

# 'DISCOVER RESEARCH IN THE SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES'

**23 SEPTEMBER 2026**



# *TODAY'S PANEL*



**DR REINMAR HAGER**

Director of Postgraduate  
Research (School of  
Biological Sciences)



**CHHAVI**

Postgraduate researcher



**NERYS**

Postgraduate researcher



**REBECCA**

Postgraduate researcher

# ***DISCOVER RESEARCH IN THE SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES***

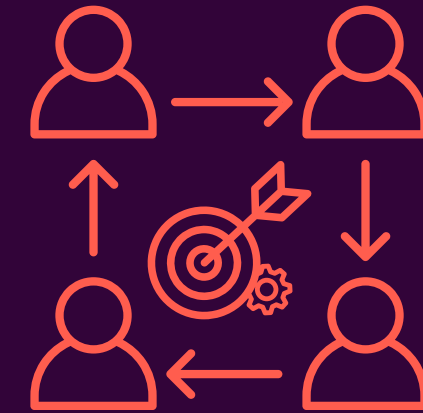
Today we'll help you understand where you and your interests fit in the School by exploring:



**How our research moves from  
discovery to real-world impact**



**The breadth and scale  
of research we cover**



**How our research  
crosses disciplines**



**Our connections with  
healthcare and industry**



**Our research environments  
and community**



**Our research  
impact and reputation**

# RESEARCH FROM DISCOVERY TO IMPACT

Whether your passion is understanding how biology works or addressing real-world challenges, the School offers opportunities to develop research that can contribute to both scientific discovery and meaningful impact.

## Home to research spanning



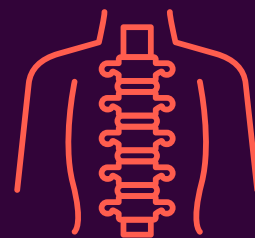
**Genomes, cells  
and tissues**



**Infection, immunity  
and disease**



**Neuroscience  
and brain health**



**Musculoskeletal and  
dermatological  
science**



**Regenerative  
medicine and  
biotechnology**

### **Fundamental biology**

cells, tissues, genomes, immunity, infection, disease and neuroscience

### **Translational research**

diagnostics, therapies, clinical trials and regenerative medicine

### **Wider application**

industry, healthcare, policy, environment and public benefit

# BREADTH AND SCALE OF OUR RESEARCH

With hundreds of researchers, projects and research outputs across six divisions, the School offers a rich research environment with opportunities to access a wide range of expertise, facilities, collaborations and professional networks throughout your PhD.

## Six research divisions:



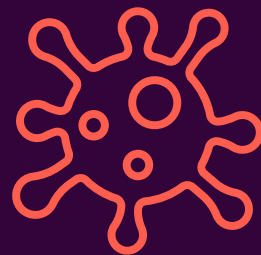
### Cell Matrix Biology and Regenerative Medicine

tissue formation, stem cells, matrix biology, repair and regeneration



### Evolution, Infection and Genomics

cells, tissues, genomes, immunity, infection, disease and neuroscience



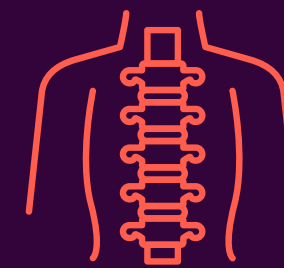
### Immunology, Immunity to Infection and Respiratory Medicine

immune responses, infection, respiratory disease and clinical trials



### Molecular and Cellular Function

signalling, stress, growth, reprogramming and cellular systems



### Musculoskeletal and Dermatological Sciences

rheumatic, musculoskeletal and skin conditions



### Neuroscience

neural circuits, sensory systems, circadian biology and neurological disease

## A large and active research environment

**498**

research profiles

**505**

projects

**18,811**

research outputs

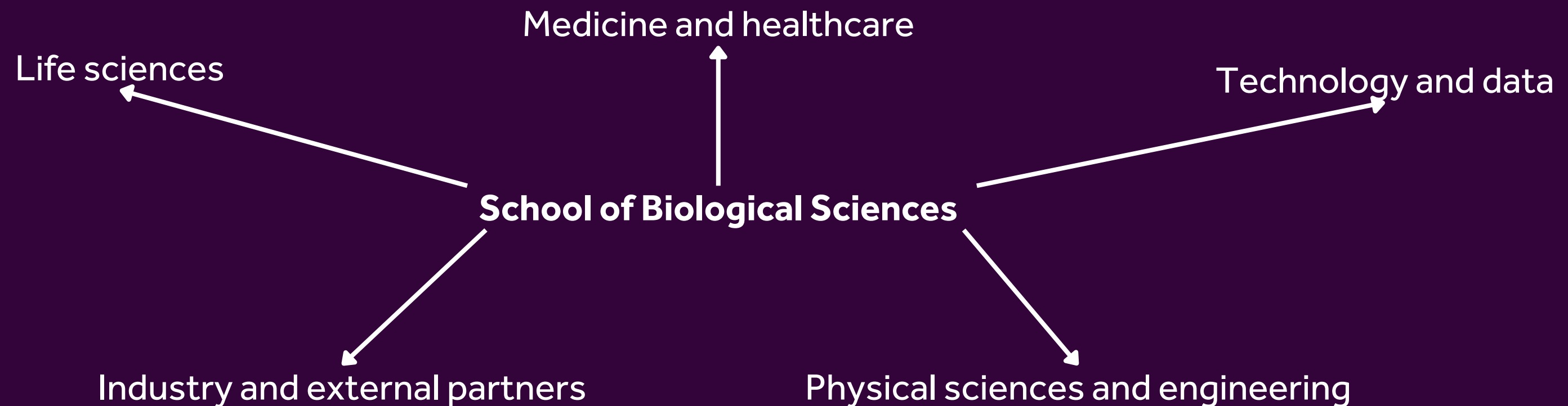
**1,015**

student theses

[research.manchester.ac.uk](https://research.manchester.ac.uk)

# *HOW OUR RESEARCH CROSSES DISCIPLINES*

Your PhD may be based in one research area or group, but you'll get the opportunity to collaborate with researchers from different disciplines across the University, helping you tackle more complex questions, access specialist expertise and technologies, and broaden the impact of your research.



# OUR CONNECTIONS TO HEALTHCARE AND INDUSTRY

Depending on your project, you may have opportunities to work alongside healthcare professionals, industry partners, patients or external organisations and see how research informs healthcare, influences decision-making, shapes new products and technologies, or improves outcomes for patients and wider society.

## School links

Local  
NHS trusts

£59.1m NIHR Manchester  
Biomedical Research Centre

Clinical and translational research  
environments

Health-focused institutes,  
centres and networks

## Sectors



Healthcare and clinical  
research



Pharmaceutical and  
biotechnology



Consumer health



Diagnostics and  
technology development



Policy, public health  
and awareness

## Industry partners



Unilever



# ***OUR RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY***

As a postgraduate researcher, you'll be part of both a specialist research environment and a wider research community, giving you access to additional expertise, facilities, collaborations, networking opportunities and career development beyond your immediate project.

## **Our research environment:**

**Lydia Becker Institute of Immunology and Inflammation**  
brings together immunology research at Manchester

**Geoffrey Jefferson Brain Research Centre**  
supports basic and clinical neuroscience collaboration

**Manchester Brain Bank**  
supports translational ambitions in neuroscience

**Manchester Regenerative Medicine Network**  
connects regenerative medicine activity across the Faculty

## **Our research community**

- Researchers at every career stage, from PhD students to postdocs to internationally recognised research experts
- Scientists working across biological, medical and health sciences
- Researchers from around the world bringing diverse perspectives and experiences
- Opportunities to connect through institutes, centres, seminars, conferences and networking activities
- A community tackling a diverse range of global challenges through collaborative research

# OUR RESEARCH IMPACT AND REPUTATION

The School is continually undertaking research that has real-world impact.

Your research could deepen scientific understanding, influence policy, support new technologies, improve healthcare or help address some of the biggest biological and health challenges facing society.



**1st**  
in the world for  
**sustainability impact**  
Times Higher Education (THE)  
Sustainability Impact Ratings (2026)



**93%**  
of the University's research activity  
was rated as 'world-leading' or  
'internationally excellent'  
Research Excellence Framework (REF)  
(2021)



**6th**  
in the UK  
QS World University Ranking (2027)

## **Biological lighting standards (Neuroscience)**

Created the scientific basis for international lighting standards that support sleep, health and wellbeing by accounting for how light affects the human body's biological clock.

## **COPD treatment trials (Immunology, Immunity to Infection and Respiratory Medicine)**

Helped develop and validate new combination inhaler therapies that are now used internationally, improving treatment options for people living with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

## **Genotoxicity and cancer hazard prediction (Molecular and Cellular Function)**

Developed a commercially adopted testing platform that helps companies identify potentially cancer-causing substances more accurately, reducing both product development costs and the need for animal testing.

## **Vitamin D, sun exposure and skin cancer policy (Musculoskeletal and Dermatological Sciences)**

Informed UK public health guidance on safe sun exposure and vitamin D supplementation, helping people maintain healthy vitamin D levels while reducing skin cancer risk.

# *WHERE COULD YOUR PHD FIT?*

Start with your interests, curiosity and motivations, then explore where they might fit within School:



- What problems would you most like to help solve?
- Which topics do you find yourself constantly wanting to learn more about?
- What impact would you like your research to have?
- What could you happily spend three to four years exploring?
- How does your background fit available projects?

A group of six diverse postgraduate researchers are standing in a row on a paved area in front of a large, historic stone building with arched windows and doorways. The building has "UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER" inscribed at the top and a "OXFORD RD" street sign. The group consists of three women and three men, dressed in a variety of styles including a hijab, a niqab, and casual modern clothing. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple filter.

# *MEET OUR POSTGRADUATE RESEARCHERS*

# REBECCA: MY JOURNEY TO POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH

MANCHESTER  
1824

The University of Manchester

- Completed an undergraduate BSc Hons Biotechnology with a year in computer science. Master in Multidisciplinary Research in Barcelona at Universitat Pompeu Fabra.
- Accumulated research experience during my undergraduate; asking my professors, Excel in Science internship and Harry Smith summer internship.
- Cystic Fibrosis lung microbiome exploring pathogen dynamics. Work both in the wet- and dry-lab.
- Manchester is big on impact, entrepreneurship opportunities, PGR experience and collaboration (e.g. MERMan).
- Keeping an open mind, but keen to stay in research taking on a postdoctoral role.



# *NERYS: MY JOURNEY TO POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH*

MANCHESTER  
1824

The University of Manchester

- Completed undergraduate degree at University of Warwick and started on Biochemistry BSc, transferred to integrated Masters stream (MBio).
- Interest in research was developed from a undergraduate summer research project
- My research focuses the regulation of translation initiation factors involved in the cellular stress response - generating cryo-EM structural models for insight into molecular mechanisms
- I chose Manchester due to its in-house electron microscopy (EM) facility with resources needed for my project, and strong commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion
- After my PhD I aim to continue lab-based research with a postdoctoral research role



# CHHAVI: MY JOURNEY TO POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH

MANCHESTER  
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The University of Manchester

- Completed an MRes in Cancer Biology at Imperial College London and a BSc (Hons) in Biotechnology with 1 year Industrial Experience (Qiagen), UoM
- Applied to several programmes focusing on translational cancer research, many unsuccessful attempts/interviews and finally found a BRC Core Funded Project at UoM, connected with supervisors, and the rest is history!
- My research is on Cancer in Idiopathic Inflammatory Myopathies: Uncovering Risk, Diagnosing it Early, and Understanding Patient Experience
- Manchester has a very strong student support network and an environment conducive to research
- After my PhD, I'm planning on applying for a Scientific Training Programme (STP) in the NHS to have more clinical laboratory experience.



# *PANEL Q&A*

**GOT A QUESTION FOR OUR PANEL?**  
**RAISE YOUR HAND OR**  
**ADD IT TO THE CHAT**



# ***NEXT STEPS***

MANCHESTER  
1824

The University of Manchester



**VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO DISCOVER MORE  
INCLUDING HOW TO APPLY, AVAILABLE  
PROJECTS, FUNDING AND MORE.  
[UOM.LINK/BMH-PGR-WEBINAR-MORE](https://uom.link/bmh-pgr-webinar-more)**



**SIGN-UP TO OUR MAILING LIST  
TO RECEIVE OUR FUNDING ALERTS, EVENT  
UPDATES AND OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER.  
[UOM.LINK/BMH-PGR-WEBINAR-MAILINGLIST](https://uom.link/bmh-pgr-webinar-mailinglist)**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

MANCHESTER  
1824

The University of Manchester

## POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH OPEN DAY

21 OCT 26

2PM - 5PM  
ON CAMPUS

## 'UNDERSTANDING FUNDING IN BIOLOGY, MEDICINE AND HEALTH'

30 SEP 26

1PM - 2PM  
(GMT)

## 'THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTACTING A SUPERVISOR'

7 OCT 26

1PM - 2PM  
(GMT)

## 'PHD LIFE IN THE FACULTY OF BIOLOGY, MEDICINE AND HEALTH'

11 NOV 26

1PM - 2PM  
(GMT)

## 'PREPARING FOR A PGR INTERVIEW'

9 DEC 26

1PM - 2PM  
(GMT)

BOOK YOUR PLACE [UOM.LINK/BMH-PGR-OPEN-DAY-BOOK](https://uom.link/bmh-pgr-open-day-book)

BOOK YOUR PLACE [UOM.LINK/BMH-PGR-WEBINAR-BOOK](https://uom.link/bmh-pgr-webinar-book)

# THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

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

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

