MANCHESTER 1824
The University of Manchester

The Ditchley Foundation - Bridging Divides With Graph Networks

#2

PROJECT OVERVIEW

This project revolves around the understanding of people and their networks across areas such as education, climate and politics. You will perform research on individuals, with the information being managed using a knowledge graph. This will allow you to visualise and reflect on the person's network, to understand how they fit into the overall network of all individuals. Innovative techniques will be applied to extract statistics showcasing the strengths and weakness of this network.

The successful researcher will use both qualitative and quantitative skills to provide crucial insights into the people and themes that are shaping society today. This project provides a great opportunity to become immersed in the ethos of Ditchley and to contribute to its goals, developing skills that will prove valuable across a range of future career paths.

PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

Working Arrangement
Fully remote

Selection Method
Interviews will be held online (via Zoom)

SUPPORT AND TRAINING

- Successful applicants will receive considerable research training and support throughout the duration of these projects. Supervision will be led by Dr. Martin C. Smith in collaboration with other members of the Ditchley team.
- You will be introduced to graph databases and learn how to use Neo4j, which is one of the most popular packages. Statistical analyses can be carried out using whichever software you are most comfortable with, from spreadsheets to coding (see Application Criteria and Supporting Information).
- A contribution to travel costs for the celebration event will be offered.
- Further details on the project can be found here: https://tinyurl.com/ditchley-manchester-2026

APPLICATION CRITERIA

ESSENTIAL

- We are looking for applicants with a curious mind who are eager to immerse themselves in the ethos of the Foundation.
- Good research skills.
- Good communication skills.

DESIRABLE

- For this project applicants must have competent quantitative skills, but these could be demonstrated in various ways, for example in coding ability (e.g. Python or R), experience with statical software (e.g. SPSS), or simply having advanced analytic skills with spreadsheets. Note that we do not expect all of the above - these just give a flavour of the type of skills that we are looking for.