

**Dual award PhD between
The University of Manchester and Peking University
Call for PhD Projects for 2027 – Guidance Notes & Selection Criteria**

Admission for the 2027 cohort of students for the University of Manchester and Peking University Dual Award PhD programme is being rolled out.

Funding

Scholarships are available for suitable candidates to commence on this 4-year programme in September 2027 including:

- Tuition fees have been waived by both Manchester and Peking.
- Annual stipend at the minimum UKRI rate (2026/27 rate £21,805, 2027/28 rate tbc) to the students recruited via Manchester whilst in Manchester for a maximum of 2 years.
- Flight allowance for Manchester students travelling to Peking and visa costs.
- An annual Research Training Support Grant (RTSG) towards project running costs/consumables (up to £5,000 pa) provided to all students when in Manchester.
- Students recruited by Manchester will be required to apply for a China Link Scholarship (CLS) funding to cover their stipend while based at Peking; the standard of living provided by the CLS stipend is expected to be commensurate with that at Manchester under the UKRI stipend.
- Peking University owned accommodation will be guaranteed to successful CLS applicants.
- Properly completed but unsuccessful China Link Scholarship (CLS) applications will be underwritten by Peking University.

How to apply

For a proposed project to be considered for approval, please complete the [attached form](#) and return via Microsoft Forms [here](#) by **28 September 2026**.

Project eligibility

In order to receive approval, a project must meet the following essential criteria:

- Have an agreed joint project supervisory team comprising at least a main supervisor and co-supervisor from the Faculty of Science and Engineering at University of Manchester and a main supervisor from the College of Chemistry or the College of Environmental Sciences and Engineering at Peking University.
- The main supervisors are both permanent members of academic staff of their respective institutions.
- Have an agreed project title and outline project plan with milestones and timelines showing the progression of the Ph.D. over the 4 years.
- Project area within the broadly defined theme of Chemistry, Material Science, Environmental Sciences, Chemical Engineering and/or Civil Engineering, with the goal of achieving a PhD in Chemistry, a PhD in Environmental Science or a PhD in Environmental Engineering at the end of the 4-year research project
- Supervisors have submitted the proposed project to the UoM regulatory control office for an [Export Control Compliance Review](#) in line with University of Manchester requirements.
- Demonstration of an integrated PhD training programme, provided by complementary areas of interest between the Manchester and Peking supervisors.

- The joint project supervisory team confirms that they have collective access to the resources, other than tuition fees and living allowances, to enable the proposed PhD project to be executed.
- Supervisory teams confirm their availability to attend a meeting with the Joint Programme Board during the **week commencing 5 October 2026**, which will outline the expectations of the selected project recruitment, including deadlines, details of candidate selection process, any Export Control-related matters etc. As the meeting is mandatory to attend, at least two time slots will be made available, with at least one slot that accommodates the time difference between the UK and China, and a summary of the session will be provided afterwards. This will also be an opportunity for the supervisory teams to ask any questions about the process.
- Supervisory teams confirm their availability to discuss with, interview, and rank candidates who apply to their project from **1 to 17 December 2026**.
- Acceptance of the programme T&Cs:
 - Individual project agreement will be required between all supervisors and student (template to be provided).
 - Application for Individual Project Licence – Export Control required (support to be provided).
 - Supervisors to support the student in their submission of scholarship application to CLS (guidance to be provided).
 - Successful supervisors should familiarise themselves with the terms and conditions of the Collaboration Agreement between Manchester and Peking.

The following desirable characteristics will also be used to rank these proposals

- Consideration of the potential compliance risks related to the project (e.g. Export Control and ATAS clearance) and measures put in place to deal with the risks.
- Demonstrated extent of previous collaboration between the Peking University and University of Manchester supervisory teams.
- Demonstration of strength of the joint supervisory team and its members (please provide links to relevant personal or research pages).
- Demonstration of value added of the project arising from the collaboration between Peking University and University of Manchester.

Student Eligibility

- Candidates may only apply for projects approved by the Joint Programme Board.
- Entry via Manchester for the scheme is open to all students, home and international, except for Chinese nationals (Mainland China, Taiwan, Macau, and Hong Kong).
- All Chinese nationals (Mainland China, Taiwan, Macau, and Hong Kong) must apply via Peking University.
- Fulfil The University of Manchester entry requirements
 - Hold (or expect to achieve) an upper second-class (2:1) honours degree in a discipline directly relevant to the PhD (or international equivalent to be checked with [UoM admission team](#)) OR any upper-second class (2:1) honours degree and a Master's degree at merit in a discipline directly relevant to the PhD (or international equivalent to be checked with [UoM admission team](#)).
 - All applicants will need to demonstrate competency in English language. Applicants who do not already possess an acceptable English Language qualification will need to take a recognised test and attain a minimum IELTS 6.5 overall with a minimum of 6 in writing and listening, and 5.5. in all other sub-tests or equivalent. Please note that a timely demonstrable minimum English language level is a requirement of the UK Home Office for the issue of student visas to the UK. For some projects an ATAS certificate may also be required by them.
- Fulfil the Peking University entry requirements
 - Hold a master's-level certificate (MSc, MChem or MEng) at merit or distinction (or international equivalent to be checked with UoM admission team).

- Demonstrate willingness to travel to two partner institutions to complete the programme.
- Fulfil the [Faculty of Science and Engineering Postgraduate Researcher person specification](#).

Project and student selection process

- Research projects will be selected by a Joint Board using the eligibility criteria with members from both institutions.
- The Joint board will include Programme Director, members of the UoM FSE Doctoral Academy Specialist Programmes team, and PKU Graduate School and academic staff as required.
- Approved projects will be advertised on FindAPhD.com.
- Shortlisting of candidates will be undertaken by supervisor team based on student eligibility criteria as evidenced by the application and a prior academic interview with the candidate. The academic interview panel **must** include a member independent to the supervisory team from either institution. Only one candidate per project can be shortlisted.
- Candidates initially will only apply to one institution (Manchester for UK or international students and Peking for Chinese nationals), but successful candidates will need to ensure they have completed the application form for both Institutions prior to registering for the Dual PhD Programme.
- Interviews will be conducted remotely via an online medium.
- The Joint Programme Board will assess candidates based on a short verbal presentation and standard set of interview questions mapping to the eligibility criteria.
- The programme offers flexible pathways to suit research needs. The students will spend 2 years at each institution and will receive a Dual PhD, one award and two certificates, at the end of the 4-year full-time programme: [Dual Award procedures for postgraduate research programmes](#). All students can follow one of two possible pathways:
 - A. 1 UoM + 2 PKU + 1 UoM
 - B. OR 2 UoM + 2 PKU.

Indicative Timeline

Process	Timeline	Owner
Agree the details of the call for proposals	30 June 2026	Joint Programme Board
Launch the call for project proposals and circulate to academic staff	1 August 2026	Programme team (UoM)
Deadline for submission of projects	28 September 2026	Supervisory teams
Review and selection of projects	Week commencing 5 October 2026	Joint Programme Board
Meeting outlining joint recruitment expectations	Week commencing 5 October 2026	Joint Programme Board and selected project supervisory teams (at least two time slots will be offered)
Advertising of shortlisted proposals	w/c 12 October 2026	Programme team (UoM)
Deadline for student applications to both institutions	30 November 2026	Candidates
Deadline for Supervisors to nominate preferred candidate following an	by 18 December 2026	Supervisory teams

academic interview		
Deadline for inviting students for interviews and sharing candidate information with the Joint Programme Board	by 6 January 2027	Programme team (UoM)
Formal panel interviews held	Week commencing 11 January 2027	Joint Programme Board
Informal offers confirmed to students	Week commencing 18 January 2027	Programme team (UoM)
Candidates of non-Chinese nationality to apply to PKU	by 15 March 2027	Candidates
Formal offers sent	April/May 2027	Relevant Admission Teams
All candidates register and start the programme	September 2027	Candidates

Contact details

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact to fse.doctoralacademy.specialistprogrammes@manchester.ac.uk.