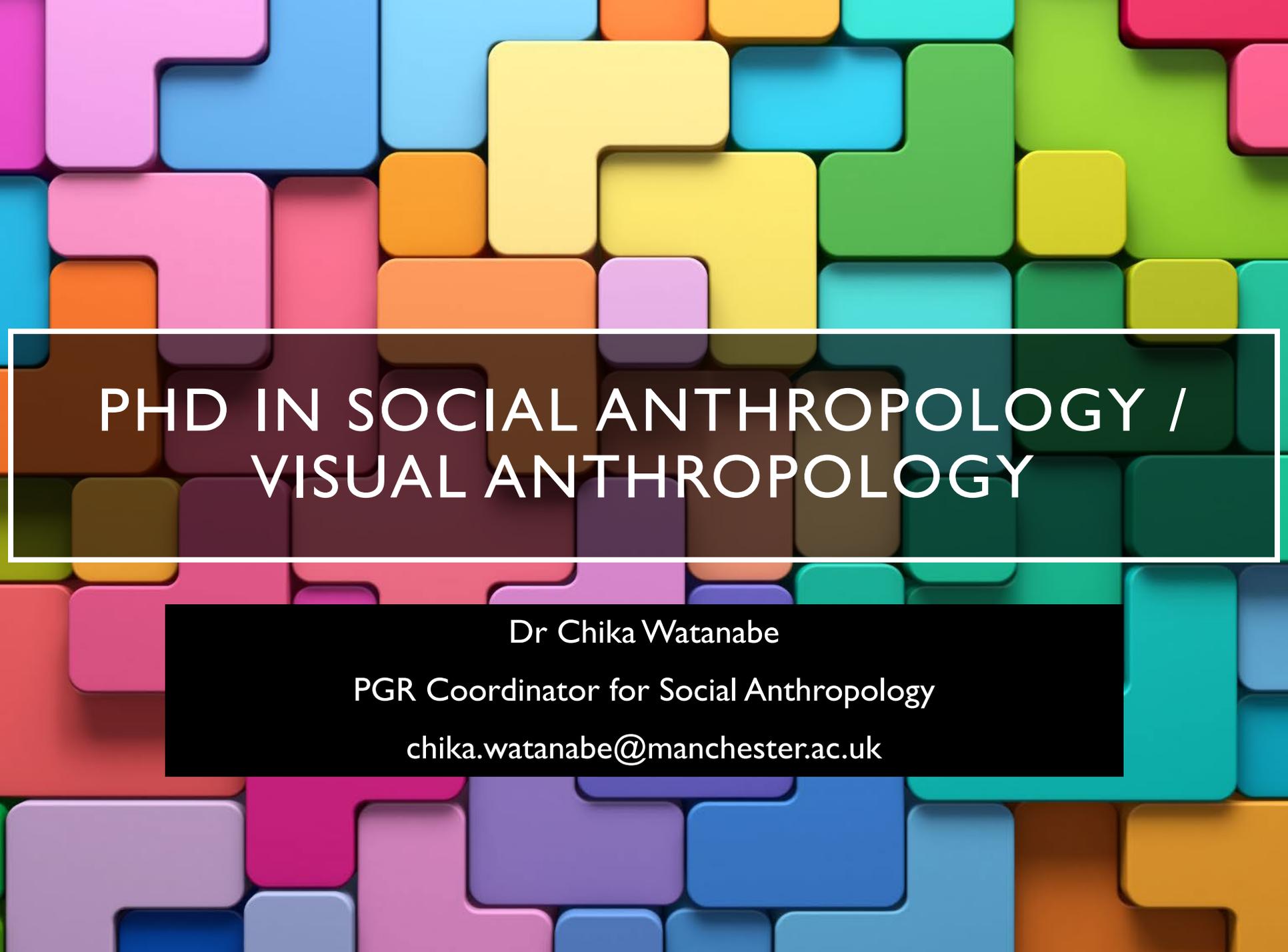
Repeat and Multiple
Victimisation in
Business Cybercrime

Multi-agency
safeguarding responses
to cuckooing



Dr Laura Bui
laura.bui@manchester.ac.uk





PHD IN SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY / VISUAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Dr Chika Watanabe

PGR Coordinator for Social Anthropology

chika.watanabe@manchester.ac.uk

SOCIAL/VISUAL ANTHROPOLOGY AT MANCHESTER

- One the largest departments in the country.
- Ranked top 10 in the UK in REF 2021.
- Research expertise in environment and energy, infrastructure, development, migration, science and technology, class and poverty, etc...
- Granada Centre for Visual Anthropology.

SAMPLE STAFF PROJECTS

- ‘Co-Creative MiND: The Inner Lifeworlds of MND’ by Prof Andrew Irving
- ‘REGeneration: An Ethnographic Study of Energy, Data and Social Change in Net-Zero Britain’ by Prof Hannah Knox
- ‘Tower block failures: high-rise living and global urbanism’ by Dr Connie Smith
- ‘Mimesis in action: nuclear decommissioning as conceptual playground for societal and ecological future making’ by Dr Petra Kalshoven
- ‘Cosmological Visionaries: Shamans, Scientists, and Climate Change at the Ethnic Borderlands of China and Russia’ by Dr Olga Ulturgasheva
- ‘Acts/Crimes of solidarity: an ethnographic study of illegalisation and criminalisation amongst pro-migration activists and other citizens’ by Dr Sébastien Bachelet

<https://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/social-anthropology/research/projects/>

SAMPLE PHD PROJECTS

- **Angelique Michaels:** how unhoused persons navigate the shifting landscape of governance, security and social interventions geared to address homelessness in the city centre and along the Voortrekker Road Central Improvement District.
- **Edward Lindholm:** My PhD project focuses on water activism in Chile and efforts to rearticulate the meaning and value of water in the face of extractivism, the climate crisis, and a constitution that privatises water ownership.
- **Elsayed Elsehamy Abdelhamid:** My doctoral project explores the politics of exile and its contestations in the aftermath of the 2013 military coup in Egypt.



WHY JOIN OUR PROGRAMME?

- Known for being social and collegial!
- Vibrant intellectual community across staff and PGRs.
- Legendary Monday seminars.
- GDAT
- Numerous extracurricular workshops at PGRs' request.
- Support mechanisms for writing (e.g. retreats)

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

- Year 1: Take Issues in Ethnographic Research, PGR Seminar. Guided readings with supervisors. Research proposal, ethics application, and viva.
- Year 2: Fieldwork (or could be done in shorter stints).
- Year 3-4: Writing up (80,000 words Social Anth and 60,000 words + visual output Visual Anth)
- Those on ESRC funding will need to do placements and can do institutional visits.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS (SOCIAL & VISUAL ANTHROPOLOGY)

- Bachelor's (Honours) degree in Social Anthropology or a cognate subject with an overall average of 2:1 (UK 60%) or above (or overseas equivalent); and/or
- Master's degree in Social Anthropology or a relevant subject with a minimum of 65% in the dissertation and overall grade, with no mark below 55% (or overseas equivalent);
- Candidates with only an Undergraduate degree will normally be considered for the 1+3 Programme (integrated MA in Anthropological Research + PhD) and those with a Master's degree for the +3 (PhD only) Programme of study;
- Normally applicants will hold one or both degrees in Social Anthropology.

NEXT STEPS

- Contact a potential supervisor.
- Work on the proposal and get feedback from your potential supervisor.
- If you don't know who you want to work with, contact our Admissions Tutor, Prof Andrew Irving andrew.irving@manchester.ac.uk to inquire about options.



The Sociology PhD Programme

Prof. Nick Thoburn

Sociology Director of Postgraduate Research

Manchester Sociology

- Large department doing some of the most innovative and exciting sociological research to be found anywhere in the world. We have a very high research rating in the national Research Excellence Framework (REF). Around 60 members of academic staff, including research staff
- PhD students (c50) are an important part of our culture and count toward our research reputation
- Our ethos: theory-led social research using diverse methods
- Our research covers the full breadth of contemporary sociology, including: urbanism, personal life, racialization, migration, gender and sexuality, criminality, Social Network Analysis, housing, animals, class, inequality, objects and materials, health, migration, pandemics, ageing, work, music, new media, social movements, decolonialism, feminism, Marxism, creative industries, platform cultures, publishing, consumption, biotechnology, automation, death and dying, youth, and education

Research Culture

- Vibrant research culture with lots of seminars and lectures – in the department, School, and Faculty
- Our PhD students organize an annual Autumn Symposium and an annual Summer Conference, and a more informal Colloquium series, and attend the department's Sociology Seminar where our academic staff present their current research
- Our PhD students are also involved in departmental reading groups (eg the Social Movements Reading Group) and research Centres with links to the department:
 - Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity (CODE)
 - Morgan Centre for Research into Everyday Lives
 - Mitchell Centre for Social Network Analysis
 - Cathie Marsh Institute for Social Research
 - Sustainable Consumption Institute (SCI)
 - Manchester Institute for Collaborative Research on Ageing (MICRA)

Structure of the Degree

- 3.5 years of research. Assessed by thesis of 80,000 words and oral exam
- The course of study varies for each project but typically:
 - Year 1: Clarifying research questions; literature review; designing research and planning; obtaining ethics approval; presentation in PhD Colloquium and/or Symposium
 - Year 2: Fieldwork; gathering data; sorting, coding; analysis
 - Year 3: Drafting chapters; clarifying the argument; positioning what has been found in context; national or international conference presentation; start writing a journal article
 - Year 3.5: Complete writing thesis; complete writing a journal article

Supervision and Training

- Our students are supervised by two academic members of staff, and meet every 2 or 3 weeks for an hour
- Supervisions are typically based on a piece of writing, from the start of the programme and throughout - e.g. research design plans, reviews of literature, reflective pieces on data, ideas for chapters, draft chapters, draft articles
- Our training structure combines individual supervision with a fortnightly PhD Workshop, which covers the more generic skills of postgraduate research, including literature search, ethics review, writing for publication, short-form writing, preparing for the oral exam

How to Apply

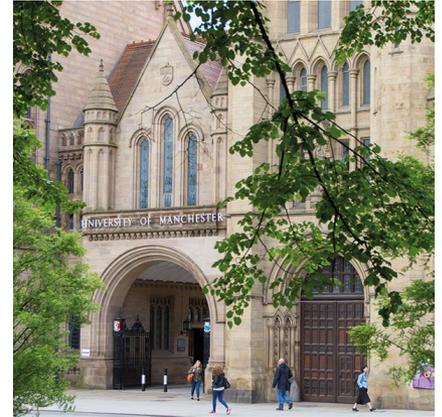
- Draft a paragraph or two and a working title which outlines your intended PhD research focus and your methods. This is your chance to catch the eye of potential supervisors, so it should be engaging and exciting
- Consult our Sociology staff pages to find one or two potential supervisors with specialism in your area and write to inquire if they may be interested in supervising your project: <https://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/sociology/about/people/>
- Our staff are often supervising at or near capacity, so don't be disheartened if a particular supervisor isn't available
- If a supervisor is interested, they will help you find a second supervisor and invite you to draft a 1,500 word proposal, and will give feedback on your draft. Follow the guidance for the structure of the proposal on the School PhD applications website
- Formal application and interview in December or January

Contacts

- Sociology's PhD Admissions Tutor is Prof. Graeme Kirkpatrick. Please contact Graeme should you require further information about application:
- graeme.kirkpatrick@manchester.ac.uk

- Or if you have any questions about today's presentation or the department, please contact me, Nick Thoburn:
- n.thoburn@manchester.ac.uk

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A PhD in Social Statistics at the University of Manchester

October 2025

www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/social-statistics/

www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/social-statistics/about/news/

Social Statistics PhD Areas.....

Ageing

Civic Engagement

Data and Methods

Ethnicity and Religion

Lifelong Health

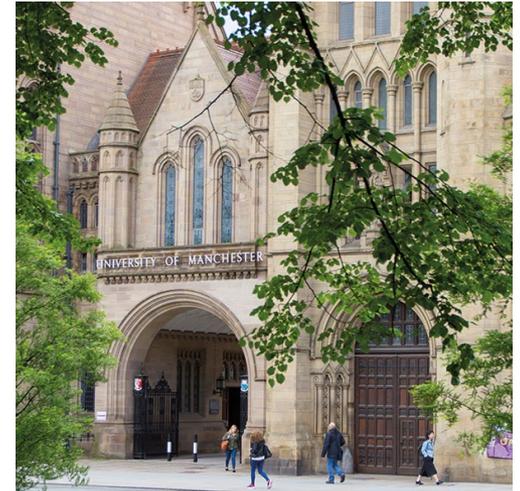
Migration and Population Change

Social Mobility and Inequalities

Social Networks

Survey Research Methods

Work and Employment



Reasons To Study For A PhD.....

- *Study an area that interests you – unique opportunity.*
- *Develop your critical and analytical skills.*
- *Conduct a piece of research that hopefully makes a difference in the world.*
- *Write, present and publish your own research.*
- *Meet and work with interesting and inspiring people.*
- *Professional skills and stepping stone for future career.*
- *Your own reasons?*

PhDs – Example Past Projects

The Politics of Poverty and Policy Evaluation.

Representation of Ethnic Minorities in the UK Parliament.

Changes over the Life Course and the Association with Stressful Jobs.

The Role of Moderators and User-Contributors in the Development of Community Norms on Reddit.

Developing Measures of Disclosure Risk and Utility for Synthetic Data.

The Prevalence of Under-Nutrition Among Children Under-5 in The Sudan.

Evaluating the Merits of Survey and Observational Data in National Election Studies.

Tackling Homelessness.

PhD Timetable

- Year 1 – Research planning, literature review, training, ethical approval.
- Year 2 – Empirical research (data collection, analysis, coding), training, teaching, work placement.
- Year 3/4 - Write up, conferences, publishing, teaching, funding applications, Post-Doc, jobs.

PhD Programme

- Supervision arrangements – 2 academic supervisors.
- 6th Month Review.
- Annual Review.
- Training - University of Manchester, external ESRC – NWSSDTP.
- Work placements.
- Teaching opportunities.

Research Environment and Support

- You will be working in a vibrant community of PhD students (@25) in Social Statistics, Data Analytics, Biosocial Research and Sociology.
- You will have two supervisors and access to a range of support services.
- You will have your own desk, computer, study space and common room.
- You will be able to join in the research and social activities of the Department, such as seminars, research away-days, summer schools, conferences and you will have an opportunity to teach.
- Professional development training will be part of the PhD.
- You will be able to apply for work placements to enhance your research and career development.

Research groups seminars.

School of Social Sciences seminars.

Training opportunities and auditing (University of Manchester and external courses).

My Learning Essentials:

<https://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/training/my-learning-essentials/>

Research support funding.

English Language Support.

Work placements (ESRC/Other Funding).

Places to study.

Teaching experience.

PhD Social Statistics and School of Social Sciences
social events.

Social - Lunchtime free concerts at the Royal Northern
College of Music (over the road from HBS).

<https://www.rncm.ac.uk/series/thursday-lunchtimes/>

Social Statistics Research



UK Data Service expertise helps government listen to researchers on the future of health data

8 Sep 2025

Work led by Professor Vanessa Higgins (Professor of Data Literacy in the Social Sciences and Service Director of Training and User Support, UK Data ...

[Read more](#) >



KOSTAT-UNFPA Population Seminar 2025

29 Aug 2025

Held in Seoul, the seminar brought together 30 international scholars for a week of intensive workshops. The training was methodologically rigorous ...

[Read more](#) >



Experts reveal how migration between South America and Europe has changed

8 Aug 2025

A new study from experts at The University of Manchester has uncovered how people have moved between South America and Europe over the past 35 years, ...

[Read more](#) >

Social Statistics Research



Research into the affordability of funerals highlighted by the BBC

13 Oct 2023

New research into the affordability of funerals in the UK by K. Purdam, G. Chatzi and A.M. Nicoricu from the University of Manchester has been ...

[Read more](#) >



Research - Gender Equality Index

12 Oct 2023

New research by staff from Social Statistics has reviewed the methodology of one of the most comprehensive indices of gender equality, the Gender ...

[Read more](#) >



Children do better at school if their fathers read and play with them

20 Sep 2023

Fathers can give their children an educational advantage at primary school by reading, drawing and playing with them, according to a new report ...

[Read more](#) >

Social Statistics Research



New book by Professor Jackie Carter from Social Statistics highlights the value of work placements

23 Feb 2022

Work Placements, Internships & Applied Social Research, published by Sage, showcases how you can use a work placement to develop your research ...

[Read more >](#)



Research by Social Statistics staff on food insecurity and the costs of essential goods and services cited in The Independent

22 Feb 2022

Research into food insecurity by Dr. K. Purdam and colleagues in Social Statistics has been cited in The Independent. The research first documented ...

[Read more >](#)

SAGE journals



New research highlights how to more accurately capture data on crime using surveys

21 Feb 2022

As part of the ESRC research grant Recounting Crime, Alexandru Cernat, David Buil-Gil, Ian Brunton-Smith, Jose Pina-Sánchez, Marta Murrià-Sangenís...

[Read more >](#)

Social Statistics Research



Economic impacts of the Covid-19 Pandemic on ethnic minorities in Manchester

30 May 2023

New research led by Arkadiusz Wiśniowski, Ruth Allen, Andrea Aparicio-Castro, Wendy Olsen Wendy and Maydul Islam from the University of Manchester ...

[Read more >](#)



Are ethnic and religious minority voters key to election success?

4 May 2023

New research led by experts from The University of Manchester, the University of St Andrews, the University of Essex and the University of Nottingham ...

[Read more >](#)



Research - Analysing networks of networks

2 May 2023

New research highlights the relationship between expert knowledge and social ties in local communities exposed to flood risks. As part of a ...

[Read more >](#)

Alumni and Careers

- Researcher and consultancy careers in the public and private sectors.
- Lectureships and teaching.
- Policy research.

Alumni and Careers

“I completed a PhD in Social Statistics which examined the prevalence and impact of measurement error in self-reported employment status. I am now an Associate Professor in Quantitative Criminology.”

“The PhD provided me with invaluable teaching opportunities on undergraduate, postgraduate and short courses. As a Senior Lecturer in Sociology, I teach a variety of research methods courses.”

“I completed my PhD in Social Statistics, which pursued a quantitative analysis of Home Office crime data. I am now a Senior Lecturer in Criminology.”

“I completed my PhD in Social Statistics in 2014 I am currently Project Director of an NHS Inquiry.”

Alumni and Careers

"I completed a PhD in Social Statistics focused on inequalities in health. I am now a Senior Researcher in health data science and medical statistics."

"I completed my PhD which examined ways of measuring well-being. I am now an Assistant Professor in Statistics."

"I completed a PhD in Social Statistics researching ethnic inequalities and collaborated with the Alan Turing Institute. I am now a Research Associate working on a study of life expectancy."

PGR Support and Guidelines

- PGR Booklet:

<https://livemanchesterac.sharepoint.com/sites/UOM-HUM-DA/PGR-Handbook/SitePages/SOSS.aspx>

- SOSS and University support:

<https://www.itservices.manchester.ac.uk/help/>

www.counsellingservice.manchester.ac.uk

<https://www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/finances/funding-opportunities/all/living-cost-support-fund/>

- Drop in to see the PGR Director.

How To Apply

- Entry Requirements:
<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/programmes/list/02932/phd-social-statistics/>
- Bachelor's (Honours) degree in a cognate subject at 2:1 or above (or overseas equivalent).
- Master's degree in a relevant subject - with an overall average of 65% or above, a minimum mark of 65% in your dissertation and no mark below 55% (or overseas equivalent).

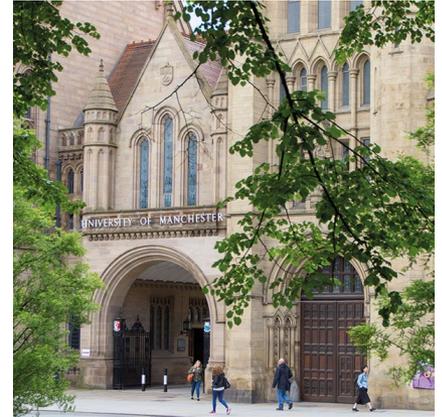
How To Apply

- Draft your research idea outline (1,500 words) (Title, Research Questions, Literature, Methodology and Data).
- Contact a potential supervisor and discuss proposal and possible supervision. Revise proposal.
- Finalise and submit your application on-line:
<https://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/how-to-apply/>

How To Apply and Funding

- Your application also needs to include your CV, two references and your qualification transcripts. See details on-line.
- If you apply by the 1st December your application will be considered for ESRC funding.
- Other funding opportunities may become available earlier next year.
- Some students self-fund their PhD or secure sponsorship from an organization.
- There are often opportunities to teach during your PhD.

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QUESTIONS?

PGR Director: kingsley.purdam@manchester.ac.uk

September 2025