

**'PREPARING TO START
YOUR PHD IN SEPTEMBER'**

24 JUNE 2026

TODAY'S PANEL



CHRISTIAN WARD

Host; Marketing and
Recruitment



KIRSTY EATON

Doctoral Academy -
Recruitment and Admissions



ALBERT JENNINGS

Doctoral Academy -
Progression and Welfare



ROB MOONEY

Student Immigration



DAVINA HOLME

Accommodation



EVA HENNING

Postgraduate researcher



CHHAVI MAHAJAN

Postgraduate researcher

INTRODUCING THE DOCTORAL ACADEMY

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- **Your central hub**
 - Your central hub for support, training and guidance throughout your PhD
 - Supports you from starting your research through to graduation
- **Access tailored training and development**
 - Build research, professional and career skills for your PhD and your future
 - Follow the structured Doctoral Academy Training Programme alongside your PhD
- **Access support**
 - Access wellbeing, pastoral and academic support
 - Speak to advisors and support services when you need
- **Plan and track your progress**
 - Use tools like eProg to plan and monitor your research
 - Keep your research on track towards submission with key milestones
- **Become part of our research community**
 - Connect with more than 1,000 PGRs across the Faculty
 - Get involved in societies, events and peer networks or become a PGR Rep
- **Access guidance and key information**
 - Use the Doctoral Academy website for policies, processes and expectations
 - Access support, training, events and contacts in one place

DOCTORAL
ACADEMY
SUPPORT
HUB

ADMISSIONS

- Accept your offer
- Meet any outstanding conditions:
 - Certificates/transcripts
 - English language
 - ATAS
- Complete right to study
 - Two part process
 - International students only
- Offer holder communications
 - Sent before registration opens in September
 - Links to useful webpages
 - Invite to Facebook group
- Registration
 - From 1 September
 - Complete 10 steps

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CAS, ATAS & STUDENT VISA APPLICATIONS

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- **CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies)**
 - You must have a CAS from the University before you can apply for a Student visa
 - You need to have accepted an unconditional offer of study and completed the Applicant Right to Study check before a CAS can be issued to you
 - Check your draft CAS is correct in MyManchester.
- **ATAS (Academic Technology Approval Scheme)**
 - Your offer letter should confirm if you need ATAS clearance
 - If required, you need to have obtained ATAS before you can get your CAS
 - Applications take at least 30 working days, so apply as soon as possible and ensure the information you provide is accurate.
- **Student visa**
 - Standard applications take 3 weeks. You can pay extra for priority processing.
 - Prepare your supporting documents using our guidance.
 - Self-funded applicants must have held enough money to cover your first year's tuition and living expenses in your bank account for 28 days.
 - Other documents you may need include: TB certificate, sponsorship letter, official translations, birth certificate & a signed consent letter.



ACCOMMODATION

APPLICATION TO ACCEPTANCE

CATERING & BATHROOMS

LOCATION & COST

davina.holme@manchester.ac.uk

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ACCOMMODATION

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Square Gardens, Central Manchester



Ashburne Hall, Fallowfield, Manchester

ACCOMMODATION APPLICATION TO ACCEPTANCE

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**Prospective students...apply online
after receiving an offer to study**



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LOGIN

REGISTER

UNIVERSITY ID NUMBER (7 OR 8 DIGITS)

PASSWORD

[Forgotten your password?](#)

LOG IN

ACCOMMODATION

You...apply online
after receiving an offer to study

We...allocate and offer
from spring onwards

You...accept
4 days, £400 and T&Cs

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ACCOMMODATION WEEKLY COST & LET LENGTHS

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£147 - £313 (self-catered - ensuite)

£178 - £189 (catered - shared)

41, 42 or 51 weeks

What's included?

Utility bills, insurance, bike sheds, wi-fi +
ResLife support, advice and guidance



ACCOMMODATION QUESTIONS

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Website: accommodation.manchester.ac.uk

Email: accommodation@manchester.ac.uk



WHAT TO EXPECT AND HOW TO PREPARE

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- **Prepare for your arrival**
 - Sort your accommodation, travel to Manchester and logistics
 - Check emails and ensure you have what you need in place
- **Understand what's expected of you**
 - Prepare for a more independent way of working
- **Speak to your supervisor and research group**
 - Send a short message to say hello, if you haven't been in touch recently
 - Begin building your relationship with your supervisor early
 - See if it's possible to engage with colleagues in your research group
- **Do some light reading in your area (but only if you want)**
 - Get a feel for the field
 - Browse a few key papers or topics related to your area
 - Avoid doing anything too in-depth
- **Reflect on how you work best**
 - Consider what helps your productivity
 - Think about your environment, tools, techniques and habits
- **Give yourself space to enjoy the moment**
 - Don't feel pressure to rush into research
 - Take time to enjoy your summer before you begin



KEY DATES

AUGUST

26 August
Offer holder webinar
'Arriving in
Manchester'

31 August
Accommodation
application deadline

SEPTEMBER

From 1 September
Registration opens
and joining instruction
email sent

21 September
Welcome Week at
Manchester

OCTOBER

1 October
Doctoral Academy
induction

MEET OUR POSTGRADUATE RESEARCHER



EVA HENNING

Division of Population
Health, Health Services
Research and Primary Care

MY JOURNEY TO POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH

- **About me**

- First-year PhD student from Ireland
- PhD is in collaboration with a pharmaceutical industry

- **Researching/funding**

- MRC DTP iCase (4 -year studentship)
- Epidemiology and Medical Statistics PhD: focusing on a rare autoimmune disease (myositis)

- **Background**

- BSc (Hons) Biomedical Sciences, UoM
- MSc Precision Medicine, UoM

- **Motivation for doing a PhD**

- Aiming for a career requiring a PhD qualification
- A need to gain as much experience under experts as possible

- **Why Manchester?**

- Previously worked with my primary supervisor at UoM
- Main driver being Manchester's internationally recognised myositis research group



MEET OUR POSTGRADUATE RESEARCHER



CHHAVI MAHAJAN

Division of Musculoskeletal
and Dermatological Sciences

MY JOURNEY TO POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH

- **About me**

- Second-year international PhD student from India.
- Passionate about translational research.

- **Researching/funding**

- NIHR BRC Funded Studentship
- PhD in Clinical Sciences: Exploring Cancer Risk in Idiopathic Inflammatory Myopathies

- **Background**

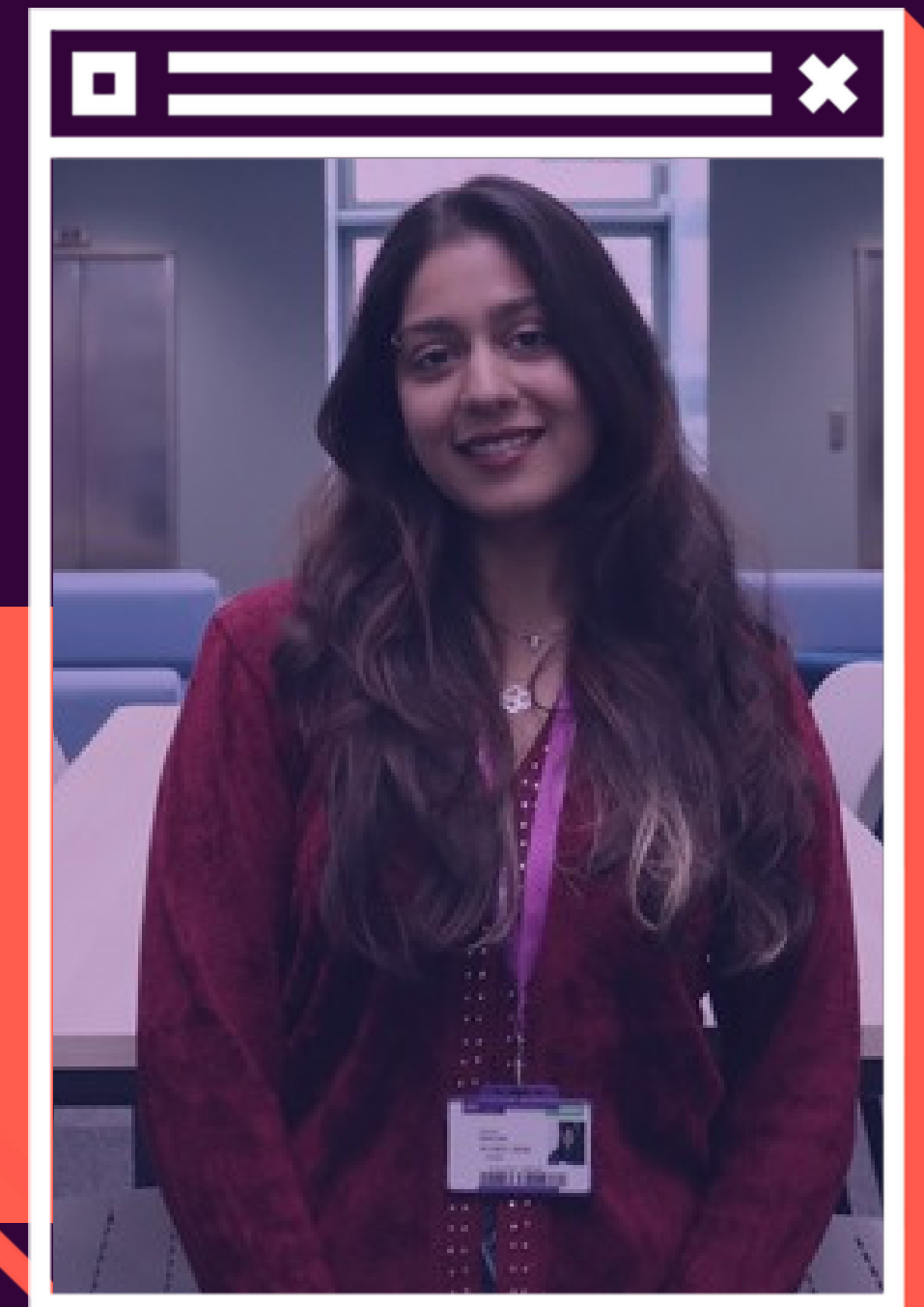
- MRes in Cancer Biology at Imperial College, London
- BSc (Hons) in Biotechnology with 1 year of Industrial Experience, UoM

- **Motivation for doing a PhD**

- Wanted to be rooted in a research environment, where new ideas are constantly developed and challenged.

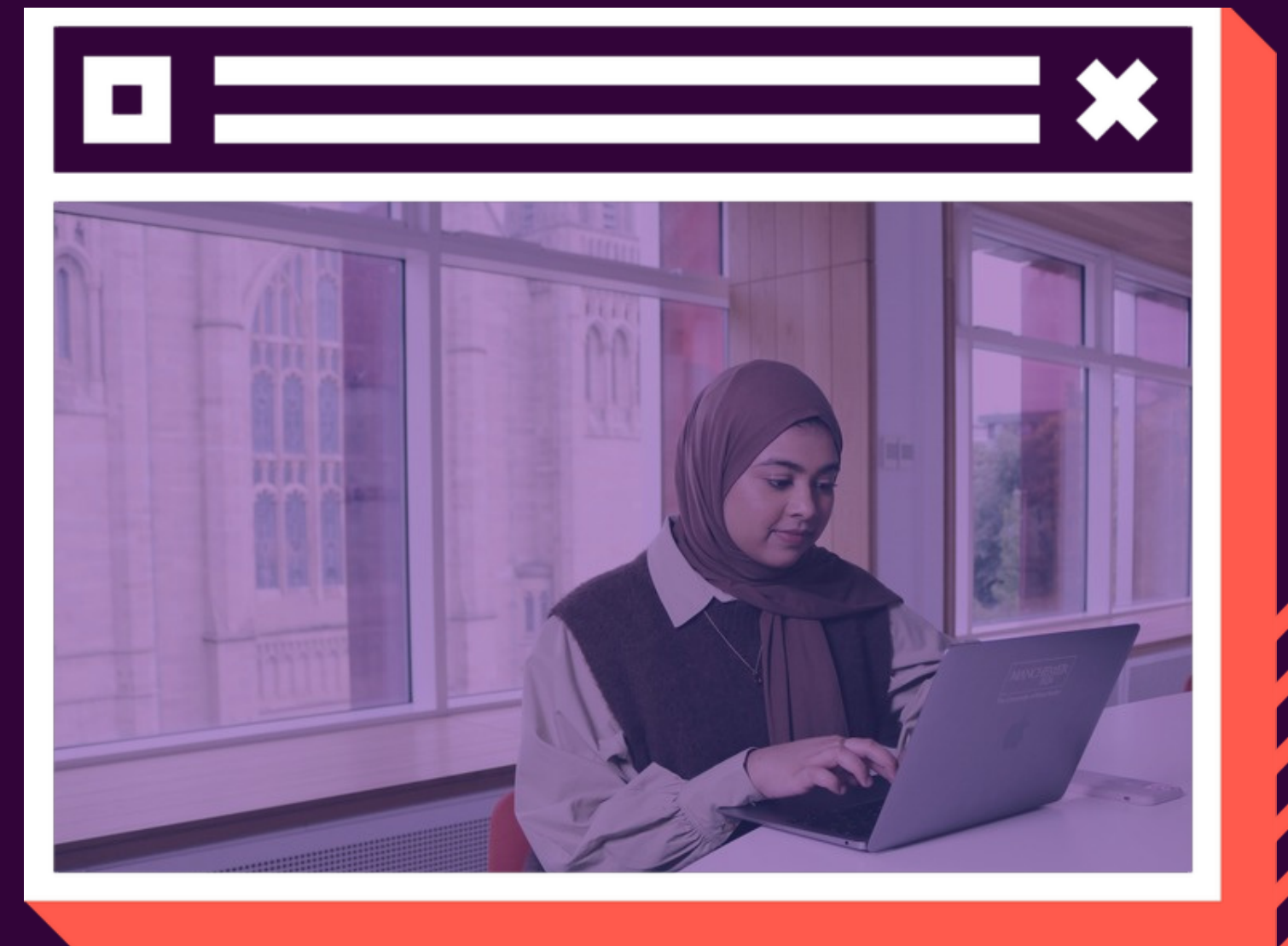
- **Why Manchester?**

- Experience of very strong student support and an environment conducive to research during my undergraduate studies here.



PANEL Q&A

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



NEXT WEBINAR

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'ARRIVING IN MANCHESTER IN SEPTEMBER'

28 AUGUST 2026 (13:00-14:00 GMT)

REGISTER YOUR PLACE



LINK IN CHAT

KEY CONTACTS

- **Doctoral Academy - Admissions**
 - FBMH.doctoralacademy.admissions@manchester.ac.uk
- **Accommodation**
 - www.manchester.ac.uk/study/accommodation/
 - <https://www.manchesterstudenthomes.com/Accommodation>
 - accommodation@manchester.ac.uk
- **Student Immigration**
 - www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/immigration-and-visas/
 - visa@manchester.ac.uk
- **Disability Advisory and Support Service**
 - www.dass.manchester.ac.uk/

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THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

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



UOM.LINK/BMH-PGR-OH-WEBINAR-SURVEY

