

'DISCOVER RESEARCH IN THE SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES'

23 SEPTEMBER 2026



TODAY'S PANEL



DR ANTJE HEINRICH

Director of Postgraduate Research
(School of Health Sciences)



ANUSHKA

Postgraduate researcher



SAFIYYA

Postgraduate researcher



SURAIYA

Postgraduate researcher

DISCOVER RESEARCH IN THE SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

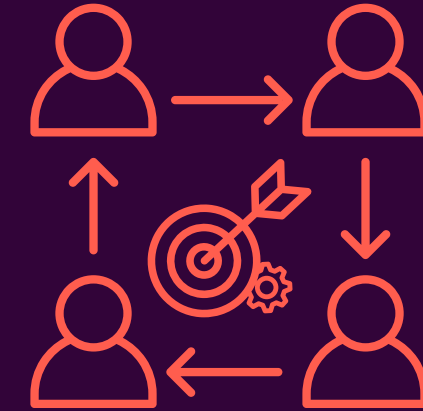
Today we'll help you understand where you and your interests fit in the School by exploring:



**How our research improves health,
healthcare and society**



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



**How our research
crosses disciplines**



**Our connections with healthcare,
policy and communities**



**Our research environments
and community**



**Our research
impact and reputation**

RESEARCH FROM DISCOVERY TO IMPACT

Whether your passion is improving healthcare, supporting wellbeing, tackling health inequalities or using data and technology to solve health challenges, the School offers opportunities to undertake research that can make a meaningful difference to individuals, communities and society.

Home to research spanning



Mental health and wellbeing



Health data, informatics and AI



Pharmacy and medicines optimisation



Nursing, midwifery and social work



Public health and health inequalities



Psychology, communication and human neuroscience

Understanding health and wellbeing

Mental health, human behaviour, communication, population health

Improving healthcare

Diagnosis and treatment, health services, medicines optimisation, healthcare delivery

Creating wider societal impact

Public health, health policy, health inequalities, community wellbeing

BREADTH AND SCALE OF OUR RESEARCH

With hundreds of researchers, projects and research outputs across six divisions, the School offers opportunities to learn from experts across a wide range of health disciplines, build valuable collaborations and explore health challenges from multiple perspectives throughout your PhD.

Six research divisions:



Informatics, Imaging and Data Sciences

Healthcare technology, AI, imaging, data science and digital health



Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work

Health and social care delivery, workforce and patient experience



Pharmacy and Optometry

Medicines, therapeutics, prescribing and eye health



Population Health, Health Services Research and Primary Care

Public health, epidemiology, health economics and health services



Psychology and Mental Health

Mental health, psychiatry and psychological wellbeing



Psychology, Communication and Human Neuroscience

Behaviour, communication, cognition and neuroscience

A large and active research environment

798

research profiles

628

projects

22,371

research outputs

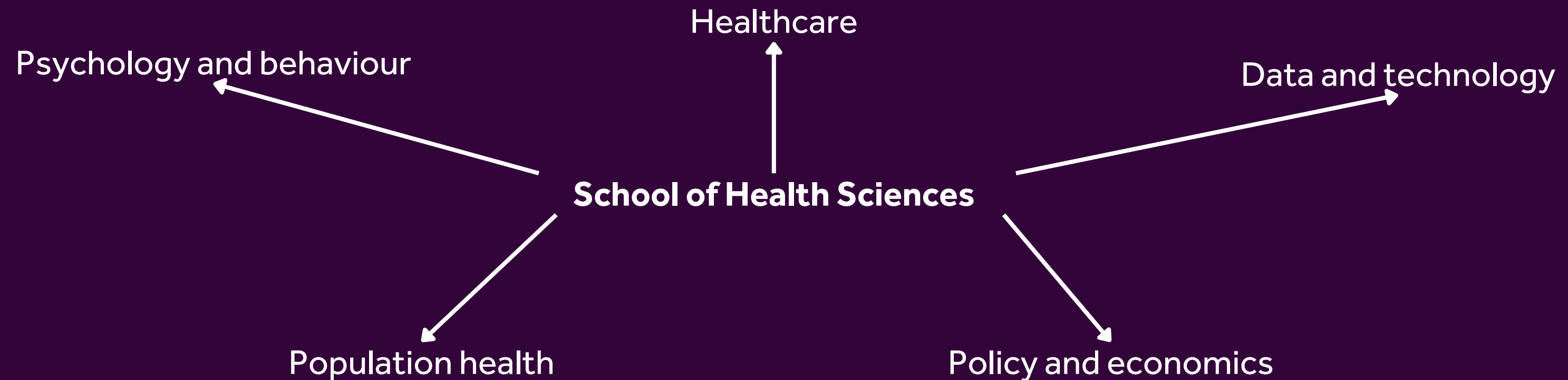
1,220

student theses

research.manchester.ac.uk

HOW OUR RESEARCH CROSSES DISCIPLINES

Your PhD may be rooted in one discipline, but today's health challenges rarely sit within a single field. You'll have opportunities to work with experts across psychology, healthcare, pharmacy, public health, policy and data science, helping you develop new perspectives, strengthen your research and create impact beyond your immediate area of study.



OUR CONNECTIONS TO HEALTHCARE AND INDUSTRY

Depending on your project, you may have opportunities to see how research influences healthcare delivery, informs public policy, supports communities and improves outcomes for patients and populations.

School links

Greater Manchester
health and care partners

NHS organisations

Health technology and
digital health partners

Pharmaceutical and
healthcare organisations

Public health partners
and national policy
initiatives

Sectors



Healthcare and health
services



Public health and
prevention



Mental health and
wellbeing



Health policy and
economics



Health data, AI and
digital health



Pharmaceutical and
medicines optimisation

Spinout companies and software licences

- Spotlight Pathology – AI for digital pathology
- Sentira XR – virtual reality for medical education
- Northwest eHealth – digitally enabled clinical trials
- Imorphics – imaging biomarkers
- Manchester Imaging – image analysis
- Variant Validator – validation of genome sequence
- adsilico - AI-driven in silico trials
- eLab health data science workbench
- Cystic Fibrosis Health Hub

OUR RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY

As a postgraduate researcher, you'll have opportunities to collaborate with people from different disciplines and sectors, helping you develop new skills, broaden your perspective and build networks that support your future career.

Our research environment:

Healthier Futures

Bringing together researchers addressing major health and care challenges

Digital Futures

Driving innovation through digital technologies, AI and data science

Policy@Manchester

Connecting research with policy development and decision-making

NIHR-linked centres and networks

Supporting applied health and care research

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)

CBTPsychosis: Transforming psychological healthcare delivery for people with schizophrenia (Psychology and Mental Health)

Developed and evaluated cognitive behavioural therapy approaches that improved care for people living with schizophrenia.

Evaluating MyDiabetesMyWay (Psychology and Mental Health)

Supported NHS decision-making around a data-driven platform helping people better manage their diabetes and long-term health.

Community pharmacy: improving access to medicines and pharmacists (Population Health, Health Services Research and Primary Care / Pharmacy & Optometry)

Research informed new approaches that improved access to medicines, pharmacists and primary healthcare support.

ASPIRE™: Using Machine Learning to detect undiagnosed fractures in patients with osteoporosis (Informatics, Imaging and Data Sciences)

Applied machine learning to identify undiagnosed fractures earlier, supporting improved osteoporosis care and patient outcomes.

WHERE COULD YOUR PHD FIT?

Start with your interests, curiosity and motivations, then explore where they might fit within the 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?

RESEARCH TOPICS WITHIN SELECTED DIVISIONS



Player B

	Swerve	DS
Player A Swerve	(0, 0)	(0, 32)
Player A DS	(32, 0)	(1, 1)

Expected payoff for A:

- 1 A swerve & B swerve: $(0, 0)$, payoff = 0
- 2 A swerve & B DS: $(0, 32)$, payoff = 0
- 3 A DS & B swerve: $(32, 0)$, payoff = 32
- 4 A DS & B DS: $(1, 1)$, payoff = -4

EP for B:

- 1 Swerve & A Swerve: $(0, 0)$, payoff = 0
- 2 Swerve & A DS: $(0, 32)$, payoff = 0
- 3 DS & A Swerve: $(32, 0)$, payoff = 0
- 4 DS & A DS: $(1, 1)$, payoff = -4

$E(A) = 0p + 32p = 32p$

$E(B) = 0p + 32p = 32p$

part

B (QUANTITATIVE Study)
The target populations are Health and Safety Officers (HSOs) and oil and gas workers.
Answers both research questions.
Changes to the questionnaire will be made based on themes identified from Study A.

Questionnaire modified for health and safety officers and oil workers

Questionnaire administered to Oil workers

Data collation, analyses, results

INFORMATICS, IMAGING AND DATA SCIENCES

Research in health informatics; computational biology and imaging sciences

- Clinical Prediction Modelling: prognostic/predictive modelling. Prediction models are crucial as healthcare systems aim to shift from treatment to prevention of disease.
- Knowledge support tools: to assist clinicians in real time to prompt timely, relevant clinical actions, ensuring practicality and usability.
- Digital epidemiology : using technology to improve the understanding and treatment of diseases with a strong focus on citizen science and patient generated health data.
- Multi-modal machine learning for integration of spatial omics and histopathology data
- Bioinformatics methods for high-resolution omics data: development of computational and statistical methodology for gene regulatory network inference from single-cell data; adaptation of methods from geographical information systems (GIS) and techniques from spatial statistics
- GenAI and virtual reality for healthcare training: development of virtual reality to remotely train healthcare professionals.

PSYCHOLOGY AND MENTAL HEALTH

Research in Adult Mental Health; Health Psychology; Mental Health of Children, Young People and Families; Digital Mental Health; Health and Justice; Suicide and Self Harm; Global Mental Health

- Understand the biological and psychological mechanisms of vulnerability and resilience.
- Improve treatments and support for people experiencing severe mental health difficulties.
- Understand how lifestyle and behaviour impact mental and physical health
- Develop and evaluate digital interventions for mental and physical health that can be implemented within NHS services.
- Shape future models of community mental healthcare
- Co-design resources and interventions with patients, families and practitioners to address health inequalities and improve health outcomes.

PHARMACY AND OPTOMETRY

Medicines design, drug delivery and drug development

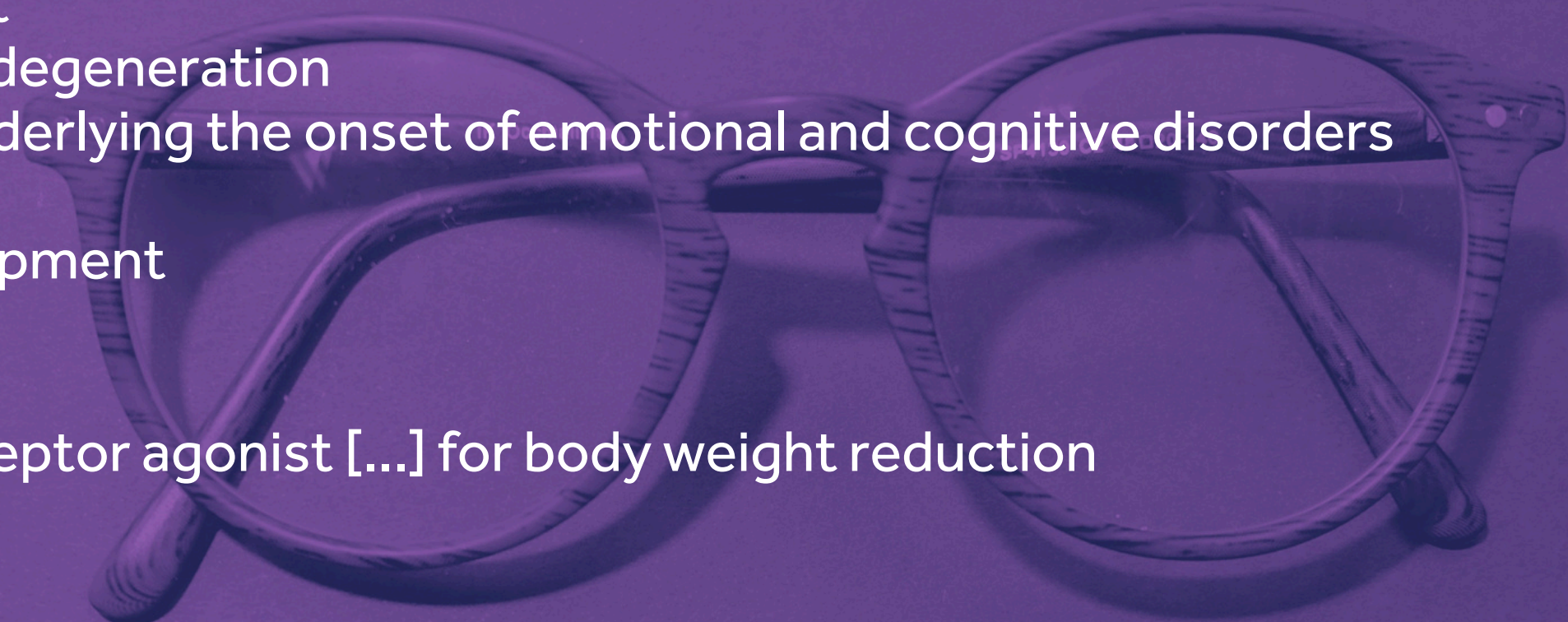
- Catalytic microRNA inactivation for cancer/neurodegeneration
- Investigation of the inflammatory mechanisms underlying the onset of emotional and cognitive disorders
- Novel drug-delivery engineering
- Precision dosing to support safer medicine development

Medicines use, patient safety and health services

- Efficacy and safety of glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonist [...] for body weight reduction

Vision science, ophthalmic technology and eye health

- Adaptive optics retinal imaging as an eye-brain window



NURSING, MIDWIFERY AND SOCIAL WORK

Research in Digital Health, Healthy Aging, Mental Health, Long-term Conditions, Social Research in Health and Social Care, Social Research with Deaf People

Mental health

- Mental Health Interventions & Prevention; Mental Health Services, Safety & Integrated Care

Digital Health & Social Care

- Digital Health, AI & Clinical Technologies; Innovation in Mental Health, Ageing & Social Care

Healthy Aging

- Ageing, Multimorbidity & Dementia; Healthy Ageing, Falls Prevention & Social Care

Social Care and Social Work

- Social Care, Vulnerable Populations & Inequalities; Children, Families & Criminal Justice

Social Research with Deaf People

- Deaf Communication, Access & Digital Care; Inclusive Research & Outcome Measurement

A group of six diverse postgraduate researchers are standing in a row on a paved area in front of a large, historic stone building. The building features arched windows and doorways, with the words "UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER" visible at the top. A small sign on the wall reads "OXFORD RD". The group consists of three women and three men, dressed in a variety of styles including a hijab, a cardigan, a t-shirt, a niqab, a jacket, and a denim jacket. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple filter.

MEET OUR POSTGRADUATE RESEARCHERS

ANUSHKA: MY JOURNEY TO POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester

- Second-year PhD researcher in Occupational and Environmental Health, funded through the President's Doctoral Scholar Award (PDS Award).
- Researching the behavioural determinants of sustained LPG use and household air quality in rural Bihar, India, with the aim of supporting cleaner cooking transitions in low-resource settings.
- Background in Clinical Research and Healthcare Management, followed by a Master's in Public Health and three years working in public health programme management in India.
- Chose Manchester for its interdisciplinary research environment, supportive supervisory team and opportunities to collaborate across disciplines while developing as an independent researcher.
- Became involved in the University community from the first-month of my PhD both as a PGR Representative and PGR Ambassador, taking part in researcher development, outreach and postgraduate community activities.



SAFIYYA: MY JOURNEY TO POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester

- My background: The Brilliant Club → Funded BSc Psychology at MMU & RA in ASMR project, VR project, and dementia behaviour-change intervention project → GTA-funded part-time SHS PhD at UoM → current full-time SHS PhD.
- My PhD & funding: My PhD is funded by the FBMH Excellence in Diversity Scholarship where I designed my own project with my supervisors exploring psychological safety in multidisciplinary general practice teams.
- Life as a PGR: Supportive supervisors and a strong PGR community, alongside opportunities to work as a GTA at UoM, Associate Lecturer at MMU, and RA for NIHR/WHO projects, contribute to publications, and collaborate on wider SHS research.
- Opportunities beyond my project: International conferences, research seminars, and training events; specialist methods training; teaching fellowship; publications; and interdisciplinary collaborations.
- My application tips: Start early and track deadlines; contact potential supervisors; organise references early; tailor each application; use a reflective model to show what you did, learned, and can bring to research.



SURAIYA: MY JOURNEY TO POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH

MANCHESTER
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The University of Manchester

- Veterinary Medicine (Nigeria) → MPH Epidemiology (USA) → public health practice → PhD in Occupational & Environmental Health at Manchester
- My PhD: assessing Respiratory Protection Programs in Nigeria's oil and gas industry, inspired by research gaps identified through my professional experience
- Funded by Nigeria's Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF)
- My Manchester experience: Supportive supervision and PGR community, conference opportunities, and research communication
- My advice: Find a research question you genuinely care about, identify the right supervisor, explore funding early, and don't be discouraged by a non-linear journey



PANEL Q&A

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



NEXT STEPS

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**VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO DISCOVER MORE
INCLUDING HOW TO APPLY, AVAILABLE
PROJECTS, FUNDING AND MORE.
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**

UPCOMING EVENTS

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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](https://uom.link/bmh-pgr-webinar-survey)

