



The University of Manchester

FACULTY OF BIOLOGY, MEDICINE AND HEALTH
POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH

'PREPARING FOR A POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH INTERVIEW'

3 DECEMBER 2025



TODAY'S PANEL



CHRISTIAN WARD

Host; Marketing and
Recruitment Officer



REBECCA COLEMAN

Recruitment and
Admissions Coordinator



PROF JULIE GIBBS

Senior Research Fellow;
Division of Diabetes,
Endocrinology and
Gastroenterology



SURAIYA

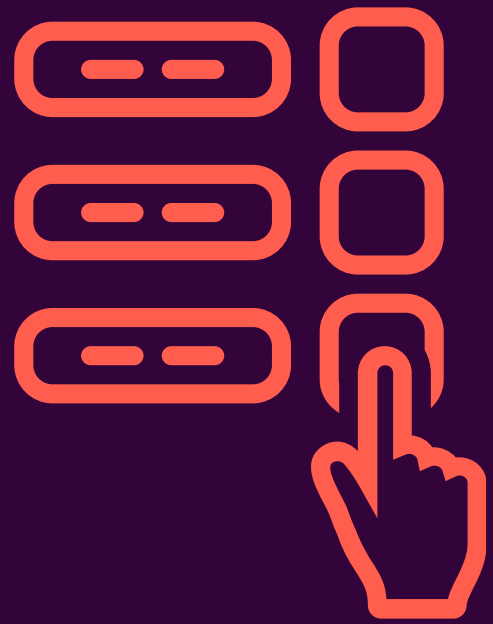
Postgraduate Researcher



NERYS

Postgraduate researcher

POLL



WHAT STAGE OF THE PGR JOURNEY ARE YOU AT?

LET US KNOW VIA THE POLL



STARTING YOUR JOURNEY TO PGR



PREPARING FOR A POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH INTERVIEW



PROF JULIE GIBBS

Senior Research Fellow

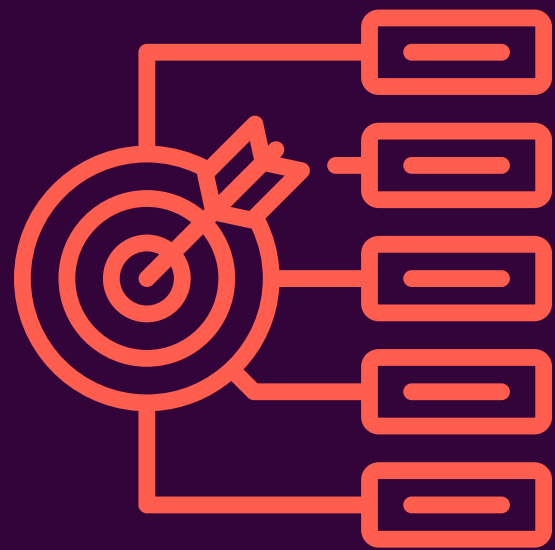
Division of Diabetes, Endocrinology and Gastroenterology

Senior PGR Tutor

Panel member MRC DTP Interviews

FORMAL INTERVIEW EXPECTATIONS

VARIES BY PROJECT/PROGRAMME



PURPOSE

- Assess motivation for pursuing a PhD
- Evaluate understanding of research area/project
- Determine suitability for the research environment



QUESTIONS

- Your academic background
- Your research experience
- Why this project, supervisor and institution?
- How do you plan to approach the project?
- Problem-solving/scenario-based questions



STRUCTURE/FORMAT

- Typically 30 minutes
- Online/virtual
- Panel of 3-5 academics; may/may not include the proposed supervisor
- Presentation, interview questions, and opportunity for you to ask questions



PRESENTATION

- Short presentation, typically 5-10 minutes
- Powerpoint or verbal presentation
- Outlining:
 - research experience
 - your suitability and motivation
 - the project you are interested in
- Always follow what you have been asked to present

PREPARATION TIPS

1

RESEARCH THE PROJECT AND RESEARCH GROUP

2

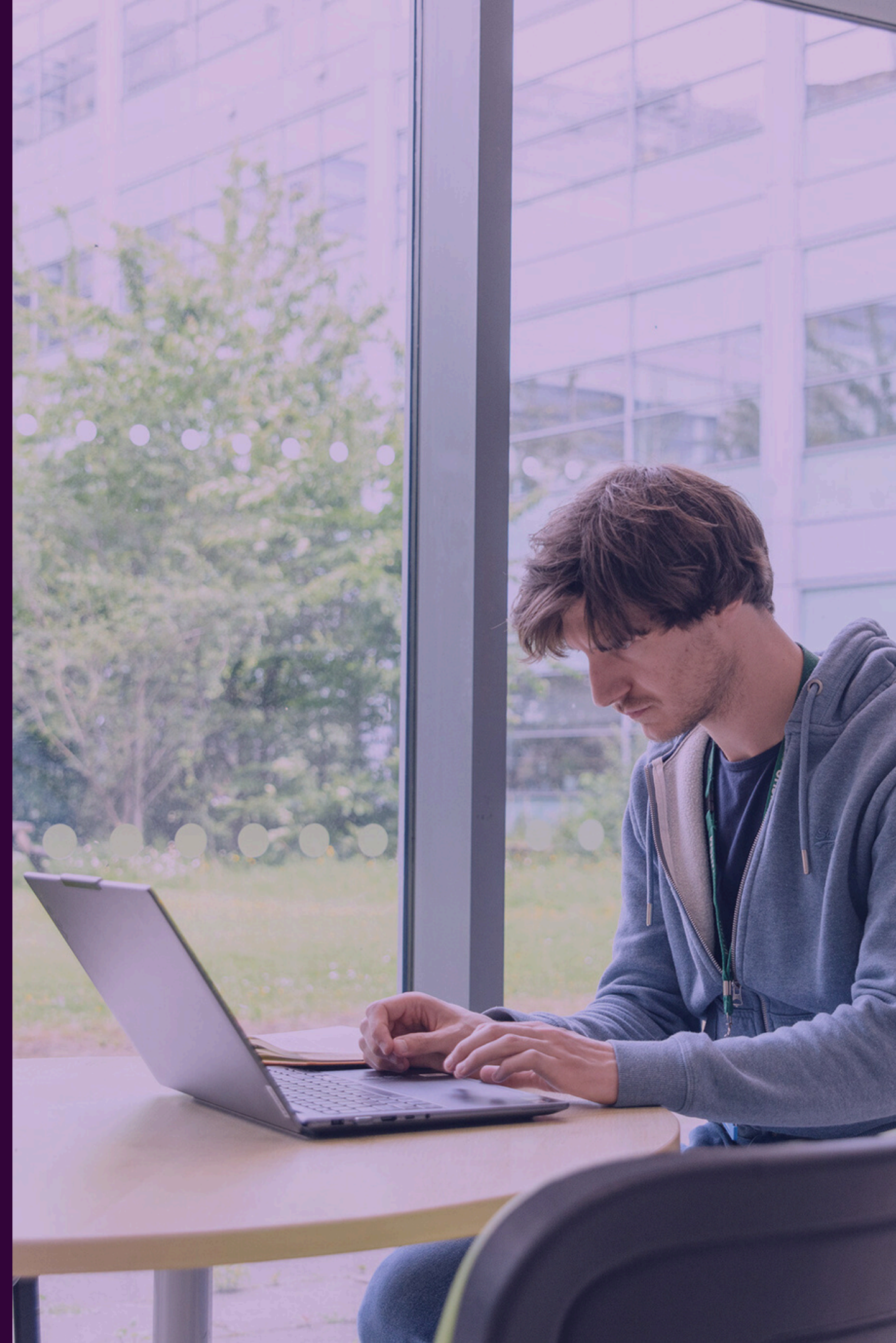
REFLECT ON YOUR APPLICATION, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS

3

PRACTICE YOUR PRESENTATION

4

**PREPARE FOR COMMON QUESTIONS
AND YOUR QUESTIONS FOR THE PANEL**



MEET OUR POSTGRADUATE RESEARCHERS



SURAIYA

Postgraduate Researcher



NERYS

Postgraduate researcher

SURAIYA: MY JOURNEY TO POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH

- Before my PhD
 - Undergraduate at Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, Nigeria
 - Master's at Texas A&M University, Texas, USA
 - Went into industry.
- My journey to PGR
 - Exposure to Nigeria's oil and gas industry revealed significant research opportunities.
- My research
 - Respiratory Protection Programs
- Why Manchester?
 - Chose Manchester due to reputation as part of Russell Group and cultural diversity of the university and city.
- What next?
 - Aiming to work as a consultant in industry in future.



NERYS: MY JOURNEY TO POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH

- Before my PhD
 - Undergraduate degree at University of Warwick
 - Started on Biochemistry BSc, transferred to integrated Masters stream (MBio)
- My journey to PGR
 - Interest in research was developed from a undergraduate summer research project
- My research
 - Regulation of initiation factors involved in the cellular stress response
- Why Manchester?
 - In-house electron microscopy (EM) facility with resources needed for my project
 - Strong commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion
- What next?
 - Aim to continue lab-based research with a postdoctoral research role



PANEL Q&A

GOT A QUESTION FOR OUR PANEL?
ADD IT TO THE Q&A CHAT



NEXT STEPS



**VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO DISCOVER MORE
INCLUDING HOW TO APPLY, AVAILABLE
PROJECTS, FUNDING AND MORE.
[UOM.LINK/BMH-PGR-WEBINAR-MORE](https://uom.link/bmh-pgr-webinar-more)**



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THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

**LET US KNOW YOUR FEEDBACK VIA
OUR POST-EVENT SURVEY**

[UOM.LINK/BMH-PGR-SURVEY](https://uom.link/bmh-pgr-survey)

