

FACULTY OF BIOLOGY, MEDICINE AND HEALTH
DOCTORAL ACADEMY



POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES GUIDE** **2027/28 ENTRY**



POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2027/28 ENTRY

The FBMH Doctoral Academy oversees a wide range of Postgraduate Research (PGR) funding opportunities which are available for supervisors. A summary of current schemes is included in this document and, where confirmed, includes relevant dates for calls, applications and offers.

Funded schemes

Each opportunity will be launched via Faculty Announcements and posted on the [Doctoral Academy SharePoint](#). Many of the schemes are competitive, which means there are more projects advertised than the number of studentships available to ensure the highest quality candidates are selected.

Information for prospective applicants will be advertised and made available on the relevant external facing websites when each scheme goes live.

Alternative external funding

Alongside our funded schemes, we strongly encourage supervisors to consider alternative external routes to support PGRs. The Doctoral Academy provides costings, advice and support for supervisors wishing to submit applications for externally funded studentships i.e. via charities, the NHS etc. Full details on externally funded studentships, the process and timeframe to support applications can be found on our [SharePoint](#).

We will also support and work with the [Business Engagement Team](#) for studentships funded by industry. The Doctoral Academy facilitates advertising of funded studentships which will ensure all processes are followed prior to an offer is made.

Self arranged funding

We receive many applications from candidates with self arranged funding (through sponsors, government, employers or personal funds) which are directed to supervisors following submission of a formal application.

The Admissions team will undertake qualification assessments of applicants and Division PGR Tutors will undertake an independent interview on request. To attract self-funded candidates, supervisors are encouraged to submit [self-funded projects](#) which will be advertised on [our website](#) and FindAPhD.



SUPERVISOR ELIGIBILITY AND EXPECTATIONS

Our [SharePoint page](#) outlines the University expectations for postgraduate research supervisors which you need to be aware of.

The key information you should note before submitting a project for our main funded programmes is:

- Individuals that were awarded a studentship as Primary Supervisor from any of our programmes last year (i.e. have a PGR starting in October 2026) cannot apply to any scheme as Primary Supervisor this year.
- For our major programmes, individuals can submit a project as Primary Supervisor to a maximum of two. The two projects must be clearly distinct.
- Additional restrictions may apply to individual schemes. Please see call documentation for further details.
- All main supervisors must engage with training and development opportunities as outlined by the Doctoral Academy - see our [Supervisor Development SharePoint page](#) for more information.

Project triage

For the MRC DLA and BBSRC NWD schemes a project triage stage will be applied. Further details about this can be found in the individual project calls.

For all other schemes, project and/or candidate triage may be applied depending on the level of demand. Should this occur, we will inform supervisors and provide additional detail on the processes involved.

Where project triage is applied, the target will be advertisement of approximately 2x the number of studentships available in the scheme.



APPLICATION DEADLINES

Outside of our funded schemes - which have their own application deadlines - we have fixed application deadlines for each intake. It is important that supervisors understand these deadlines when applying for external funding or engaging with potential applicants, as we cannot accept late applications.

- September entry deadline for applications: 15 June
- January entry deadline for applications: 15 October
- April entry deadline for application: 15 January

PROJECT APPROVAL

Prior to any offer being made, supervisors are required to outline full details of the supervisory team (in line with [University PGR Supervision policy](#)), the project, funding arrangements and training.

For most funded schemes this is gathered as part of the project call documentation, but for all other routes supervisors are required to complete a [PGR Project Approval Form](#)* well in advance (this will be provided by the Doctoral Academy Admissions team).

All projects, regardless of route or funding, need to be approved by the Senior Tutor and/or Head of Division for consistency.

Please refer to our [supervisory eligibility and expectations statement](#) which applies to all projects, regardless of funding.

**Division of Cancer Sciences supervisors have a local version of this form*

NOTE

The dates set out in this document are provisional and subject to change. They will be confirmed once calls are sent out - please contact the Admissions team if you require further information.



SCHEMES AND PROGRAMMES

Once again, we are launching several major schemes at the start of our recruitment cycle to maximise recruitment of exceptional candidates to support our leading research, while rationalising workload and striving to deliver a fair and equitable approach.

Learn more about each scheme using the links below.

LAUNCHED FOR 2027/28 ENTRY

- [BBSRC NWDP in Bioscience](#)
- [EPSRC DTP](#)
- [International Partnership PhD Studentship](#)
- [Excellence in Diversity PhD Scholarship](#)
- [CODE-M PhD Programme](#)
- [President's Doctoral Scholar Award](#)
- [CRUK MCRC \(Clinical, non-clinical and MB-PhD\)](#)
- [CRUK MI](#)
- [UoM-CSC](#)
- [ESRC NWSS DTP](#)
- [BHF Multidisciplinary PhD Programme \(CHAIN\)](#)
- [Alzheimer's DTC \(VIDA\)](#)

DETAILS TO BE CONFIRMED FOR 27/28 ENTRY

- [MRC NWDP in Medical Science](#)
- [MRC CoRE in Exosome Immunology](#)
- [PhD by Enterprise](#)
- [Unilever Industrial DLA Programme](#)
- [4Ward North PhD Programme](#)

[Browse project call and recruitment timelines for all programmes](#)



**SCHEMES AND
PROGRAMMES
2027/28 ENTRY**





Biotechnology and
Biological Sciences
Research Council

BBSRC NORTH WEST DOCTORAL PROGRAMME (NWD) IN BIOSCIENCE

The BBSRC NWD in Bioscience is run across UoM (FBMH and FSE) with the University of Liverpool. The programme offers fully funded studentships at both institutions and is delivered in collaboration with industry partners Boots No7, Unilever, Waters and Bionow, who will provide training and research opportunities.

Funding	Tuition fees, UKRI stipend, project costs
Eligibility	Home and overseas
Duration	4 years
No. places available	28 across institutions
Programme Contact	Prof Rasmus Peterson
Call for projects launched	Week commencing 27 July 2026
Project submission deadline	Thursday 24 September 2026
Applications accepted from	Monday 2 November 2026
Application deadline	Friday 4 December 2026
Panel interviews	Week commencing Monday 1 March 2027

Find out more:

www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/research/funding-fees/funded-programmes/bbsrc-nwdp/





Engineering and
Physical Sciences
Research Council

EPSRC DOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

Each year FBMH are allocated funding from the EPSRC DTP award held in the Faculty of Science and Engineering. The Doctoral Academy then co-ordinate an internal call for projects to award studentships.

Funding	Tuition fees, UKRI stipend, project costs
Eligibility	Home applicants (potential for overseas)
Duration	3.5 years
No. places available	3
Programme Contact	Prof David Bechtold
Call for projects launched	Week commencing 27 July 2026
Project submission deadline	Monday 21 September 2026
Applications accepted from	Monday 19 October 2026
Application deadline	Monday 16 November 2026
Panel interviews	Week commencing 1 February 2027

Find out more:

www.manchester.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/funding/opportunities/display/?id=00000469



INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP PHD STUDENTSHIPS

Studentships are available to support collaboration between the Faculty and European institutions. Applications that include collaboration or visits to any European university or research institution will be considered.

Funding	Tuition fees, UKRI stipend, project costs, Research Training Support Grant, contribution to PGR travel costs
Eligibility	Home and overseas
Duration	4 years
No. places available	4-5
Programme Contact	Professor Qing-Jun Meng
Call for projects launched	Week commencing 27 July 2026
Project submission deadline	Monday 12 October 2026
Applications accepted from	Monday 9 November 2026
Application deadline	Friday 11 December 2026
Panel interviews	Week commencing 22 February 2026

Find out more: www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/research/funding-fees/funded-programmes/international-partnership-phd/





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EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY PHD SCHOLARSHIPS

These fully funded studentships are for PGR candidates from under-represented groups. There is no internal call for projects as candidates apply for the scholarship and they are supported in finding a supervisor/project following successful interview.

Funding	Tuition fees, UKRI stipend, project costs
Eligibility	Home applicants from under-represented backgrounds (see website for info)
Duration	4 years
No. places available	3
Programme Contact	Dr Anna Hood
Call for projects launched	-
Project submission deadline	-
Applications accepted from	Monday 5 October 2026
Application deadline	Monday 9 November 2026
Panel interviews	Week commencing 18 January 2026

Find out more:

www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/research/funding-fees/funding-opportunities/excellence-in-diversity-phd-scholarships/



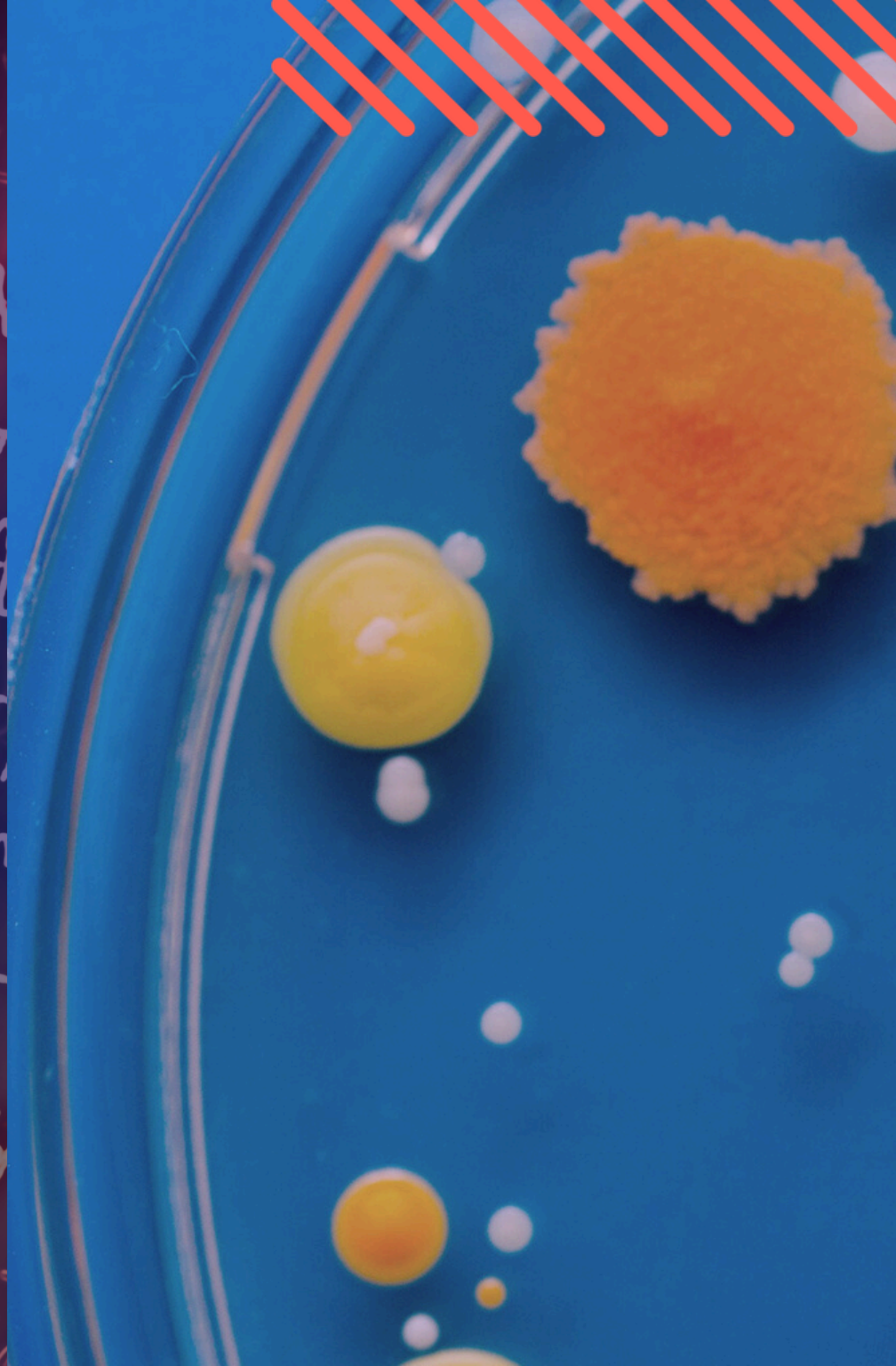
Biotechnology and
Biological Sciences
Research Council

CONTROL AND DESIGN OF BIOENGINEERED MICROBIAL CELLS (CODE-M) PHD PROGRAMME

The Control and Design of Bioengineered Microbial Cells and Systems (CODE-M) PhD programme is a partnership between UKRI, The University of Manchester and the University of Liverpool. The programme is open to home applicants only and offers fully funded studentships including an UKRI stipend, **boosted by £10k through the UK government TechExpert pilot.**

Funding	Tuition fees, enhanced £31k stipend, project costs
Eligibility	Home applicants
Duration	3.5 years
No. places available	8 across institutions
Programme Contact	Prof Michael Brockhurst michael.brockhurst@manchester.ac.uk
Call for projects launched	August 2026
Project submission deadline	Monday 4 December 2026
Applications accepted from	Monday 21 December 2026
Application deadline	Friday 5 February 2027
Panel interviews	Week commencing 29 March 2027

Find out more:



PRESIDENT'S DOCTORAL SCHOLAR AWARD

The President's Doctoral Scholar (PDS) Award is the University's flagship funding initiative and gives outstanding students a foundation to support research training.

Funding	Tuition fees (max band 2), UKRI stipend plus £1k p/a enhancement
Eligibility	Home or overseas applicants with a First Class degree or equivalent preferred
Duration	4 years
No. places available	5
Programme Contact	Prof David Bechtold
Call for projects launched	Week commencing 27 July 2026
Project submission deadline	Friday 2 October 2026
Applications accepted from	Friday 30 October 2026
Application deadline	Friday 18 December 2026
Panel interviews	Week commencing 1 March 2027

Find out more:

www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/research/funding-fees/funding-opportunities/presidents-doctoral-scholar-awards/





CANCER
RESEARCH
UK

Manchester
Centre

CRUK MANCHESTER CENTRE - MANCHESTER CANCER RESEARCH CENTRE STUDENTSHIPS

MCRC-CRUK Manchester Centre manage a number of schemes to support both clinical and non-clinical PhD projects, Black Leaders in Cancer (BLiC) and MB-PhD postgraduate researchers. Timelines below are for clinical, non-clinical and BLiC programmes only. Enquiries regarding MB-PhD programme timelines should be addressed to the email contact below.

Funding	Tuition fees, £22,894 stipend, project costs
Eligibility	Home or overseas applicants (30% overseas quota)
Duration	3-4 years (depending on scheme)
No. places available	10-11 (across all schemes)
Programme Contact	<u>Dr Yasmin Noori-Jenaghard</u> <u>Dr Andrew Gilmore (MB-PhD)</u>
Call for projects launched	June 2026
Project submission deadline	Monday 17 August 2026
Applications accepted from (clin/non-clin)	Monday 12 October 2026
Application deadline (clin/non-clin)	Monday 23 November 2026
Panel interviews (clin/non-clin)	Week commencing 11 January 2027

Find out more:

PhD: www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/research/funding-fees/funded-programmes/mcrc-training-scheme/

MB-PhD: www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/research/funding-fees/funded-programmes/cruk-mb-phd/



CANCER
RESEARCH
UK

Manchester
Institute

CANCER RESEARCH UK MANCHESTER INSTITUTE STUDENTSHIPS

The Cancer Research UK (CRUK) Institute MI award
non-clinical PhD projects.

Funding	Tuition fees, £22,894 stipend, project costs
Eligibility	Home or overseas applicants (30% overseas quota)
Duration	4 years
No. places available	6-7
Programme Contact	<u>Prof Tim Somervaille/Julie Edwards</u>
Call for projects launched	-
Project submission deadline	-
Applications accepted from	TBC
Application deadline	-
Panel interviews	-

Find out more:

www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/research/funding-fees/funded-programmes/cruk-phd-studentships/

UOM-CHINA SCHOLARSHIP COUNCIL SCHEME

Fully funded studentships for candidates from China. There's no call for projects but candidates apply for the scholarship and need to obtain an academic offer before being nominated by their supervisor for an internal panel interview. Selected candidates must then apply to CSC directly for a final decision on awards. Supervisors are encouraged to have a self-funded project advertised to attract potential candidates. This also includes the Innovation pathway.

Funding	Tuition fees (max band 2) covered by FBMH and stipend covered by CSC
Eligibility	Chinese applicants
Duration	3 years
No. places available	3
Programme Contact	Dr Hui Guo
Call for projects launched	-
Project submission deadline	-
Applications accepted from	TBC
Application deadline	Monday 11 January 2027
Nominated candidates selected	Tuesday 9 March 2027

Find out more:

www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/research/funding-fees/funding-opportunities/csc-scholarship/



Economic
and Social
Research Council

ESRC NORTH WEST SOCIAL SCIENCES DOCTORAL TRAINING PARTNERSHIP

Each year FBMH are allocated funding from the ESRC DTP & CASE award held in the Faculty of Humanities. The Doctoral Academy then co-ordinate an internal call for projects to award studentships.

Funding	Tuition fees, UKRI stipend, project costs
Eligibility	Home and overseas
Duration	3-4 years
No. places available	Varies
Programme Contact	Dr Stuart Shields
Call for projects launched	June 2026
Project submission deadline	Monday 2 November 2026
Applications accepted from	TBC
Application deadline	TBC
Panel interviews	TBC

Find out more:

www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/research/funding-fees/funded-programmes/esrc-nwssdtp/funding/



**British Heart
Foundation**

BHF MULTIDISCIPLINARY PHD PROGRAMME (CHAIN)

The BHF Multidisciplinary PhD Programme is run in partnership with the Connecting Hearts and Minds (CHAIN) consortium which includes the BHF, The University of Manchester, the University of Bristol and the University of Liverpool.

The fully funded programme is open to home applicants only with candidates applying for a host institution and then co-creating their project with a suitable supervisor during their first year.

Funding	Tuition fees, £21,747 stipend, project costs, travel for training and conferences
Eligibility	Home applicants
Duration	4 years
No. places available	10 across institutions
Programme Contact	<u>Dr Gina Galli</u>
Call for projects launched	-
Project submission deadline	-
Applications accepted from	Monday 5 October 2026
Application deadline	Monday 9 November 2026
Panel interviews	TBC

Find out more:

<https://www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/research/funding-fees/funded-programmes/bhf-chain>



THE ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY DOCTORAL TRAINING CENTRE (VIDA)

The Alzheimer's Society Doctoral Training Centre for Vascular and Immune Contributors to Dementia (VIDA) is a multi-institutional partnership including The University of Manchester, University of Edinburgh, Imperial College London and St George's University of London and funded by the Alzheimer's Society.

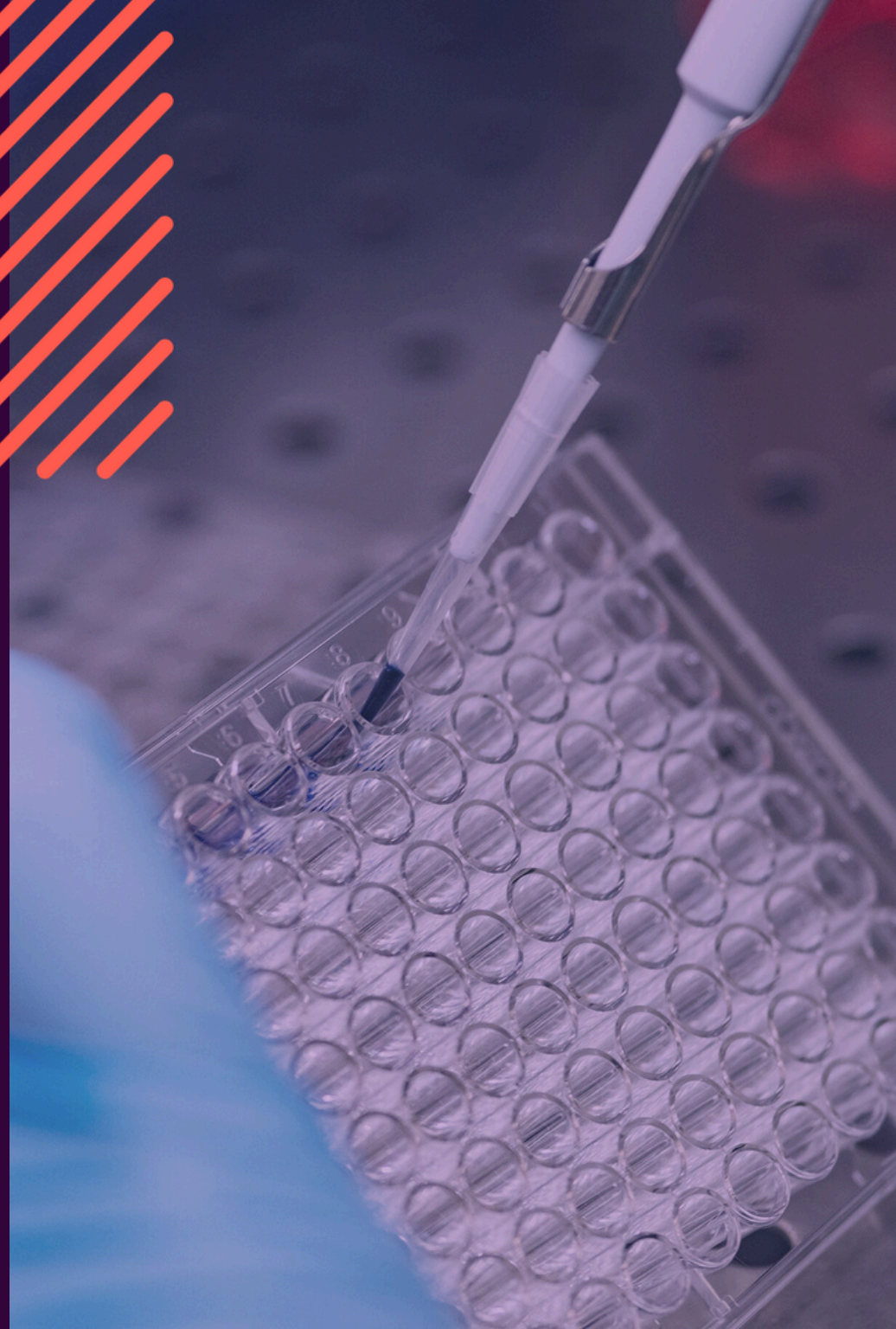
Funding	Tuition fees, £22,800 stipend, project costs
Eligibility	Home applicants
Duration	4 years
No. places available	5 across institutions
Programme Contact	Prof Stuart Allan
Call for projects launched	Saturday 1 August 2026
Project submission deadline	Monday 26 October 2026
Applications accepted from	Monday 23 November 2026
Application deadline	Monday 21 December 2026
Panel interviews	TBC

Find out more:

www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/research/funding-fees/funded-programmes/alzheimers-society-dtc/



SCHEMES AND PROGRAMMES
FURTHER DETAILS
FOR 2027/287 ENTRY
COMING SOON





Medical
Research
Council

MRC NORTH WEST DOCTORAL PROGRAMME IN MEDICAL SCIENCE (DLA)

Programme to be confirmed

Funding

Eligibility

Duration

No. places available

Programme Contact

Dr Joe Swift

Call for projects launched

TBC

Project submission deadline

Monday 21 September 2026

Applications accepted from

Monday 26 October 2026

Application deadline

Friday 27 November 2026

Panel interviews

Week commencing 8 February 2027

[Find out more](#)

PENDING





Medical
Research
Council

MRC CENTRE OF RESEARCH EXCELLENCE IN EXPOSOME IMMUNOLOGY

The MRC CoRE in Exposome Immunology is run in partnership with the University of Oxford. The programme offers fully funded studentships with candidates choosing their host institution and then selecting up to three supervisors they're interested in working with to shape their project.

Funding	Tuition fees, enhanced UKRI stipend of £23,760, lab expenses, training and conference travel
Eligibility	Home or overseas applicants
Duration	4 years
No. places available	3
Programme Contact	Bruce Humphreys
Call for projects launched	-
Project submission deadline	-
Applications accepted from	TBC
Application deadline	TBC
Panel interviews	TBC

Find out more:

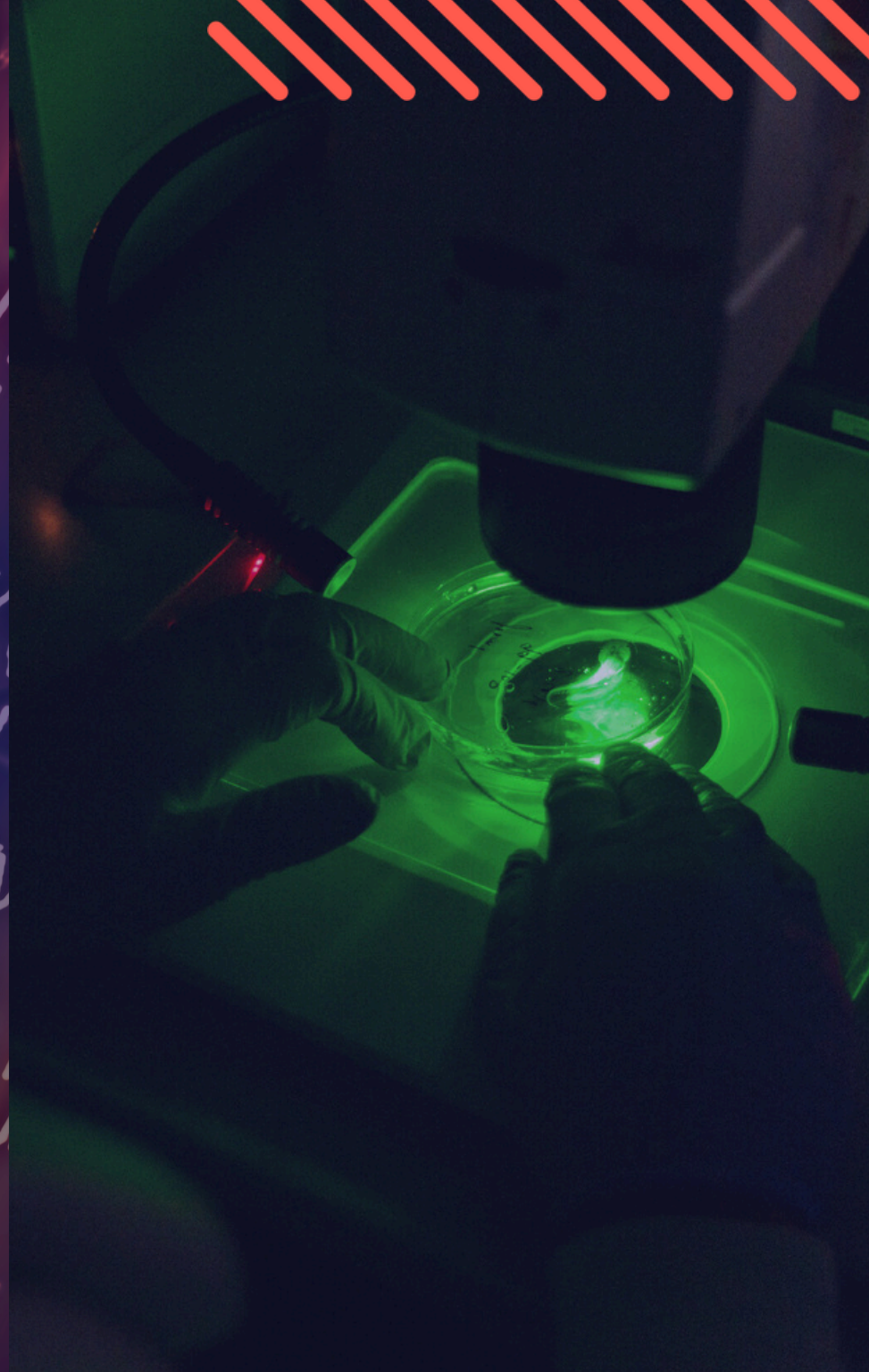
<https://www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/research/funding-fees/funded-programmes/exposome-immunology/>

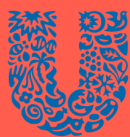
PHD BY ENTERPRISE

The PhD by Enterprise programme is a four-year doctoral programme - launched in 2026 - that combines world-class research with structured entrepreneurship training. The programme offers fully funded projects with clear venture or enterprise potential identified at the outset.

Funding	Tuition fees, UKRI rate stipend, up to £20,000 Research Training Support Grant (RTSG)
Eligibility	Home and overseas
Duration	4 years
No. places available	TBC
Programme Contact	Prof David Bechtold
Applications accepted from	TBC
Application deadline	TBC
Panel interviews	TBC

Find out more: www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/research/funding-fees/funded-programmes/phd-enterprise/





Unilever

UNILEVER INDUSTRIAL DOCTORAL LANDSCAPE (UNI DLA) PROGRAMME

Programme to be confirmed

Funding

Tuition fees, UKRI stipend plus annual
supplement from Unilever

Eligibility

TBC

Duration

TBC

No. places available

TBC

Programme Contact

Prof David Bechtold

Applications accepted from

TBC

Application deadline

TBC

Panel interviews

TBC

Find out more:

PENDING



4WARD NORTH PHD PROGRAMME

4Ward North PhD Programme for Health Professionals is a partnership between the Universities of Manchester, Leeds, Newcastle and Sheffield and funded by Wellcome. Applications are encouraged from a diverse and inclusive range of healthcare professionals, including nursing, midwifery, and allied health. 4Ward North PhD Fellowships should include supervision from at least two of the 4Ward North institutions and be within the Wellcome discovery research remit.

Funding	Salary, tuition fees, project consumables (approx. max. total is £300,000)
Eligibility	Practicing healthcare professionals, registered with professional regulatory body in the UK/Ireland. Medical graduates must be registered on UK/ROI specialist training programme or be a registered GP
Duration	36 months FT (or PT equivalent)
No. places available	5
Programme Contact	Dr Saini Manninen n4@manchester.ac.uk
Applications accepted from	TBC
Application deadline	TBC
Panel interviews	TBC

Find out more:
www.4wardnorth.org.uk



ALL PROGRAMMES - SUMMARY OF KEY DATES

Sorted by 'call for project' date then project advertise date

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Scheme	Call for projects	Deadline for project submission	Prog./projects advertised	Application deadline	Interviews	Decisions
MCRC (clinical & non-clinical)	June 2026	17/08/2026	12/10/2026	23/11/2026	11/01/2027	TBC
ESRC NWSS DTP & CASE	June 2026	02/11/2026	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
MCRC (MB-PhD)	01/07/2026	07/09/2026	26/09/2026	15/03/2027	06/05/2027	TBC
EPSRC DTP	W/C 27/07/26	21/09/2026	19/10/2026	16/11/2026	01/02/2027	15/02/2027
MRC NWD in Medical Science & CASE	W/C 27/07/26	21/09/2026	26/10/2026	27/11/2026	08/02/2027	22/02/2027
President's Doctoral Scholar Award	W/C 27/07/26	02/10/2026	30/10/2026	18/12/2026	08/03/2027	15/03/2027
BBSRC NWD in Bioscience & CASE	W/C 27/07/26	24/09/2026	02/11/2026	04/12/2026	01/03/2027	15/03/2027
International Partnership Studentships	W/C 27/07/26	12/10/2026	09/11/2026	11/12/2026	22/02/2027	08/03/2027
CODE-M PhD Programme	August 2026	04/12/2026	21/12/2026	05/02/2027	29/03/2027	05/04/2027
Alzheimers (VIDA DTC)	01/08/2027	26/10/2026	23/11/2026	21/12/2026	TBC	TBC
Excellence in Diversity	-	-	05/10/2026	09/11/2026	18/01/2027	01/02/2027
BHF (CHAIN)	-	-	05/10/2026	09/11/2026	TBC	TBC
UoM-CSC	-	-	TBC	11/01/2027	-	09/03/2027
CRUK MI	-	-	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
MRC CoRE in Exposome Immunology	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
PhD by Enterprise	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
Unilever Industrial Doctoral Landscape (UniDLA) Programme	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC

OTHER FUNDING SCHEMES

There are a number of schemes managed in the Faculty of Science and Engineering, and the Faculty of Humanities which permit FBMH supervisors as the main PI.

Some of these are listed on [our website](#) and supervisors can get in touch with colleagues in FSE or HUMS directly for more information.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Prof David Bechtold - Associate Dean for Postgraduate Research
david.bechtold@manchester.ac.uk

Tasleem Hanif - PGR Services Manager
tasleem.hanif@manchester.ac.uk

Kirsty Eaton - PGR Recruitment and Admissions Officer
kirsty.eaton@manchester.ac.uk

Christian Ward - PGR Student Marketing and Recruitment Officer
christian.ward@manchester.ac.uk

Doctoral Academy - Admissions Team
FBMH.doctoralacademy.admissions@manchester.ac.uk

Senior Tutor / Tutors
<https://documents.manchester.ac.uk/protected/display.aspx?DocID=29711>



USEFUL LINKS

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FBMH Doctoral Academy Staffnet and Sharepoint

- <https://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/bmh/research/doctoral-academy/>
- <https://livemanchesterac.sharepoint.com/sites/UoM-FBMH-DA>

FBMH Postgraduate Research website for prospective PGRs

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

FBMH Doctoral Academy website for current PGRs

- <https://www.doctoral-academy.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/>

Supervisor Toolkit

- <https://www.researcherdevelopment.manchester.ac.uk/supervisors/>

