

Greater Manchester Combined Authority - Contextualising Greater Manchester's Innovation Performance

#8

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS) sets out Greater Manchester's vision for the next decade, to make Greater Manchester a thriving city region where everyone can live a good life.

The GMS explains that growing our economy will be foundational to achieving this. Factors underlying GM's current growth trajectory exemplify how this can be done, with the strategy highlighting 'the growth of new industries, innovation and spin-outs from our universities'. Looking forward, the strategy commits the GMCA to 'working with businesses to ensure they have the right support to flourish – including funding to drive innovation and productivity'. To design effective innovation policy and secure public funding, it is essential that we understand the innovation environment GM's businesses are operating in.

At present, we assess Greater Manchester's innovation performance by comparing it with similar geographies or the UK average. However, this does not account for the varied sectoral make-up of these economies. The degree to which innovation uplifts productivity varies across sectors. For example, you would expect higher productivity outcomes resulting from innovation within a higher tech business than a lower tech one. This means we cannot realistically assess GM's innovation performance in comparison to another economy without accounting for their sectoral make-up.

This project seeks to explore the research question 'how should we benchmark GM's innovation performance?'. This will involve building your understanding of GM's innovation environment and subregional innovation data (such as the Office for National Statistics' Business Expenditure on Research and Development dataset) and then examining innovation intensity by industry to understand how GM's economy compares with similar economies.

You will gain practical experience of undertaking a research project to inform GM's innovation policy, build an understanding of how to approach and analyse data sources to ensure findings are supported by robust evidence, and develop skills in Excel and PowerPoint. There will be the opportunity to present your findings to the Innovation team.

PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS



Organisation and Team

Research



Working Arrangement

Hybrid



Selection Method

Interviews will be held in person
(University of Manchester)

SUPPORT AND TRAINING

- You will be part of the economy and business sub-team within the research team at GMCA. Although you will be directly supported by an analyst, you will be part of a dynamic team of over 40 researchers working across a variety of policy areas and with expertise in a wide range of research methods and tools.
- As part of our team, you will have the opportunity to engage with different colleagues and sub-teams of the research team, as well as other areas across GMCA. You will gain insights into working in research, data analysis, public policy, and local government throughout your internship.
- There is also the possibility of receiving internal training to further develop your technical skills, depending on availability.

APPLICATION CRITERIA

ESSENTIAL

- Enthusiasm to learn about or existing knowledge of quantitative analysis and tools (e.g., Excel, PowerPoint).
- Appreciation of the importance of both attention to detail and seeing the bigger picture.
- Interest in exploring data with a view to answering questions.

DESIRABLE

- Interest in economic development, innovation and/or Greater Manchester.

MORE ABOUT GMCA

Greater Manchester is home to 3 million people, with the UK's fastest growing local economy. The GMCA is made up of the ten Greater Manchester councils and the Mayor, who work with local services, businesses, communities, and other partners to improve the city-region. It is our ambition to make GM a thriving city region where everyone can live a good life.

More information about the GMCA can be found here: <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/>

More information about the research team can be found here:

<https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/research/>

More information about GMCA's economy research can be found here:

<https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/research/research-economy/>