

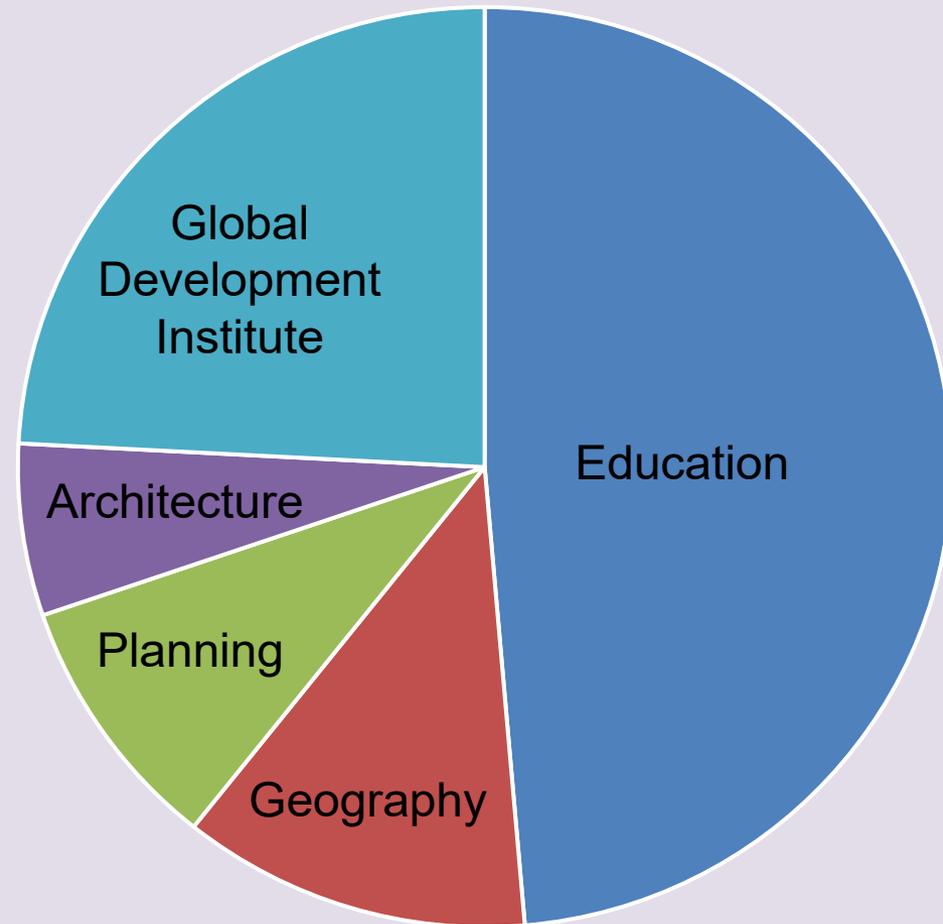
School of Environment, Education and Development (SEED)

Prof Tanja Müller, Director of Postgraduate Research



What is SEED?

*School of Environment,
Education &
Development*



Who are SEED PGR?



SEED Four Guiding Themes

Understanding and responding to the root causes of inequality

Providing theoretical and practical expertise on cities and infrastructure

Revealing insights into environmental change and sustainability

Developing digital methods, perspectives and solutions.

Faculty of Humanities Key Themes and Research Priorities

Inequalities (including Ageing, Children and Young People, Employment and Productivity, Environment, Ethnicity and Racism, Health and Social Care and Poverty and deprivation, migration, and governance)

Resilient Communities

Digital Media and Culture

AI, New Technologies and Society



MANCHESTER ARCHITECTURE
RESEARCH GROUP

- INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH
- ARCHITECTURE AS A SOCIAL PRACTICE
AND A SOCIO-TECHNICAL NETWORK
- PROCESSES OF URBANISATION



MANCHESTER ARCHITECTURE
RESEARCH GROUP

RESEARCH TOPICS: ARCHITECTURAL HUMANITIES

- architecture, art, media and events;
- architecture and climate; material and energy transition;
- architectural curation and exhibitions;
- British Empire and postcolonial histories;
- environmental histories and environmental justice;
- history of the architectural discipline and profession;
- institutions of higher education, science and technology;



MANCHESTER ARCHITECTURE
RESEARCH GROUP

RESEARCH TOPICS: SOCIAL SCIENCES

- architecture and the implications of an aging society;
- design studies, techniques and media;
- everyday use and users;
- political economy of architecture and politics of design;



MANCHESTER ARCHITECTURE
RESEARCH GROUP

RESEARCH TOPICS: URBAN STUDIES

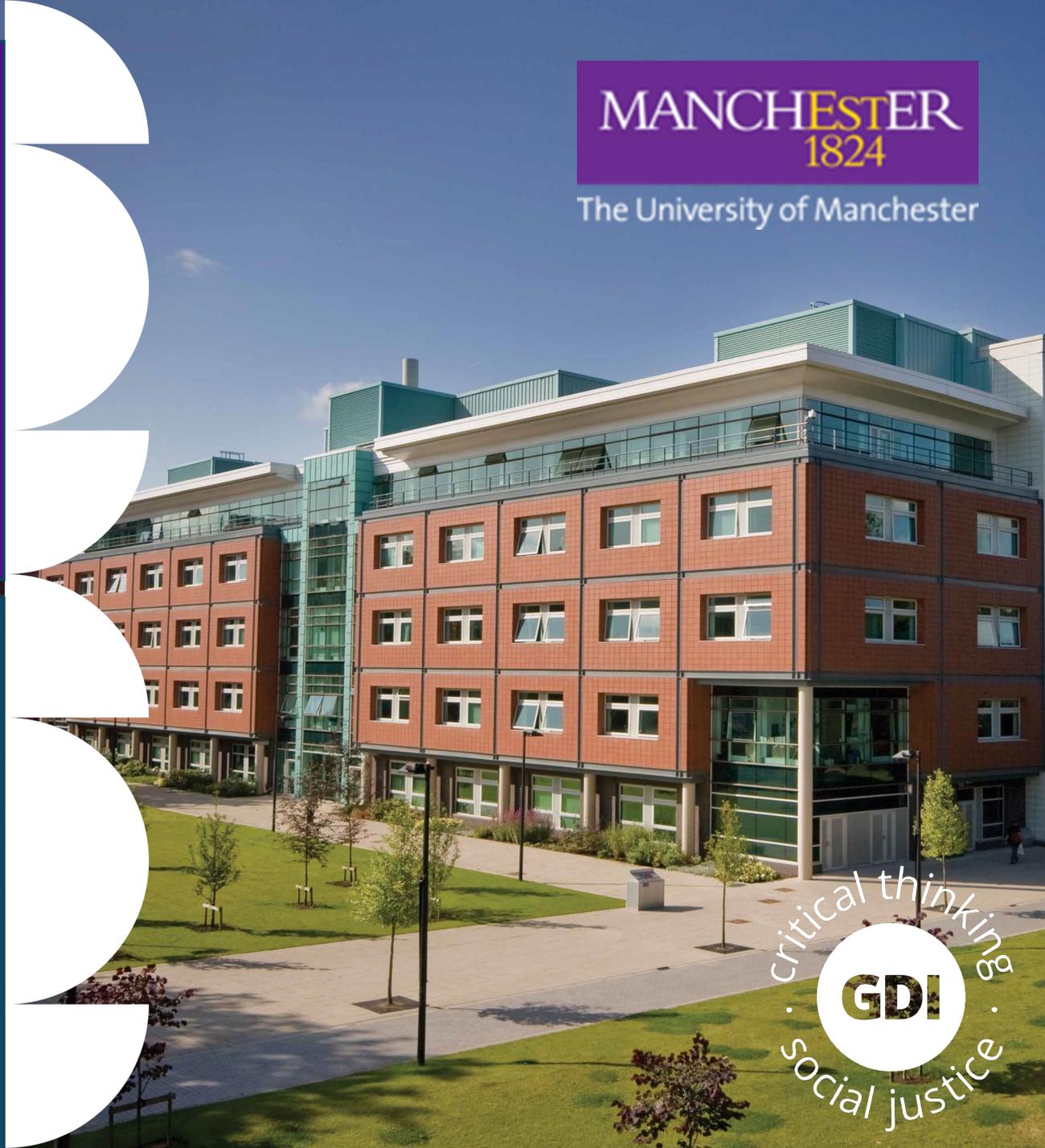
- social practices and material politics of infrastructure and urbanism;
- urban infrastructure and global transformations.

The Global Development Institute

PGR Open Day
Tuesday, 28 October 2025
Dr Osman Ouattara

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester



Postgraduate Research at The Global Development Institute

Two PhD Programmes

• Development Policy and Management PhD

Caters for those students wishing to focus on the analysis and improvement of development policy and management.

• Development Studies PhD

➤ Development Studies stream

For those who wish to study development as a process of historical social change, with social, political and environmental, as well as economic dimensions.

➤ Development Economics stream

For those looking to have their expertise in development economics



The Rory and Elizabeth Brooks Doctoral College

- **Candidates pursuing research degrees at GDI are part of the Rory and Elizabeth Brooks Doctoral College, a multidisciplinary research community.**
- **The Rory and Elizabeth Brooks Doctoral College is also the first philanthropically funded doctoral college in the UK with support from the Rory and Elizabeth Brooks Foundation.**
- **It provides opportunities for up to 100 early career researchers and bolsters the University's commitment to addressing global inequalities and making a difference to the lives of people living in poverty.**
- **The Brooks Doctoral College aspires to be a world-class community of doctoral researchers contributing to socially just global development through the research of its members and their progression into leadership roles in public, private and civic institutions.**



Research centred around seven interdisciplinary research groups

Digital
Development

Migration,
refugees and
asylum

Global urban
futures

Growth and
distribution

Politics,
governance
and
management

Global
production
networks,
trade and
labour

Resources,
environment &
development

www.gdi.manchester.ac.uk/research/groups/

Research Approach:

1. Producing and *co-producing* research that extends knowledge frontiers.
2. Ensuring our research has a positive impact on policy and practice.
3. Educating future generations of researchers and development leaders, through research-led teaching.

Master Classes



Social Events



Funding

- School of Environment, Education and Development PhD Studentships 2026 Entry: <https://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/funding/list-of-awards/seed-pgr-studentships/>
- University of Manchester Joint Award – China Scholarship Council 2026 Entry: <https://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/funding/list-of-awards/university-of-manchester-joint-award-china-scholarship-council/>
- Trudeau Doctoral Scholarship 2026 Entry: <https://www.trudeaufoundation.ca/become-a-scholar>
- Commonwealth PhD Scholarships: <https://cscuk.fcdo.gov.uk/scholarships/commonwealth-phd-scholarships-for-least-developed-countries-and-vulnerable-states/>
- Commonwealth PhD Scholarships For High Income Countries: <https://cscuk.fcdo.gov.uk/scholarships/commonwealth-phd-scholarships-for-high-income-countries/>
- School of Environment, Education and Development Enhancing Racial Equality (SERE) Scholarship 2026 Entry: <https://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/funding/list-of-awards/sere-scholarship/>

Thank You!

PhD in Geography



28th November 2025

Saskia Warren – Human Geography

and

Abi Stone – Physical Geography

Where, what and who...



geographyuom
Arthur Lewis Building

...



<https://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/geography/research/>

Geography / Research

< Geography

✓ Research

Groups

Impact

Postgraduate research

Publications

Projects

Research

Established more than 125 years ago, Geography at Manchester is in the top tier of Geography departments in the world.

We're home to a dynamic group of researchers who are exploring a diverse range of cultural, economic, urban, and political global challenges and are renowned for their high-quality contributions to the international research community.



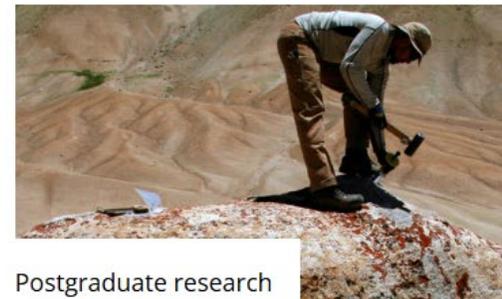
Groups

We concentrate our research in five specialist areas to ensure our work has maximum impact.



Impact

Our research influences and engages with the wider community, in Manchester and beyond.



Postgraduate research

Our research community is a dynamic resource to the SEED agenda across all our disciplines.



Projects

View our Geography projects.

<https://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/geography/about/people/>

43 academic staff
+ post-docs, research
fellows, research
associates, PGRs

Our research groups



Cities, Politics and Economies (CPEG)

Working at the interface of urban, political, economic, and social and cultural geography.



Environmental Processes (EPRG)

Understanding fundamental processes and their relation to contemporary environmental challenges.



Mapping, Computing and Geographical Information Science

Facilitating collaboration between colleagues from geographical sub-disciplines involving GIS and mapping.



Quaternary Environments and Geoarchaeology (QEG)

Exploring Quaternary climate changes and landscape dynamics in diverse global systems.



Society and Environment (SERG)

Developing just, inclusive, and sustainable transitions to future ways of living on earth.

Physical Geography

Past climate and environmental change:

- ecosystem change
- glacial reconstruction (field and remote-sensing)
- dryland environmental change
- geoarchaeology
- river systems

Environmental processes:

- peatlands and ecological resilience
- wildfires and biomass burning
- urban green infrastructure and nature-based solutions
- remote sensing and geospatial analysis of environmental change



Quaternary Environments and Geoarchaeology (QEG)

Exploring Quaternary climate changes and landscape dynamics in diverse global systems.

Christopher Darvill

Will Fletcher

Anna Hughes

Phil Hughes

Abi Stone

Matt Tomkins

Jamie Woodward



Environmental Processes (EPRG)

Understanding fundamental processes and their relation to contemporary environmental challenges.

Gareth Clay

Polyanna Bispo

Matthew Dennis

Angela Harris

Sarah Lindley

James Rothwell

Emma Shuttleworth

Jonny Huck



Mapping, Computing and Geographical Information Science

Facilitating collaboration between colleagues from geographical sub-disciplines involving GIS and mapping.



Cities, Politics and Economies (CPEG)

Working at the interface of urban, political, economic, and social and cultural geography.

Saskia Warren
Jamie Doucette

Sarah Marie Hall
Cristina Temenos

Amy Barron
Martin Hess



Society and Environment (SERG)

Developing just, inclusive, and sustainable transitions to future ways of living on earth.

Saska Petrova
Aurora Fredriksen
Eric Swyngedouw

James Evans
Yawei Zhou
Mark Usher

Karen Lucas
Joe Blakey

Human Geography

Society and Environment:

- Water governance
- Global urbanization,
- Political and energy ecologies
- Climate Change

Cities, Politics, Economies:

- Diverse identities, territories and economies
- Austerity, injustice and inequality
- Alternative, sustainable, and socially just futures
- Policy and political theory

Mapping, Computing and GIS:

- Emergent technologies
- Data analysis
- Data visualisation and software development



Mapping, Computing and Geographical Information Science

Facilitating collaboration between colleagues from geographical sub-disciplines involving GIS and mapping.

Our facilities

We're one of Europe's best-equipped universities for studying geography. Students can access our state-of-the-art laboratories and computer facilities.

Students can learn professional skills such as coding and programming. We offer industry-standard software for image processing, Geographic Information Systems, and cartographic representation.

Our laboratories

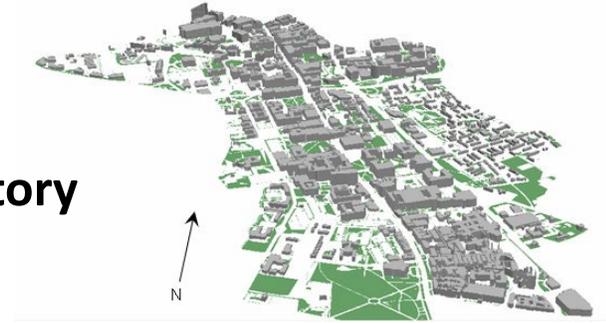
Our laboratories are based in the Arthur Lewis Building. The neighbouring Humanities Bridgeford Street building offers students a dedicated study space. Our extensive store of field equipment can support students' dissertation projects.

For detailed information about our laboratory, field, sampling and analytical equipment, see the [Geography Laboratories blog](#).



- + Main teaching laboratory
- + Microscopy laboratory
- + Sediments and project laboratories
- + Spectroscopy laboratory
- + X-ray laboratory

Physical Geography laboratory facilities



GIS computer suite

Human Geography Virtual Reality Laboratory



Manchester Museum

European Museum of the Year 2025



Equipment to support fieldwork

Fieldwork...

- Many PhD students in Geography undertake fieldwork to gather data
- This can be for extended periods (i.e. months away in Year 2)
- Or this can be for regular short periods throughout the PhD (although mostly in years 1 and 2)
- Fieldwork requirements need to be considered when devising a PhD proposal
- Support in designing fieldwork
- Submit a request, with risk assessment and ethical approval



> Options ▾

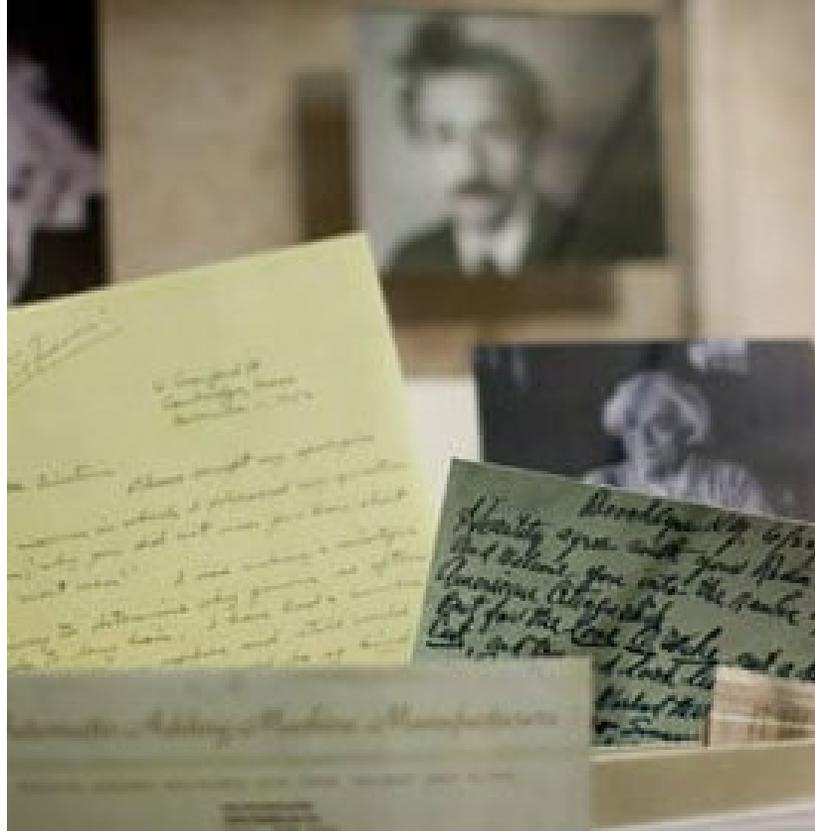
HUMS+: PGR Fieldwork (Gateway)

Application Information

[Apply Now](#)

In order to submit a request for your proposed fieldwork activity, use the 'apply now' button to create an application in My Placement. This will be automatically received by your Doctoral Academy team. If you have any questions about your application or if you need to make a second application for the same term, you should contact your Doctoral Academy.

An application should be submitted at least 6 weeks in advance of the expected Study Away or Fieldwork . If you have been provided with a deadline, please submit before that date.



Data collection approaches are varied...

- Archival research
- Remotely-sensed data
- Creative methods and site-specific interventions

If you are thinking of applying...

- 1) Approach a potential PhD supervisor
- 2) Develop a proposal: it helps to get feedback from a potential supervisor
- 3) Look out for information about Admissions process: other information sessions from HUMS DA and online
- 4) Consider funding sources
 - SEED and ESRC scholarships process
 - Other sources of funding

How to apply

Before you submit your application, we recommend that you read all guidance fully, so that you know what to expect when you apply to us.

To apply for any programme in the Humanities Doctoral Academy, you must complete and submit the [online application form](#).

Please ensure to include all required supporting documents with your application. A list of required documents is given on the application and selection tab of each programme page.

How to apply

Read full guidance on the application process.

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

<https://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/how-to-apply/>

Approaching a potential PhD supervisor

Geography Staff List

<https://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/geography/about/people/>

Or via Research Groups

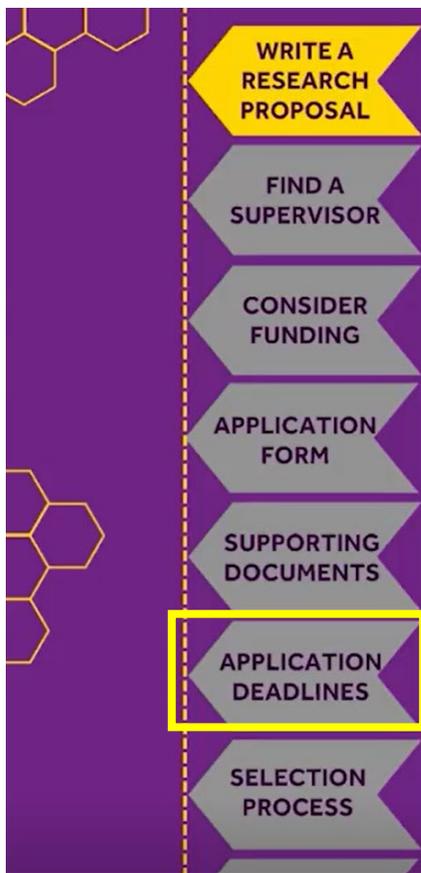
<https://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/geography/research/groups/>

- **Be clear about your ideas** and why you have contacted someone to potentially supervise you.
- Don't be disheartened if people say 'no', often the reason is because of workload and capacity
- Consider if the application makes for a **good fit with the department and UoM**
- You might be asked:
 - who else you have contacted (their colleagues)
 - your educational background (UG and PG grades)/ CV
 - any related experience and skills you may have

Developing a research proposal

- It is important to **maintain contact** with your chosen potential supervisors
- This will naturally happen with them reading and commenting on your proposal
- Usual to have 2 or 3 **iterations of the proposal**: needs to be PGR-led but shaped to institutional/departmental expertise
- Keep in mind application deadlines (particularly those for funding)





Now

If you want to be considered for funding

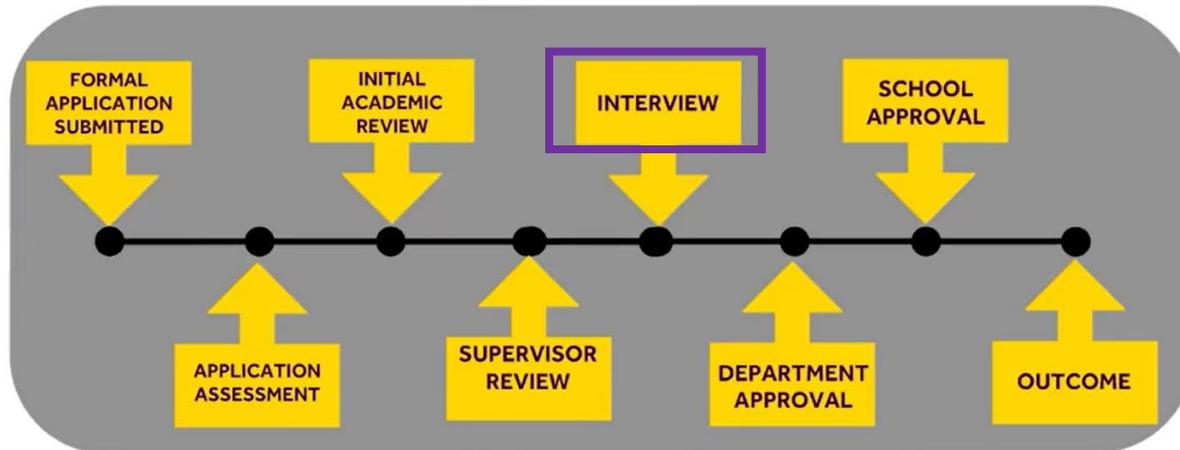
12th Jan China Scholarship Council

19th Jan 2026 UoManchester, SEED funding

2nd Feb 2026 ESRC NWDTPNWDTP

Look out for other funding schemes:

- Manchester-Melbourne joint PhD
- ESRC CASE awards
- Commonwealth scholarships
- Trudeau Doctoral Scholarships for Canadian students (Nov 17th deadline)



Interview (by end February)
with your proposed supervisor and independent interviewer

Funding (SEED) competition
Ranking by end March
Panel meets in April

ANY
QUESTIONS?



Funding



Section 9 of your application

- **SEED scholarships** 1 or 2 per year for each of Human Geography and Physical Geography
- **ESRC open competition (through NWSSDTP) Human Geography** <https://nwssdtp.ac.uk/>
Social Science/ Human Geography: Consortium of the Universities of Keele, Lancashire, Lancaster, Liverpool, and Manchester
- **China Scholarship Council (CSC)**

Other sources

- **ESRC CASE awards (through NWSSDTP)**
Look out for advertised studentships from academic + non-HEI partner (their proposal deadline is 3rd November, so after then, but before they nominate a student 10th April 2026)
- **Manchester-Melbourne Scholarships** look out for website updates on **suggested projects** and timelines <https://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/golden/melbourne/apply/>
- **External funding for International Students**
Commonwealth scholarships
Trudeau Doctoral Scholarships for Canadian students (Nov 17th deadline)
- **Alternative Guide to Postgraduate Funding** <https://www.postgraduate-funding.com/>

The SEED Scholarships: criteria



- The SEED scholarships are offered according to precise (though interpretative) criteria, which mirror those of the ESRC
- Because of the 50-50 weighting in the criteria between proposal quality and academic track record, applicants with a 2ii or below at undergrad or pass at Masters are very unlikely to be funded
- Proposal quality criteria:
 - 1) *quality and feasibility of the research question,*
 - 2) *engagement with the field,*
 - 3) *appropriateness of methodology*
 - 4) *critical appreciation of sources.*
- The criteria also ask: “How well does the application fit with the School and Department research strategy, with relevant Research Groups, and with the supervisory team?”

**DEPARTMENT OF
PLANNING,
PROPERTY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT
PHD
PROGRAMME**

SEED PGR virtual open day

Dr Amy Y. Zhang

Lecturer in Urban Planning

PGR disciplinary coordinator for PPEM

RESEARCH GROUPS AND THEMES & INTERDISCIPLINARITY

Spatial Policy and Analysis	Environment, Policy and Place	Real Estate and Urban Economics
Digital planning and decision support	Environmental risks, resilience, and uncertainty	Housing markets
Land use and urbanisation	Green infrastructure	Commercial property markets
Regeneration and community	Designing healthy and accessible places	Political economy of real estate
Spatial inequalities, policy and governance	Environmental impact assessment and sustainability assessment techniques	Real estate finance and investment
Transport and mobility	Responses to environmental change	Urban and environmental economics

<https://www.seed.manchester.ac.uk/planning/research/groups/>

RECENT PHD THESES

- Sustainable spatial rebalancing for Northern England: alternative models and future scenarios
- Assessing the role of housing association regeneration activity in tackling health inequalities in Greater Manchester
- A conceptual design framework of public open spaces in heritage sites
- Utilisation of brownfield sites for renewable energy generation in building sustainable cities
- Planning for shrinking cities in China: from a new institutionalism perspective
- Green infrastructure as a tool for climate change adaptation and greenhouse gas emission mitigation strategies in European cities
- Patterns of spatial inequality and residential segregation in Indian cities
- Simulating the behaviours of urban negotiators using agent-based modelling
- Mapping the spatial and socio-technical dynamics of the food-energy-water nexus: evidence from Greater Cairo Region
- E-commerce, rural entrepreneurship and the restructuring of rural society in western China

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Academic entry qualification overview
Bachelor's (Honours) degree at 2:1 or above (or overseas equivalent); and
Master's degree in a relevant subject - with an overall average of 65% or above, a minimum mark of 65% in your dissertation (or overseas equivalent)
- English language
IELTS test minimum score - 7.0 overall, 7.0 in writing, 6.0 in other sections.
TOEFL (internet based) test minimum score - 100 overall, 25 in all sections.
Pearson Test of English (PTE) UKVI/SELT or PTE Academic minimum score - 76 overall, 76 in writing, 70 in other sections.
To demonstrate that you have taken an undergraduate or postgraduate degree in a majority English speaking nation within the last 5 years.

CONTACT US

- CV and research proposal
- ~ 30 academic staff who accept PhD students, see academic profiles:
<https://www.seed.manchester.ac.uk/planning/about/people/>
- Not sure who to contact?
- E-mail CV and research proposal to: PGR-planning@manchester.ac.uk