



*PhD Programme in Science, Technology
and Innovation Policy*

A Decade of STIP: 10 Years of Innovation, Research, and Impact

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester
Alliance Manchester Business School

**MANCHESTER INSTITUTE OF
INNOVATION RESEARCH**

10th Anniversary Digital Book



A Decade of STIP

This digital book has been created to mark the 10-year anniversary of the PhD Programme in Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy (STIP) at the Manchester Institute of Innovation Research.

Over its first decade, STIP has brought together doctoral researchers from diverse disciplines and regions to explore how science, technology, and innovation shape—and are shaped by—society, policy, and institutions. As these conversations evolved, so did the programme, adapting to new priorities, methods, and forms of engagement.

This digital book reflects on that journey. Featuring voices from alumni, students, supervisors, and leaders, it highlights key moments, shared experiences, and research contributions—while looking ahead to the decade to come.

Rather than a comprehensive record, this book offers a snapshot of STIP's intellectual culture, community, and impact. It celebrates the first ten years and serves as a resource for those shaping its future.

“A Decade of STIP” was curated by Mariia Bobyleva and Han Phan. February 2026.





WHAT IS STIP?

The PhD in Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) is an interdisciplinary doctoral programme at Alliance Manchester Business School (AMBS), based in the Manchester Institute of Innovation Research (MIOIR). STIP brings together research on innovation, governance, and policy to address complex societal, economic, and developmental challenges shaped by science and technology.

STIP supports doctoral researchers to develop rigorous, original research while being embedded in an active research culture and community.

The STIP PhD in brief

- Interdisciplinary by design: connects science, technology and innovation studies, policy analysis, and related fields
- Research-led environment: students participate in MIOIR seminars, research groups, and academic life
- Policy relevance: focuses on real-world questions at the intersection of innovation, governance, and societal change
- Community model: cohort-based learning alongside individual supervision
- Wider links: opportunities for mentorship and collaboration beyond AMBS across the University and internships and placements in the UK and internationally



FOREWORD FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



Ken McPhail
*Professor and Head of School
Alliance Manchester Business School*

As Head of School of the Alliance Manchester Business School, I am delighted to mark the tenth anniversary of the PhD Programme in Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP).

Over the past decade, STIP has established itself as a distinctive and influential doctoral community – one that bridges disciplines, connects scholarship with practice, and develops researchers equipped to address the most pressing science, technology and innovation challenges of our time.



The STIP programme exemplifies the broader ambitions of Alliance Manchester Business School to deliver research with real-world impact. It contributes directly to the University of Manchester's commitment to social responsibility, interdisciplinary excellence, civic relevance and global engagement. STIP's doctoral researchers engage deeply with questions at the intersection of science, technology, markets and governance—producing work that informs policy, strengthens institutions and contributes to sustainable and inclusive growth.

STIP's achievements are reflected not only in successful post-graduate careers and in high-quality publications, but also in its culture of collegiality, global partnership and public engagement. Its alumni now serve in universities, governments, business, and non-profit organisations, extending the School's influence worldwide.

In an era defined by rapid technological change and complex societal transitions, the insights generated by the STIP community are indispensable. The programme's first decade has demonstrated what can be achieved when ambition, scholarly excellence and social purpose are aligned.

I warmly congratulate the Manchester Institute of Innovation Research and all the faculty, doctoral researchers and alumni whose commitment has shaped STIP's success. I look forward with confidence to STIP's continued growth and impact in the years ahead.

Ken McPhail



FROM MIOIR'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Elvira Uyarra

*Professor of Innovation Studies and Executive Director
Manchester Institute of Innovation Research
Alliance Manchester Business School*

It is a pleasure to mark ten years of the PhD Programme in Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) at the Manchester Institute of Innovation Research (MIOIR).

Over the past decade, STIP has grown into a vibrant intellectual community for early career researchers committed to understanding how science, technology and innovation shape our economies, societies and futures.

The programme reflects the core mission of MIOIR: to deepen our understanding of innovation dynamics in knowledge based economies, and to produce internationally recognised, policy-engaged research that supports more informed and responsible approaches to innovation.

This work is more urgent than ever. From climate transitions and digital transformation to health inequalities and geopolitical uncertainty, societies face complex challenges that demand rigorous, independent and practice-oriented research. The STIP doctoral community has risen to this challenge, producing scholarship that not only advances theory but also informs policy and practice at local, national and international levels.



Many colleagues have been involved in building and delivering the STIP programme. I am especially grateful to Philip Shapira, Jakob Edler and Kieran Flanagan, who have been central to the STIP programme from the beginning, and to Cornelia Lawson, Kate Barker, Mabel Sanchez Barrioluengo, Jeremy Brice, and Paul Oldham for their roles in STIP's research training courses. The engagement of Philippe Laredo has been crucial to our PhD programme infrastructure.

I also thank the numerous faculty members in MIOIR, AMBS and other University of Manchester units who have supervised STIP PhD students. Our professional staff members have been invaluable in assisting STIP students through their academic journey at the University of Manchester. And, I acknowledge with appreciation the commitment of Alliance Manchester Business School in sustaining and strengthening the STIP programme.

On behalf of the Institute, I would like to congratulate our students, alumni, supervisors and partners. Your collective efforts over the past ten years have enriched our community and demonstrated the enduring value of science, technology and innovation policy research. I look forward to seeing where the next decade takes us.

Elvira Uyarra



BUILDING A HOME FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION POLICY: THE ORIGINS OF THE STIP PHD



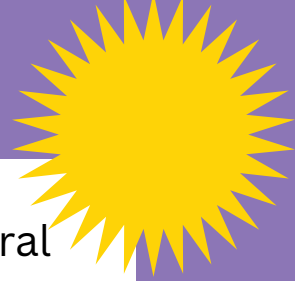
Philip Shapira
*Professor of Innovation
Management and Policy*



Jakob Edler
*Professor of Innovation
Policy and Strategy*

Two of the co-founders of the STIP PhD programme, Professors Philip Shapira and Jakob Edler, reflect on its origins, distinctiveness, and future challenges.

When the first cohort of doctoral researchers arrived in 2016, the **PhD in Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP)** already embodied a clear ambition: to give a growing field the intellectual home it deserved. What began as an idea shared between colleagues became a distinctive programme built on interdisciplinarity, community, and a willingness to try a new approach.



‘The idea was to develop an interdisciplinary doctoral programme focused specifically on science, technology and innovation policy,’ explains **Philip Shapira**. At the time, interest in responsible innovation, governance and emerging technologies was expanding rapidly. Yet, within the Business School, research in these areas was dispersed. A dedicated programme would allow scholars to concentrate on leading-edge questions and ‘build a community around them’.

Jakob Edler shared this perspective. In many universities, STIP-related research existed but lacked coherence. ‘We wanted to create not just a programme, but a community of scholars and students,’ he says, ‘alongside a structure tailored to a field that is not always recognised as a “classical” academic discipline’. Establishing STIP would also send a signal that science, technology and innovation policy ‘is a serious field of investigation’ with a legitimate place in the business school and at the university.

The first concrete step came in 2014 with a proposal for a Leverhulme Doctoral Training Centre. **Shapira and Edler** assembled an interdisciplinary team spanning innovation research, engineering, natural sciences and medicine. Although the bid progressed far, and attracted campus-wide support, it was ultimately not funded by Leverhulme. Rather than abandon the project, the cofounders moved forward. **Shapira** reflects that one lesson was the importance of ‘being innovative and willing to start new initiatives, then gathering the resources around that momentum.’





A revised PhD proposal put together and approved in 2015. The STIP PhD programme formally launched the following year

From the outset, STIP was inherently interdisciplinary. It draws on innovation studies, science and technology studies, and policy analysis. **‘Our aim was not to replicate a single discipline, but to equip doctoral students with the conceptual and analytical tools needed to engage with and advance research on real-world science, technology and innovation policy problems,’** says Edler. This orientation towards the leading-edge of research and practice has remained central, as STIP students explore topics ranging from sustainability and inequality to university-industry relationships and technological transformation.

A defining feature of STIP has been its cohort model. STIP encourages learning through seminars, cross-year exchanges, internships and doctoral training schools, creating what **Shapira** describes as a ‘shared learning environment’. The diversity of STIP PhD students across disciplines and national backgrounds and its connections across the University of Manchester and with other universities and policy agencies has strengthened the programme’s interdisciplinary ethos.





The co-founders stress that STIP has always been a collaborative effort. The programme began with a small core group of committed academics who drove its initial development. Over time, it has been strengthened by a wider network of colleagues contributing teaching, intellectual input, and institutional support.

Looking ahead, new challenges loom, from artificial intelligence to geopolitical uncertainty. As **Edler** puts it, the pressing question is ‘not only how to innovate, but innovation for what purpose’.

That question continues to guide a programme born from both intellectual conviction and institutional innovation.

Philip Shapira and Jakob Edler were interviewed for this piece by Mariia Bobyleva.



STIP TIMELINE:

2016–2017

2016 - The opening year for the PhD STIP Programme

In the opening year, the PhD STIP Programme was born from the belief: that science, technology and innovation policy deserved its own interdisciplinary doctoral home. Members of the first STIP PhD cohort in 2016 included Paul Sterzenbach (graduated 2019), Tinnakorn Phongthiya and Yaomin Zhang (both graduated in 2020) and Alina Kadyrova (graduated 2021).

2017 - Finding our feet, building our community

By 2017, the PhD STIP Programme had moved from idea to lived experience. Cohorts came together through shared seminars, lively debate, and collective learning, forging a strong sense of belonging. This was the year STIP became more than a programme, it became a community, united by ambition, collaboration, and a shared belief in the power of innovation policy to shape the world.



BMAN 80962 (Advanced Methods in Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Analysis). Hands-on session, 12 March 2025.

STIP TIMELINE:

2018–2020

2018: Celebrating publication milestones of the PhD STIP cohort

PhD alum Yaomin Zhang won the best paper finalist, Strategic Management Society Oslo Special Conference 2018

2019: Celebrating publication milestones of the PhD STIP cohort

PhD alum Mina Rezaeian is co-author of “Four decades of fuzzy sets theory in operations management: application of life-cycle, bibliometrics and content analysis” in *Scientometrics*.

2020: Celebrating the graduation of the first cohort and some major publications of the PhD STIP cohort

PhD alum Oishee Kundu is lead author on “Public procurement and innovation: a systematic literature review” in *Science and Public Policy*, has gained over 100 citations since 2020.

PhD alum Layla Mohammed published an article “Adoption of alternative fuel vehicle fleets - A theoretical framework of barriers and enablers” in *Transportation Research Part D: Transportation and Environment*.

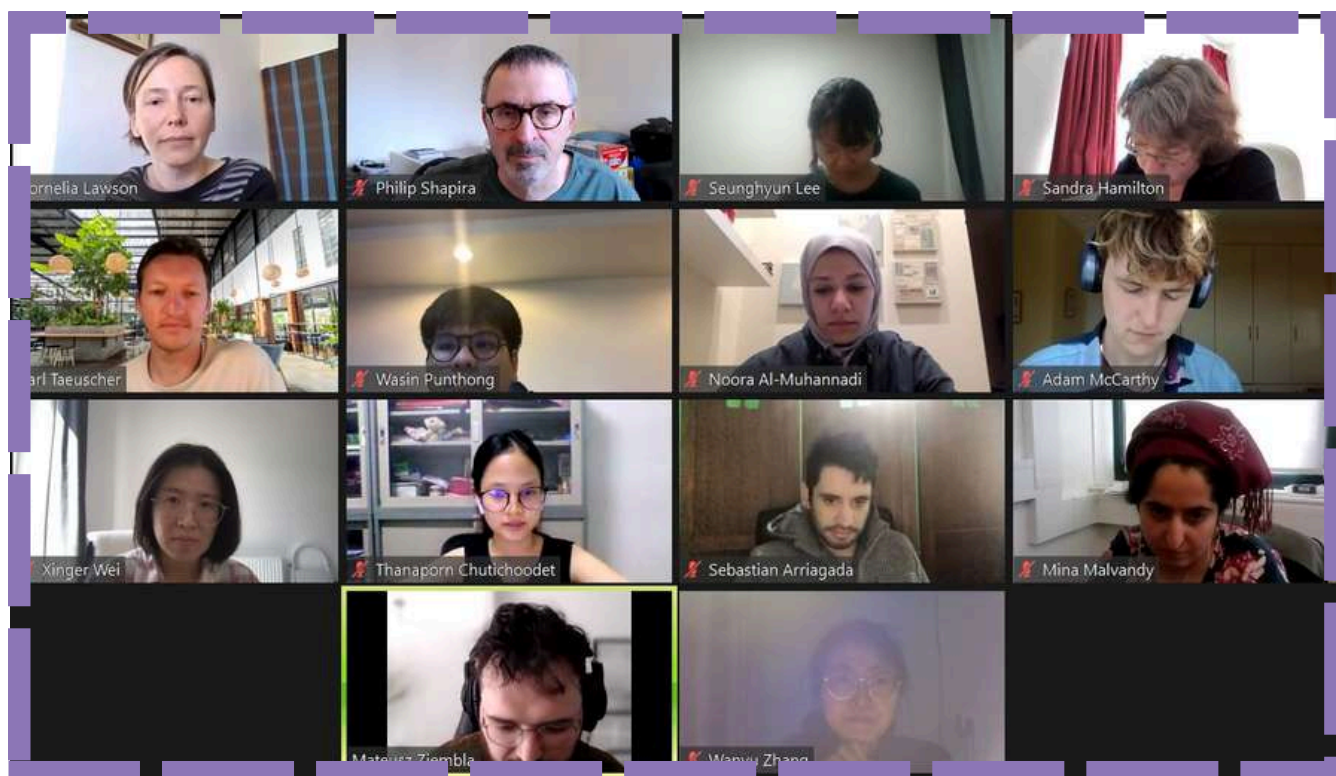


STIP TIMELINE:

2021

2021: Celebrating publication milestones of the PhD STIP cohort

PhD alum Tinnakorn Phongthiya is lead author of “Innovation intermediaries for university–industry R&D collaboration: Evidence from science parks in Thailand” in *The Journal of Technology Transfer*. Building on his doctoral research and experience within the STIP Programme, Tinnakorn subsequently returned to Thailand, where he now serves as Project Manager at the Science and Technology Park (STeP), Chiang Mai University, alongside his role as a Lecturer at Chiang Mai University.



During the COVID-19 pandemic, STIP went online. This is a screenshot from the STIP Seminar of 26 April 2021. The seminar topic: “Achieving superior performance: How much should firms differentiate themselves?” with Karl Taeuscher.

STIP TIMELINE:

2022–2023

2022:

PhD alum Tausif Bordoloi is lead author of “Policy interactions with research trajectories: The case of cyber-physical convergence in manufacturing and industrials” in *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*. Tausif is now Lecturer in Innovation and Entrepreneurship Programme Director of MSc Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the University of Exeter Business School and

2023:

PhD alum An Yu Chen presents “Green technologies alliance on science: Investigating the science knowledge base via scholarly work cited in patents” at the 27th International Conference on Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators. An Yu is now a Research Associate in Science of Science at MIOIR.

PhD alum Yiwen Sun published a conference article “Global Digital Platform’ Non-Market Strategies in Response to Institutional Pressure” in Academy of Management Proceedings



STIP TIMELINE:

2024

Celebrating publication milestones of the PhD STIP cohort

After graduating from the STIP programme, Alina Kadyrova worked as a Lecturer in Innovation at AMBS. She published “Exploring structures of urban social innovation systems: cases Manchester, Utrecht, Stockholm, Sodra, Budapest” in the *Journal of Social Entrepreneurship*.

PhD alum Mina Rezaeian wrote a series of publications with her supervisors on the role of policy before embarking on her academic career journey. Mina is now Lecturer in Sustainability and Strategy at the University of Edinburgh Business School.

PhD alum Noora Al-Muhannadi and PhD student Priscila Ferri are co-authors of a book chapter “The role of business incubators in fostering start-up growth: Insights from the creative industry entrepreneurial ecosystem of Qatar.”

PhD alum Seung-Huyn Lee presented a conference article “Unlocking Dynamics of Interdisciplinarity: Identifying characteristics of research disciplines: Using the case of Korean Public Research Institutes” in the Eu-SPRI Forum Annual Conference 2024. Seung-Huyn is now a Research Fellow in Metascience with the Research on Research Institute.

PhD alum Adam McCarthy is one of the authors (also with Priscila Ferri) of “Innovation intermediaries at the convergence of digital technologies, sustainability, and governance: A case study of AI-enabled engineering biology” in *Technovation*. He is now a post-doctoral research associate at MIOIR.

STIP TIMELINE:

2025–2026

2025: Celebrating students' success - A year to remember

The STIP Programme celebrated many successful PhD defences: Wanyu Zhang, Taeje Park, Seung-hyun Lee, Sebastian Arriagada Mujica, Yiwen Sun, An Yu Chen, Adam McCarthy, Matt Ziembla, Noora Al-Muhannadi, Milad Aghazadeh, Gianncarlo Duran and Jhenelle McIntyre.



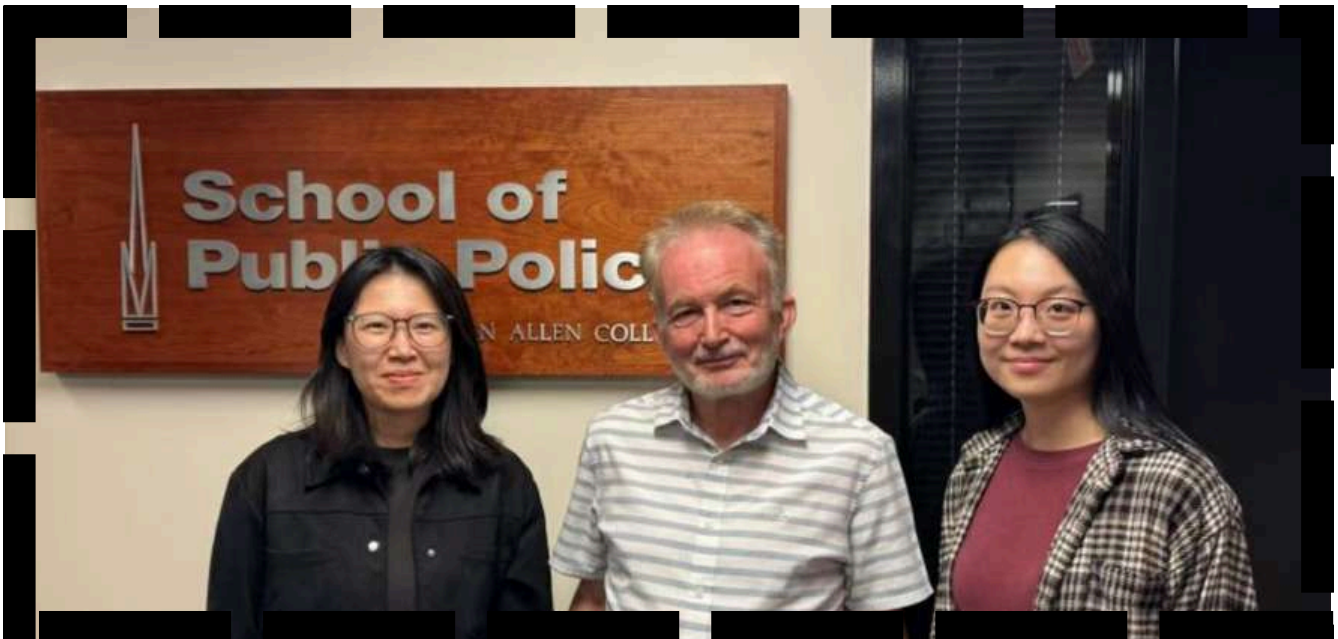
PhD alum Taeje Park published a conference paper “The Role of AI Platforms in Enhancing Entrepreneurship Education: A Theoretical Analysis” with the ICST Institute for Computer Sciences, Social Informatics and Telecommunications Engineering.

A decade on, PhD STIP has turned vision into outcomes. Our alumni publish in leading journals, present at top-tier conferences that shape science, technology and innovation policy, and mentor those who follow. Their achievements don't just mark milestones, they power a growing community where each new cohort stands taller on the success of the last.

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

Every year, STIP PhD students have opportunities to become visiting researchers at the partnerships institutes.

In the Spring of 2025, PhD students Xinger Wei and Pei Yu Zhan visited the Georgia Institute of Technology's School of Public Policy (GT-SPP), where they researched the dynamics of "U.S.-China Technological Decoupling in AI". This opportunity was supported by an award under the MIOIR-GT SPP Memorandum of Agreement.



Xinger Wei and Pei Yu Zhan with Georgia Tech professor Milton Mueller

MIOIR has extended this doctoral partnership with Georgia Tech to also include the University of Johannesburg. In Spring 2026, STIP PhD students Effa Ettah, Abdul Wahab Malik, and Danish Faisal will visit Johannesburg, while Linyi Gao will visit Georgia Tech.

STIP PhD students have undertaken exchanges at European universities through the European Forum for Studies of Policies for Research and Innovation (Eu-SPRI). Multiple European Eu-SPRI students visiting MIOIR have participated in STIP seminars.

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

In April 2025, STIP PhD alum An Yu Chen, together with Professor Silvia Massini, visited the Department of Management, Economics and Industrial Engineering at Politecnico di Milano. The visit proved highly enriching, building on a new Memorandum of Understanding with MIOIR and marking an important step in strengthening collaboration and exchange.

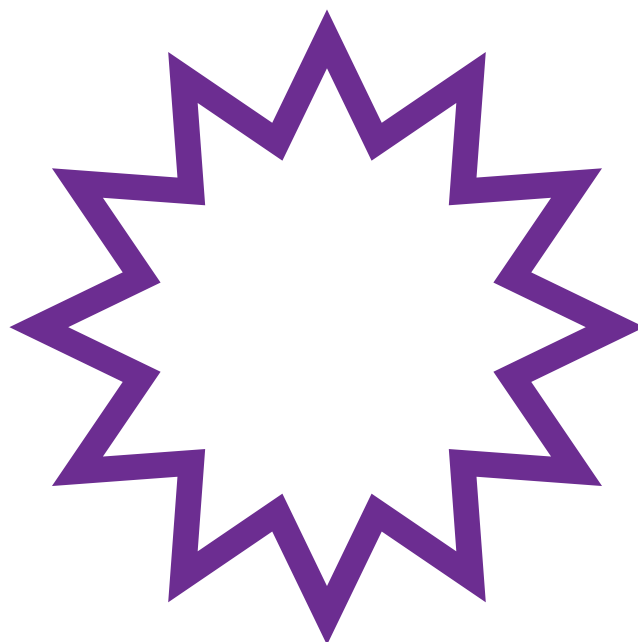


THE STIP DIFFERENCE

At the 10-Year mark, the STIP PhD Programme has produced 25 graduates! While most work in academia, other STIP PhD graduates are engaged in government, the private sector, and non-profit organisations. These achievements speak not just to careers, but to impact.

“Success is not how high you have climbed, but how you make a difference to the world,” says Roy T. Bennet, the author of *The Light in the Heart*. Our STIP graduates have embodied this spirit—advancing research, enriching our community and the university, and influencing the societies around them. They have shown what it means to lead with curiosity, purpose, and conviction.

Looking ahead, the next generation of STIP scholars will carry this legacy forward. Over the coming decade, they will carve their own paths, push the boundaries of interdisciplinary research, and contribute new ideas that shape the future of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy. Each step they take builds on the foundation laid before them—proof that in STIP, success is a shared journey, passed from cohort to cohort.





STIP in Numbers

45



PhD Researchers

25 graduates

20 current
students



31



Supervisors

Before STIP, I studied Management Information Systems and Innovation Management; however, the primary focus of my previous degrees was the development and application of innovative technologies for society. But, I was not fully aware of the negative aspects of those technologies. Then, I found STIP an attractive interdisciplinary field that combines knowledge from various disciplines such as management, economics, and science to bridge the gap between what is scientifically or technologically possible and what is socially desirable. In fine, my attraction to the programme lies in the policy-focused analysis of innovative technologies before, during, and after their development and implementation.

Mohammad Tariqul Islam, 2022 cohort



I value the STIP programme's focus on innovation, its willingness to accept part time students and the global reputation of both AMBS and the Manchester Institute of Innovation Research.

Gary Young, 2023 cohort

There are many opportunities for students to support their careers: for example, teaching and exchange opportunities. I also appreciate the quality of the speakers at the STIP seminar.

Han Phan, 2025 cohort

WHY STIP?



As a practitioner navigating the public innovation landscape, I view foresight as a crucial starting point for aligning visions and reducing barriers among stakeholders. Yet, the real challenge remains: 'What comes next after these activities to drive actual policy implementation forward?' (as well as the practical mechanisms beneath). Since Manchester is one of the foundational homes of this discipline and a global leader in Innovation Policy Evaluation and Impact, it feels like the right timing to unravel this executive puzzle here, at the very root of the field, alongside genuinely kind and open-minded experts.

Yenpat Khamdaengyodtai, 2024 cohort

SUPERVISORS ON THE VALUE OF STIP

Jakob Edler

Professor of Innovation Policy and Strategy

What makes STIP distinctive is partly where it sits: inside a business school, in a university with strong ambitions to ‘do’ impact – to engage stakeholders and be involved in the life of its city and region. Another part is the tradition of contract research and advisory work: engaging governments and organisations, working on real policy challenges, and bring back into doctoral training. This orientation aligns with MIOIR’s long-standing role as a major centre for research and engagement in STIP and innovation studies, connecting scholarly work with policy and practice.

Khaleel Malik

Professor of Innovation Management

I believe the distinctiveness of the PhD Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) programme lies in its high-quality research training, which is closely tailored to the needs of students pursuing this programme of study. I have greatly enjoyed supervising on this programme, not least because students benefit from unparalleled access to STIP forums and wider networking opportunities through the Manchester Institute of Innovation Research (MIOIR) and the IMP division of AMBS. These links help them engage and network internationally. Students also value being part of a substantial, globally recognised STIP community at MIOIR, with its longstanding tradition in innovation studies. The programme has equipped my graduates to move into academic and public-sector positions worldwide - a success I deeply value.

Mabel Sanchez Barrioluengo

Senior Lecturer in Science Policy and Innovation

What I value most about supervising within the STIP programme is its distinctive blend of rigorous research training and its strong integration within the vibrant community of the Manchester Institute of Innovation Research. The programme’s thematic has evolved in step with global challenges, ensuring that doctoral work remains socially relevant and intellectually cutting-edge. I particularly appreciate how MIOIR’s interdisciplinary environment hosting a diverse cohort of researchers working across interconnected innovation themes creates fertile ground for collaboration and methodological breadth. This ecosystem not only strengthens students’ academic development but also equips them for impactful careers across sectors.

SUPERVISORS ON THE VALUE OF STIP

Andrew James

Professor of Innovation Management and Policy

The STIP programme has become a vital part of the intellectual life and research environment of MIOIR, fostering a genuinely interdisciplinary community. Over the years, I've seen STIP nurture a mature and collaborative community in which students challenge each other, support each other, and drive new lines of thinking. One of the greatest pleasures of supervising within STIP has been to see our alumni blossom, taking Manchester into academia and policy roles around the world.

Philip Shapira

Professor of Innovation Management and Policy

Several features distinguish STIP. The cohort-based model creates a collaborative learning environment setting it apart from individualised individualised and primarily one-to-one doctoral training. The programme's interdisciplinary nature brings together diverse perspectives on innovation and policy.

STIP is strongly connected to international networks. Students can engage with European networks and, more recently, with partners in institutions such as Georgia Tech, the University of Toronto, and the University of Johannesburg. These connections broaden the programme's reach and create opportunities for collaboration.

Additionally, the programme supports internships with organisations such as the OECD, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), and scientific societies. This flexibility allows students to engage with policy and practice alongside their research.

The most valuable part of STIP for me has been the people. The cohort is incredibly diverse, and it's inspiring to learn not only from each other's research but also from everyone's journeys it's meaningful to see how we all arrived at STIP through such different paths. At the same time, the supervisors and wider STIP faculty have been genuinely encouraging and inspiring. I feel very grateful to have access to such thoughtful, impactful researchers who create a supportive and motivating environment.

Alia Al-Shaiji, 2025 cohort

WHAT MAKES STIP VALUABLE

The STIP cohort, access to engaged supervisors and professors, and the contribution of external lecturers have been the most valuable elements, together creating an intellectually open and supportive research environment.

Mariia Bobyleva, 2025 cohort



The most valuable part of STIP for me has been the strong sense of community across faculty, students, and professional services. As an international student studying abroad for the first time, I immediately felt supported, which helped me settle in and grow academically and personally. I am particularly grateful to my peers from diverse cohorts and to the Emerging Technologies and Governance Group, led by my supervisor, Prof Philip Shapira, which provided an intellectually stimulating environment for collaboration and learning.

Priscila Ferri, 2021 cohort

Supervision; cohort;
STIP training programme
Mingwei Zhang
2021 cohort

The cohort

Yelin (David) Hu
2023 cohort

WHAT MAKES STIP VALUABLE

The most valuable part of STIP for me has been the integrated research training experience, including both structured research training courses and seminars, which has provided strong academic guidance, opportunities for exchange research ideas within the cohort, and a stimulating research environment

Luyao Wang, 2025 cohort

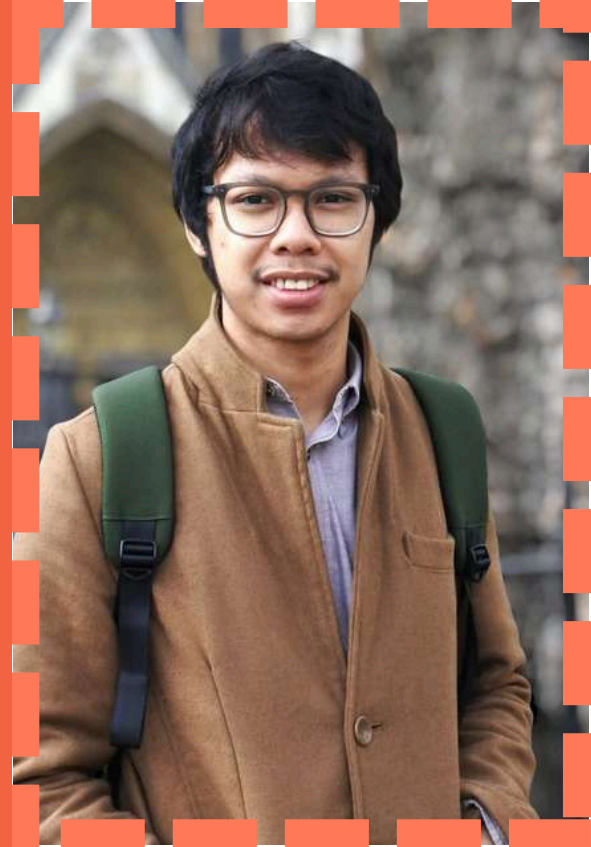


The STIP research training programme sessions were invaluable to me, introducing diverse ideas and literatures beyond the core of my own work, with sessions from leading academics in the field, both internal and external, providing excellent opportunities for reflection and debate on key topics and the shape of the field more broadly.

John Andrews,
2021 cohort

“The most valuable part of STIP is the seminars and cohort engagement”

Firman El Amny Azra
2024 cohort



The most valuable part of STIP for me so far has been the combination of high-quality supervision and the opportunity to engage with the Emerging Technologies (Research) group, which brings together more experienced researchers and allows me to participate in cutting-edge discussions.

Effa Ettah , 2025 cohort

Supervision, cohort, seminars, and interdisciplinarity are all valuable for me. I love this big family and I feel like I could always get help from my colleagues and professors.

LINYI GUO
2023 cohort



1

STIP culture = intellectual rigour

Serious, precise, and held to a high academic standard — with strong theoretical and methodological foundations, and critical debate actively encouraged.

STIP CULTURE

= . . .

STIP culture (n.)

A demanding yet supportive environment where students are treated as emerging scholars, not passive learners.

2

STIP culture = interdisciplinarity in practice

Genuine openness to cross-disciplinary exploration, where different fields, methods, and perspectives are constantly brought into conversation.

3

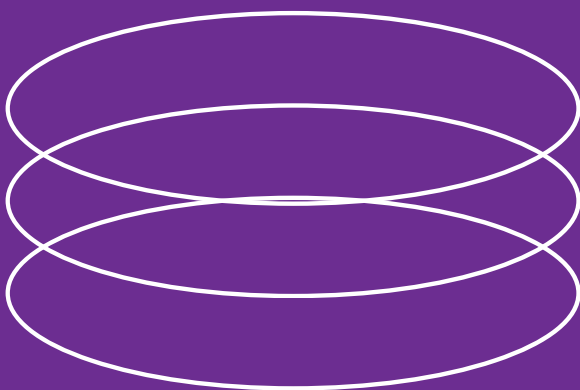
STIP culture = community

Friendly, helpful, and close — with tightly connected cohorts, collaboration as a core value, and a strong sense of mutual support.

4

STIP culture = growth

A space where questions are explored openly, boundaries are pushed, and there is room to think carefully and grow into your own way of thinking.



As described by current STIP PhD students: Mariia Bobyleva, Effa Ettah, Firman El Amny Azra, Gary Young, Han Ngoc Phan, LINYI GUO, Luyao Wang, Michi Ochial, Muhammad Danish Faisal, Peiyu Zhan, Priscila Ferri, Mingwei Zhang, Mohammad Tariqul Islam, Usman Aziz, Xinger Wei, Yelin (David) Hu, ABDUL WAHAB MALIK, Alia Al-Shajji.

STIP CULTURE



You might not
always know what
people are doing,
but it's always
connected
somewhere.

Michi Ochiai, 2025 cohort

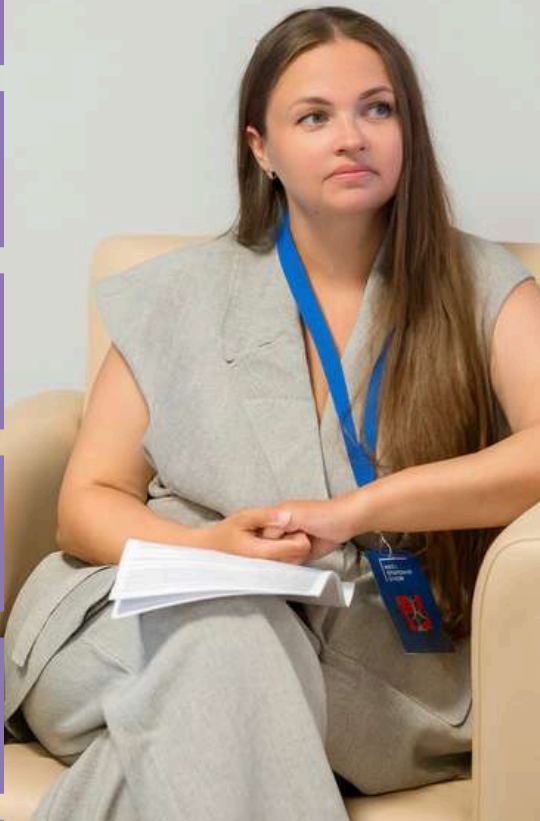
STIP has a collegial
and intellectually
rigorous culture
where critical debate
is encouraged,
and students are
treated as emerging
scholars rather than
passive learners.

Muhammad Danish Faisal
2024 cohort



Vibrant,
diverse,
inclusive,
dedicated,
and
professional.

Yuhan Wang, 2025 cohort



We didn't expect such openness.

Early-stage PhD researchers are encouraged to engage confidently with advanced theory, senior academics, and external speakers.

We didn't expect such a strong sense of community.

STIP is focused and welcoming — a place where it's easy to ask for help, talk openly, and feel supported.

We didn't expect interdisciplinarity to feel this real.

Research topics are diverse, yet connected, creating a rare sense of cohesion across disciplines.

"I was positively surprised by how personalised and focused the cohort is, and how tailored the teaching and seminars are. Dedicated sessions create a rare level of depth, access, and interaction, making the experience personal and engaging."

Mariia Bobyleva, 2025 cohort

WHAT WE DIDN'T EXPECT

As described by current STIP PhD students.

We didn't expect so many opportunities.

From conferences and research visits to internships and research assistantships, STIP opens doors early.

We didn't expect policy engagement to be so embedded.

From seminars to policy papers, STIP researchers actively engage at micro-, meso-, and macro-policy levels.

Governance of Emerging Technologies

- Global governance of emerging technologies
- Responsible governance of biotechnologies
- Hybrid governance in the sharing economy
- China's space diplomacy

Innovation Policy & Economic Transformation

- Innovation policy linking industrial and regional development
- Transition policies and incumbent business models
- Innovation policy for advanced manufacturing
- Digital transformation & innovation policy

Over the past decade, STIP research has addressed some of the most pressing questions at the intersection of innovation, governance, and societal change. The work completed by STIP doctoral researchers reflects both intellectual breadth and policy relevance.

STIP RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS: WHAT HAS BEEN BUILT

Knowledge, Intermediaries & Ecosystems

- Scientific knowledge and green technology development
- Innovation intermediaries and science parks
- Entrepreneurial support organisations and venture legitimacy
- Start-up Incubation and Entrepreneurship

Public Sector & Institutional Design

- Public procurement and innovation (defence)
- Organisational design and health systems (NHS)
- Governance of public research organisations in national innovation systems (Korea)

Markets, Firms & Power

- Superstar firms and economic concentration

From Manchester to the World

STIP alums are building careers worldwide — across academia, policy, and industry — contributing to innovation and societal challenges at global and local levels.

PhD thesis title in italics with current position

- **Adam McCarthy:** *International Boundary Organisations and the Knowledge-Governance Interface: The Co-production of Digital Sequence Information at the Convention on Biological Diversity (2025).* Postdoctoral Research Associate — Manchester Institute of Innovation Research (MIOIR) — Manchester.
- **An Yu Chen:** *The Contribution of Scientific Knowledge to Green Technology Development: Three Essays (2026, pending).* Research Associate — Manchester Institute of Innovation Research (MIOIR) — Manchester
- **Nick Matthews:** *Constructing sustainable technologies : the case of synthetic biology (2021).* Head of Low Carbon Fuels Strategy — Department for Transport — London
- **Oishee Kundu:** *Public procurement and innovation : is defence different? (2022).* Research Associate (DECIPHer) — Cardiff University — Cardiff
- **Pooria Miladi Ghareaghaj:** *Three Essays on Superstar Firms (2024).* Commercial Leadership / Applied Data Scientist — Manchester
- **Mina Malvandy:** *Organisational Design & Hospital Cost Efficiency in the English NHS (2026, pending).* Graduate Teaching Associate — University of Manchester, Economics Department — Manchester
- **Mina Rezaeian Abrishami:** *Transition policies and incumbents' business models: From resistance and system failure to learning and adaptation (2022).* Lecturer in Sustainability and Strategy — University of Edinburgh — Edinburgh
- **Tausif Bordoloi:** *Technological Convergence in Manufacturing: Research, Adoption and Policy (2022).* Lecturer in Innovation and Entrepreneurship — University of Exeter Business School — Exeter
- **Tinnakorn Phongthiya:** *Innovation Intermediaries for University-Industry R&D Collaboration (2020).* Assistant Director (Science & Technology Park) and Assistant Professor (Industrial Engineering, Faculty of Engineering) — Chiang Mai University — Thailand
- **Wanyu Zhang:** *Digital Transformation in Manufacturing SMEs (2025).* Researcher — University of Manchester — Manchester
- **Wasin Punthong:** *Science, technology, and innovation policy change in Thailand (1997-2022): Ideas, discourse and politics (2024).* Lecturer (Faculty of Political Science) — Thammasat University — Thailand

From Manchester to the World....

...more STIP alums

PhD thesis title in italics with current position

- **Yaomin Zhang:** *The Structure and Micro-Foundation of Hybrid Governance: The Case of the Sharing Economy (2020)*. Lecturer — Queen's Business School — Belfast
- **Molly Silk:** *China's Space Activities: Resources and Vehicles for Soft Power Generation (2024)*. Analyst — UK Government — London
- **Matt Ziembla:** *The role of agency in turning regional economies green: the pursuit of sustainable regional development in Greater Manchester (2025)*. Research Associate — Manchester Institute of Innovation Research (MIOIR) — Manchester
- **Taeje Park.** *The Impact of Institutional Resource Support on Venture Legitimacy (2025)*. Post-Doctoral Researcher — Manchester Institute of Innovation Research (MIOIR) — Manchester
- **Seung-Hyun Lee:** *Exploring the Positioning of Research Actors through Interdisciplinarity and Research Collaboration: Insights from the Case of Korean Public Research Institutes (2025)*. Research Fellow in Metascience, Research on Research Institute, UCL — Manchester
- **Paul Sterzenbach:** *The Rise of New Models of Start-up Support: How Makerspaces, Hackathons, and Start-up Competitions influence Entrepreneurship (2020)*. Program Manager — [Hilti Corporation](#) — Switzerland
- **Hoang Nguyen:** *The responses of Vietnamese public universities to the autonomy policy (2021)*. Lecturer, MBA Programme Manager at University of Wales Trinity Saint David
- **Alina Kadyrova:** *Territorial and organisational aspects of social innovation emergence (2020)*. Postdoctoral Researcher in Social and Sustainable Innovation at Open University



From Manchester to the World...

...more STIP alums

PhD thesis title in italics with current position

- **Gian Durán:** *Understanding novelty and change: Exploring incremental, radical and system innovation in the public sector (2025).* Head of Public Sector Innovation at Capacity
- **Milad Aghazadeh:** *Configurational Modelling of Turnaround Strategies (2025).* Teaching Associate (economics) at Alliance Manchester Business School
- **Noora Al-Muhannadi:** *Shocks, Support and Survival: Exploring Innovation and Policy Impact on the Resilience of Hospitality and Tourism During COVID-19 (2025).* Lecturer at Qatar University
- **Yiwen Sun** - Assistant Programme Manager at Alliance Manchester Business School
- **Layla Mohammed:** *The Adoption Factors of Commercial Electric Vehicles: The Impact of Policy (2022).* Assistant Professor in Management, American University of Bahrain
- **John Andrews:** *Strategic reorientation in social movements: veganism as industrial transition movement (2025).* Postdoctoral researcher and NGO freelance researcher.





In many many ways, not least due to the UKRI internship I was able to do with the Government Office for Science during my PhD, which then led me to permanent role in the Civil Service after I graduated. More specifically, the STIP programme allowed me to explore a very wide range of academic topics, both specific to my PhD topic and more broadly. This has left me with a somewhat insatiable curiosity to learn more and to get to the root of any problem.

Nick Matthews, 2017 cohort

SHAPING CAREERS AND THINKING

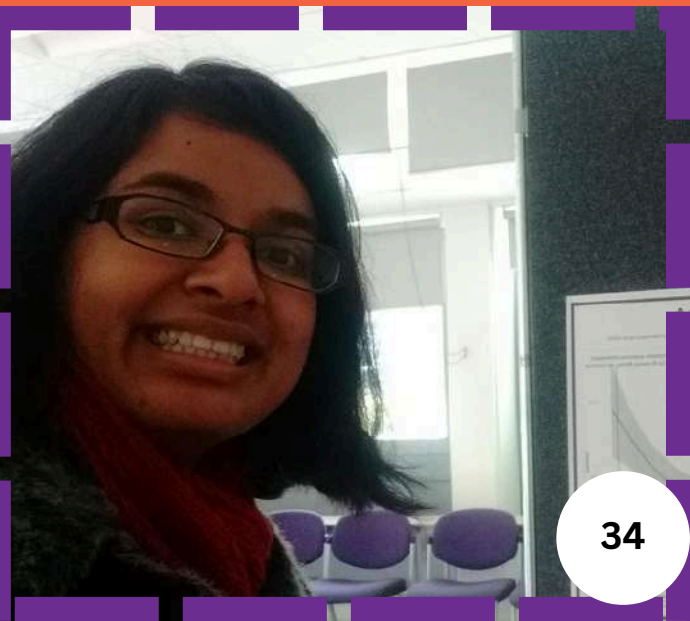
STIP played a central role in shaping my interest in sustainability transitions and transition-oriented policy. It also provided formative experience in teaching, helping me develop my approach as a lecturer and academic educator. It encouraged a way of thinking that bridges theory, empirical research, and policy relevance, which continues to guide my work.

Mina Rezaeian, 2018 cohort

To be tough and persistent. Mina Malvandy, 2019 cohort

I still feel very “early” in my career – LinkedIn says that average working life is 44 years and I have only worked 4 years so far! Nevertheless, I feel STIP has shaped me to see innovation in a more socially-embedded manner, emerging from a combination of various factors rather than a stream of research funding or simple serendipity.

Oishee Kundu, 2017 cohort



Pursuing the STIP PhD was instrumental in expanding my intellectual horizons and exposing me to a wide range of concepts related to innovation many of which have strong practical and policy relevance in today's world. For example, one topic I have become particularly interested in is the role of geography in affecting the innovation of semiconductor chips within complex supply chains. Professionally, the STIP PhD opened important opportunities for me, particularly a prestigious internship at the OECD and my first full-time permanent academic position as a lecturer. In this role, I have developed, convened and taught undergraduate and postgraduate courses in innovation and policy drawing directly on the knowledge and experience I gained during my PhD.

Tausif Bordoloi, 2018 cohort



STIP strengthened my ability to connect theory with real-world policy and industry challenges

Wanyu Zhang, 2020 cohort

STIP trained me to see the world through a systems lens - always seeking to understand not just what happens, but why and how things connect.

**Tinnakorn Phongthiya
2016 cohort**

**SHAPING
CAREERS
& THINKING**

SHAPING CAREERS & THINKING

I learned how to become a better scholar by developing critical thinking skills and by thinking research ideas that can genuinely address societal impact. More than that, I developed a resilient mindset and learned not to be disheartened by a competitive job market. Instead, I cultivate my skill in AI and LLMs.

An Yu Chen, 2021 cohort



Reflecting on the whole journey from Cell Biology graduate to STIP, I learned to become a critical social scientist who sees the power of technologies, but also the contested politics through which they are shaped and governed. I also came to appreciate that the problems we face require a diversity of knowledge and approaches. Engaging seriously with the “wicked problem” character of these challenges makes for interesting research and gave me a more nuanced understanding of how the world works. I am especially grateful for the mix of senior mentorship and conversations with peers that sharpened my ability to question assumptions, identify where the interesting research problems really are, and then pursue them with confidence!

Adam McCarthy, 2020 cohort

My experience at STIP directly shaped both my career trajectory and the way I think about research. The networks I developed throughout my PhD journey, from interviews conducted for my doctoral research, seminars, summer schools, conferences, and even the PhD examination process, played a significant role in shaping my job search and professional direction. These experiences helped me better understand the academic and policy landscape, clarify the kind of research environment I wanted to be part of, and articulate my own research identity. The relationships and exposure I gained during this time ultimately influenced the opportunities I pursued after completing my PhD.

Seung-Hyun Lee, 2020 cohort



SHAPING CAREERS & THINKING

It showed me the significant influence of innovations (in all their variety and impacts) on different aspects of our lives, and the complexity of designing systems that support innovations that, at a minimum, do not harm society and, ideally, contribute to sustainable development and social progress. I enjoyed learning about the history of many innovations and the field of innovation studies (among the studies of science and technology), which made me appreciate how far we, as a society, have come thanks to STIP and also made me more curious and in my life as I often reflect on the origins of ideas and products I encounter.



I have learnt that being different from the rest (in your topic, research question, or methodological approach) can be scary at first, but it can lead to interesting new results that push the field forward. I also saw that there is a wide variety of research communities studying different aspects of STIP, and that you never run out of potential research directions and research questions because there is still so much left to explore!

Alina Kadyrova, 2016 cohort

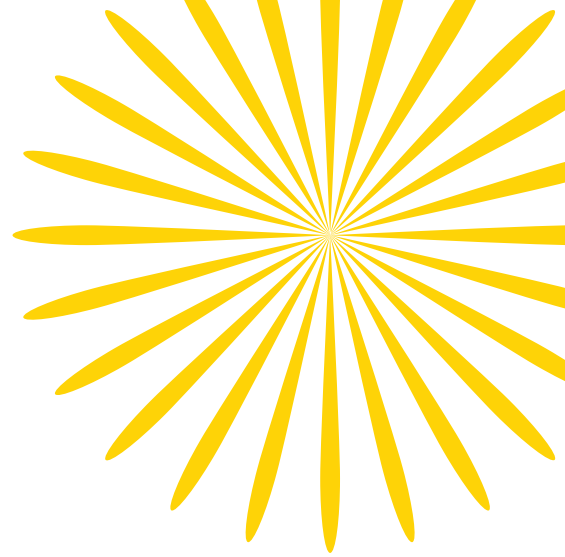
WHAT STIP TAUGHT US

A decade, distilled into what stayed.

- We learned **to work with uncertainty and to keep moving anyway.**
- We learned that **interdisciplinarity is a practice, not a label.**
- We learned that **innovation is shaped through interaction and collaboration.**
- We learned **the joy (and the terror) of working beyond “our topic” and why it matters.**
- We learned **resilience.**
- We learned **what it means to become an academic: critical, motivated, and comfortable with not knowing yet.**
- And we learned **that, beyond the training, the people and the community are what endure.**

– Oishee Kundu, Wanyu Zhang, Yaomin Zhang, Adam McCarthy, An Yu Chen, Mina Malvandy, Mina Rezaeian, Taeje Park





ADVICE WE'D GIVE OUR PAST SELVES

01.

BE OPEN AND FLEXIBLE.

Come with curiosity rather than a fixed disciplinary identity. STIP rewards openness, flexibility, and a willingness to explore where the programme takes you.

02.

THINK ACROSS BOUNDARIES.

Be ready to work beyond your topic, beyond your discipline, and beyond familiar methods. Even research that seems narrow will open up in unexpected ways.

03.

ENGAGE — DON'T STAY SILENT.

Talk to peers, supervisors, and faculty. Share challenges early. The community is one of STIP's greatest strengths — use it.

04.

COMMIT TO THE JOURNEY.

A PhD requires discipline, motivation, and endurance. STIP is demanding, but it offers a rich research environment if you fully engage.

Talk to people outside of the STIP community. The linear narrative of innovation, the thinking that “if you build it, they will come” is so stubbornly persistent. The social history of technology needs to be promoted amongst a much wider audience than engineering and business school academics.

Oishee Kundu, 2017 cohort

My online PhD viva during the COVID pandemic. Despite being nervous and the unusual Zoom format, my examiners were incredibly constructive and encouraging. It was a surreal but unforgettable moment - defending my research remotely yet feeling fully supported across the distance.

Tinnakorn Phongthiya, 2016 cohort



Publishing my first academic research paper towards the end of my third year was one of the most exciting moments of my PhD. I felt incredibly proud.

Tausif Bordoloi, 2018 cohort

MOMENTS THAT MATTERED



The many thoughtful, in-depth conversations with my supervisors, and the constant sense of understanding and support they provided.

Yaomin Zhang, 2016 cohort

Spending long days writing my thesis in the John Rylands Library.

Taeje Park, 2021 cohort

The moment from my PhD journey that was most impactful was probably the day I submitted my PhD thesis. It was the day that I realised that all the different directions I explored during the programme, either by reading or attending conferences, paid off and allowed me to create a coherent piece of work that I could be proud of. It was a day of reflection over the entire journey and left the biggest impression on me.

Matt Ziembla
2020 cohort



The most memorable moment from my PhD journey was heading to the Bay Area, California in summer 2018 to embed myself in a case company – a daunting but incredible experience.

Nick Matthews, 2017 cohort

MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

I really enjoyed the “mini-PhD” project with Philippe Laredo and John Rigby in the first year. What has stayed with me is the joy (and terror) of working on topics that are not “my topic”. The STIP seminars were such a wonderful window into the variety of thinking in science and technology studies, and that diversity or variety is what I continue to seek in my work now.

Oishee Kundu, 2017 cohort



MOMENTS THAT MATTERED



My most memorable fun moments during my PhD were the group walks along the River Mersey and the annual visits to the Manchester Christmas markets.

My most memorable chaotic moments during my PhD were the move from the AMBS building to various buildings across campus (Denmark Road, Sackville Street and others), and then back again a few years later.

Alina Kadyrova, 2016 cohort



Crying desperately in front of random people.

Mina Malvandy, 2019 cohort



Our virtual office hours with fellow PhD researchers during the COVID pandemic, supporting each other to stay positive, motivated, and continue our research while in lockdown. They captured the sense of solidarity and community that defined my PhD experience at STIP.

Mina Rezaeian, 2018 cohort

The first paper I published was not linked to my PhD topic at all! Nick (Dr Nicholas E. Matthews) and I were PhD colleagues and worked together on a topic of mutual interest as part of the “mini-PhD” module from first year. We went to a Chinese restaurant when we received the R&R.

Oishee Kundu, 2017 cohort

After the Viva, the examiners gave me positive informal feedback and told me that, as per tradition, we are going for lunch together. It was a symbol of telling me, “Now you have a seat at the table with us”.

**Pooria Miladi Ghareaghaj
2018 cohort**

Attending the CBD COP15 and COP16 in Montreal and Colombia, with support from the ESRC and MIOIR, was a real highlight. It was an unusual privilege to collect data in real time, meet a wide range of people working across policy and science, and represent the university in settings well beyond the usual academic context. Just as memorable, though, has been the global network of friends and colleagues I gained through the PhD. At one point I remember saying I was jealous of people who came to study in the UK because I assumed they would have a more ‘international’ experience. But someone said, “the world came to Manchester” and they were right. I am genuinely grateful for the friends and colleagues I now have around the globe, and for the support they offered throughout the journey.

Adam McCarthy, 2020 cohort



MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

Various trips to conferences around the world where I met fellow PhD students from different cultures and research areas – these opened perspectives which I continue to benefit from.

Paul Sterzenbach, 2016 cohort

One of my most memorable moments was giving my first presentation at the EU-SPRI Early Career Conference, which was held at MIOIR. I began my PhD during the COVID-19 pandemic, something I had not anticipated when applying for the PhD course, and spent more than a year working almost entirely online. Experiencing in-person academic interaction for the first time after such a long period of isolation was incredibly meaningful. Presenting my work to a live audience accelerated my research progress far more than reading and writing alone. It helped me clarify my arguments, receive constructive feedback, and build real professional relationships. The experience gave me confidence in my research and in navigating an international academic environment. Since then, presenting at conferences has become one of my main strategies for developing my research and professional networks. That first in-person presentation remains a particularly positive and formative experience.

Seung-Hyun Lee, 2020 cohort

THANK YOU, STIP



ABDUL WAHAB MALIK

2024 cohort

STIP has played a key role in helping me transition from practitioner-led insights to a more theoretically grounded research approach. The programme has provided the intellectual space and support needed to critically examine complex energy and policy challenges through an academic lens.

AN YU CHEN

2021 cohort

I felt my identity was tied to the STIP programme from the very first moment. Before coming to Manchester, and even afterwards, I was often asked what I was studying. Over time, that sense of identity grew deeper. I am grateful for having learned knowledge beyond my own research. At times, my passion truly came alive when hearing about the work and perspectives of other cohorts. Many of the things I learned here are written in my heart and will stay with me wherever I go in the years following graduation. I will be forever grateful for the people I met here.



NICK MATTHEWS

2017 cohort

Thank you for many amazing experiences and happy memories.



MINA REZAEIAN

2018 cohort

Thank you to the STIP community for the support, conversations, and collaborations that continue well beyond the PhD. Best wishes for the next decade of STIP!

THANK YOU, STIP!

Thank you for fostering a supportive and intellectually open environment that continues well beyond the PhD.

Taeje Park, 2021 cohort



Gianncarlo Duran Diaz, 2018 cohort

I've really enjoyed my time with STIP. Both the staff and student body are genuinely supportive and friendly. There is always someone who can advise you about an issue. I've never felt any "negative" competition with other students, even though I have heard about this existing at other universities. Rather, we encourage each other to do better and support each other with the PhD process and its challenges. I have an upcoming 1-month visit to INGENIO (UPV) in Valencia between May – June 2026, supported by Eu-SPRI Circulation Award funding. This is an amazing opportunity that I could not have imagined before joining STIP.

Usman Aziz, 2022 cohort

I could easily turn to people in the STIP for help! Whenever I feel sad, I could talk to people and everyone is willing to hear my troubles and worries, giving me some suggestions about my research. Besides, we have parties every year, providing opportunities for us to know each other and carry on potential research collaboration. I love such environment!

LINYI GUO, 2023 cohort



THANK YOU, STIP!

I deeply appreciate the support I received from faculty members throughout my PhD. For example, MIOIR supported my in-person visit to the OECD during my internship—an opportunity that would not have been financially feasible with the internship compensation alone. My supervisors also helped me secure additional conference funding when needed, beyond the standard PhD research support.

This active encouragement and practical assistance were instrumental in developing both my research and my professional network. The professor I met at one of these conferences later examined my PhD and recommended me for the Research Fellow position I hold today. I also continue to collaborate with colleagues from the OECD whom I met during my internship, and these connections remain invaluable to my current research projects.

On a more everyday level, informal conversations with professors and lecturers at the tea points or in the corridors, often opened up unexpected opportunities and made me feel genuinely engaged within the STIP community. I remain deeply grateful for the generosity and commitment shown to PhD students, and I still reflect on that kindness from time to time.

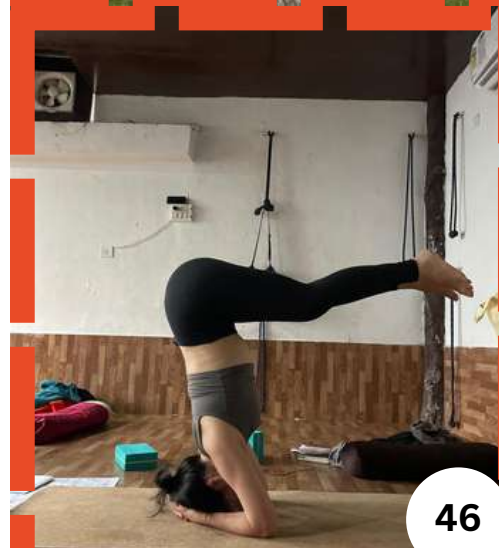
Thank you for being such a supportive and inspiring community. I hope to keep these connections alive for a long, long time. STIP has been an important intellectual and professional home for me, and I look forward to staying connected with the community in the years ahead.

The photos I provided might seem a bit random, so I wanted to provide some context. The picture from my PhD years was taken during my first trip to the Peaks after moving to Manchester, at a time when COVID-19 restrictions were still in place. It captures an important early moment in my PhD journey, adjusting to a new country and beginning my research under unusual circumstances.

The more recent photo was taken during my trip to India, where I completed my yoga teacher certification. Yoga was one of my closest companions during my PhD, supporting both my mental and physical health throughout the process. During those years, I not only developed my research, but also gradually unlocked many new yoga poses—something that felt symbolic of resilience and progress. I cannot think of my PhD journey separate from my yoga journey.

Since I deferred my graduation and have not yet attended conferences after finishing my PhD, I do not have many “traditionally academic” post-PhD photos. However, I chose to include this L-shape headstand photo because it represents a different but equally meaningful achievement connected to my PhD journey. In many ways, it feels metaphorical—finding balance, strength, and stability through the challenges of PhD life.

Seung-Hyun Lee, 2020 cohort



Letter from Bangkok

...It is midnight in Bangkok and I am still reflecting on a journey that spans continents and decades...

When I received a reminder to submit a short reflection on my PhD journey, my thoughts immediately turned to the concepts of time and change. This is perhaps natural since my thesis focused on innovation policy change in Thailand. It is also historical as I looked back at Thailand's STI policymaking since the late 1990s. I didn't think that I could write a short reflection. This writing has definitely become a much longer piece of work.

Since graduation, time and change have affected me in many ways. Upon returning to Thailand to resume my post as a full-time lecturer at Thammasat University, much of my time has been devoted to my professional duties. In just two years, I have authored a book, several research articles, and some technical reports. I taught nearly 800 undergraduate students (including an elective course centred on innovation policy), taken on the supervision of postgraduate students, and even chaired a PhD viva.

Outside the classroom, I have sat alongside Thai 'scientocrats' to help develop national innovation policy. This is a term I coined late at night while I was in Room 8.032 of the AMBS building. I tended to stay up late to work on my thesis. Besides, interestingly, I find myself frequently invited to speak on policy innovation. I tried to explain that it is not the same as innovation policy. It is not my primary expertise. Yet I usually end up lecturing on it anyway.

This is not an excuse for the delay in submitting this reflection, but I have been devoting much of my time preparing PowerPoint Presentations for lectures about policy innovation and innovation policy. Similarly, while I do not consider myself an expert in environmental policy, I am regularly commissioned to conduct research in this area. All of this has unfolded within a mere two years. It is, undoubtedly, a great deal of change. It makes me wonder how MIOIR itself has changed over the past decade. While I do not have a definitive answer, I am reminded of this passage from Maurizio Viroli's Niccolò's Smile: A Biography of Machiavelli:

"The life of every person is composed of an infinite number of moments, states of mind, thoughts, and dreams – all of which vanish into the lightless, bottomless well of time. We can do nothing more than try to discover – through surviving letters, writings, documents, and recollections – some fragment of the life of the person whom we wish to rescue from oblivion. It is unfortunate and inevitable that what emerges often has a less-than-perfect plot and an ill-defined rhythm and pace. But even a brief moment of life snatched from the jaws of time is priceless."



Letter from Bangkok

I am not sure how MIOIR has changed. But I can say something about how MIOIR has changed me. The small fragments of memory I managed to save from my PhD journey are incredibly valuable. They are also very personal because such memories are made of moments, states of mind, thoughts, and dreams.

I learned how to be a good teacher from my supervisors, and I gained lifelong friendships with my colleagues in the '8.032 office crew.' If kindness could be personified, it would look like Kieron. He gave me hope and offered forgiveness even when the drafts of my thesis were not very good. Jakob consistently stimulated my intellectual excitement while showing great generosity. Kate usually asked me if I am OK. On the bad days, this simple question kept me going. My proudest achievement during my PhD journey was having them as my supervisors.

Moreover, I learned to appreciate moments of stillness even when the world of a PhD student moves so fast. I usually had those moments on the train to the British countryside. I enjoyed the British musicals and theatre. I also realised that Manchester alumni are now very active in Thailand's STI policymaking though I still appreciate the significant contributions made by the SPRU folks (Please read my thesis if you want to know more about this).

Finally, I wish MIOIR every success and all the very best for the next ten years and beyond.

Wasin Punthong | Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University | 21 January 2026



OECD INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Several STIP students have had the opportunity to complete internships at the OECD, gaining first-hand experience at the intersection of research and international policy.

Working within an organisation that shapes global discussions on innovation, science, and technology policy allows students to apply STIP perspectives to real policy challenges, contribute to analytical work, and engage with an international network of experts.

These experiences often become an important bridge between doctoral research and policy practice, opening pathways into international organisations and public policy careers.

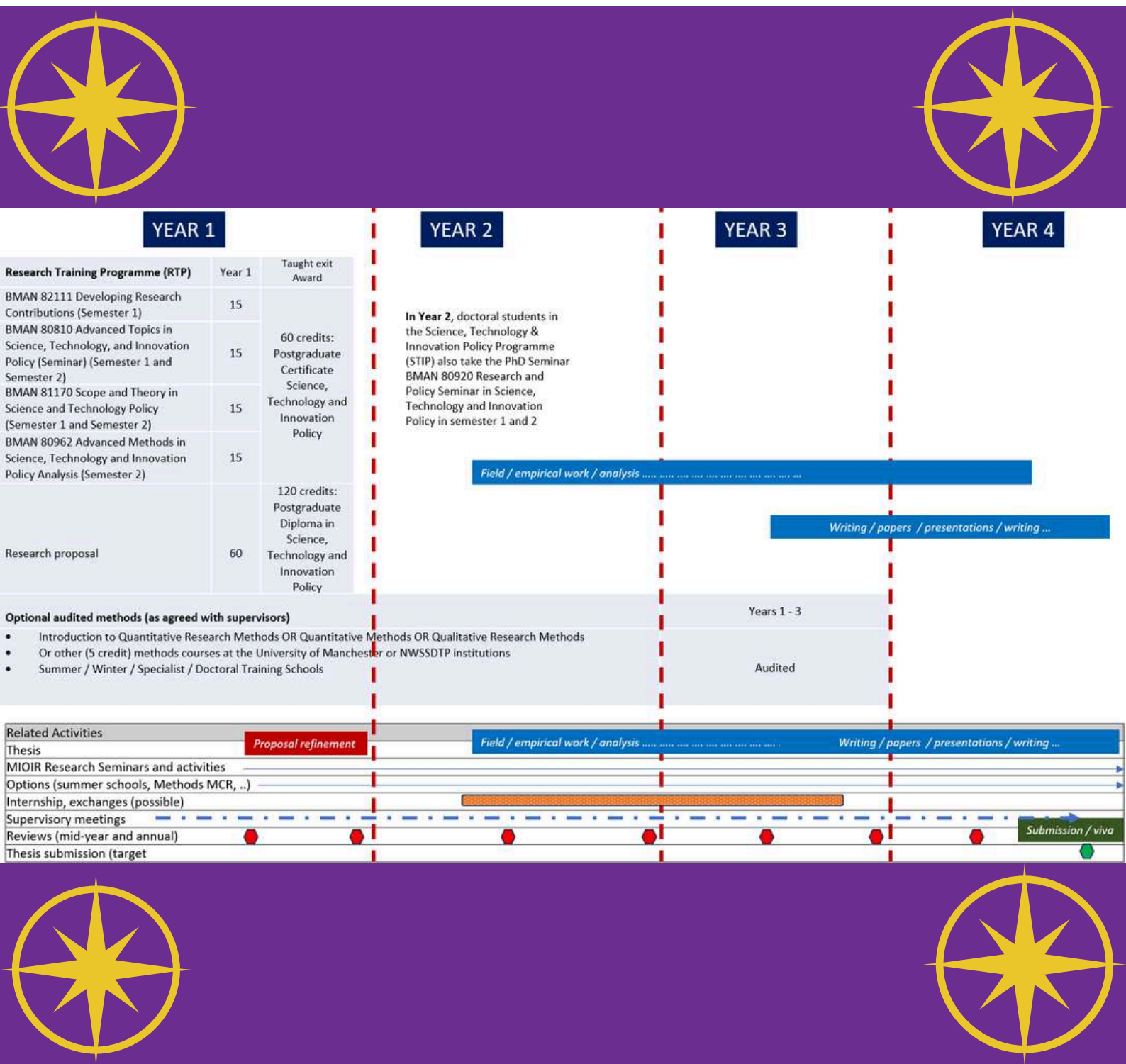
The OECD internship gave me valuable insight into how collaborative policy development operates in practice. I worked with experts from a global consulting firm, a national policy agency and the OECD to analyse technological developments in manufacturing for an EU government. My advice to prospective STIP PhD candidates would be to align their research with the OECD's priorities and clearly demonstrate in their application how they can contribute, including by highlighting any transferable skills developed during their PhD and prior experience.

Tausif Bordoloi, 2018 cohort



2026: STIP PhD Pathway

The current 4-Year STIP PhD begins with advanced research training, offers many enrichment opportunities for field breadth and depth, and targets completion for full-time students in the 4th year. Part-time students can spread out their studies up to 8 years.



STIP 2036 Compass

What the community hopes STIP will strengthen over the next decade

Policy & Practice

Real-world impact

“deeper engagement with practitioners, policymakers.”

“bridge the gap between theory and practice, focusing on translating research into real-world impact.”

“bringing research outputs to the industry”

Community

Support and connections across cohorts

“strengthening the sense of community that makes it feel meaningful and supportive.”

“maintain its supportive, intellectually stimulating environment that fosters both innovation and community among students and other researchers.”

Depth & Rigour

Training, methods, and critical scholarship

“Its distinctive brand as a hub for rigorous, critical, and policy-engaged innovation scholarship.”

“Strong research culture”

“Continue to invest in and strengthen PhD training, especially by expanding provision in advanced research methods relevant to research in the AI era.”

Global Reach

Networks and diversity

“expand international collaborations”

“continue to improve its international network.”

“network with the industry and universities from emerging countries.”

“increase the diversity of its student base even further”



HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

Rather than focusing on a specific topic, I believe STIP's strength lies in its ability to remain adaptable. The world is changing rapidly – technologically, socially, and politically. Staying attentive to these shifts and remaining open to emerging societal and technological transformations will be essential for keeping science, technology, and innovation policy research relevant and impactful. In this sense, maintaining strong connections between academic research and real-world policy challenges will also be crucial in the years ahead.

Seung-Hyun Lee, 2020 cohort

I hope STIP continues to strengthen its global outlook, interdisciplinary training, and engagement with policymakers and practitioners, particularly around emerging technologies and societal challenges.

Muhammad Danish Faisal, 2024 cohort

Stay broad and keep looking ahead. MIOIR was looking at and using AI well before it became mainstream – what's the next big thing?

Nick Matthews, 2017 cohort

Keep challenging the linear narrative of innovation and critique the role of “visionaries”/ hero-figures in technology. For example, the story of AI is often being told as one of few people and few companies calling the shots or pulling the strings, but the reality is so much more complicated and there are so many dependencies within existing technologies and social structures.

Oishee Kundu, 2017 cohort

I hope it continues to bridge the gap between theory and practice, focusing on translating research into real-world impact.

Peiyu Zhan, 2022 cohort

HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

I hope it will continue to cultivate its strong sense of community and collaboration, offering PhD students opportunities to develop career paths inside the community and beyond.

Priscila Ferri, 2021 cohort

I hope STIP will continue to be eclectic in terms of the themes, theoretical tools, and perspectives it encompasses.

John Andrews, 2021 cohort

I hope STIP will continue its foundational work in unpacking sociotechnical systems, while considering the geopolitical aspects of the current world, and strengthen its commitment to responsible and equitable development for the global north and south.

Mohammad Tariqul Islam, 2022 cohort

Future science and technology challenges are complex and often unpredictable. PhD candidates should therefore be equipped with systems thinking and complexity-based approaches. New programme content should also address emerging and fast-moving geopolitical uncertainties associated with innovation.

Tausif Bordoloi, 2018 cohort

Strengthening research on innovation in developing country contexts, particularly how global frameworks need adaptation for local realities.

Tinnakorn Phongthiya, 2020 cohort

I hope STIP continues to grow its PhD student cohort and increase the diversity of its student base even further over the next 10 years.

Usman Aziz, 2022 cohort

HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

I hope STIP continues to value openness and interdisciplinarity, while strengthening the sense of community that makes it feel meaningful and supportive.

Alia Al-Shaiji, 2025 cohort

Open innovation and a commitment to making the world a better place

An Yu Chen, 2021 cohort

I hope STIP continues to strengthen its role as a leading centre for research on sustainability transitions and innovation policy, while further deepening engagement with practitioners, policymakers, and international research networks. Continued support for research that connects entrepreneurship, policy, and institutional change would be particularly valuable.

Abdul Wahab Malik, 2024 cohort

STIP should keep its emphasis on global, grand challenges, even when political narratives and short-term pressures make them seem less immediately important. Climate change, biodiversity loss, and inequality are precisely the kinds of issues STIP can help address, but only if we continue to make the connections between technological change, governance and the distribution of benefits and harms.

Adam McCarthy, 2020 cohort

I hope STIP continues to strengthen its distinctive brand as a hub for rigorous, critical, and policy-engaged innovation scholarship.

Mariia Bobyleva, 2025 cohort

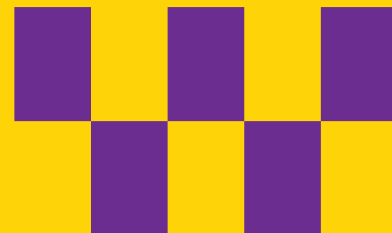
I hope STIP can continue to improve its international network. Particularly, network with the industry and universities from emerging countries.

Firman El Amny Azra, 2024 cohort

Its focus on understanding the industry, rather than academic perspective of innovation.

Gary Young, 2023 cohort

ADVICE FOR STIP STUDENTS



Dare to light up your research puzzle and let this unique environment craft you. Come with an open mind, ready to unlearn and relearn alongside a diverse community.

Yenpat Khamdaengyodtai
2024 cohort

Stay curious, stay resilient and stay connected.

Tausif Bordoloi, 2018 cohort

Stay focussed and don't shy away from adjusting fast to rapid developments outside of the research cosmos.

Paul Sterzenbach
2016 cohort

Talk! Never remain silent about the problems you are facing, academic or personal. There are lots of people who are like you, who like you or who like to help you. Just talk and allow them to talk with you.

Mohammad Tariqul Islam
2022 cohort

I would suggest having a little dip into the role of the University in the history of the field!

John Andrews
2021 cohort

Take full advantage of the STIP community. Ideas grow faster through conversation, collaboration, and constructive disagreement than in isolation.

Mina Rezaeian
2018 cohort

Be ready to explore beyond your disciplinary boundaries, participate in critical conversations, and develop systems thinking.

Priscila Ferri
2021 cohort

ADVICE FOR STIP STUDENTS



Do not be afraid to change anything. Most of the time, a relationship or a line of inquiry (e.g., research) that is not working will slow you down much more than the time investment required to change it.

Pooria Miladi Ghareaghaj
2018 cohort

Enjoy the research community here, and think big!

Peiyu Zhan
2022 cohort

Some books / journal articles should be tasted, others devoured, but only some should be chewed and digested thoroughly.

Oishee Kundu
2017 cohort

Nurture your life, hobbies and friends outside of your PhD – Manchester is a lovely city, surrounded by wonderful countryside. Take the train to Edale, regularly.

Nick Matthews
2017 cohort

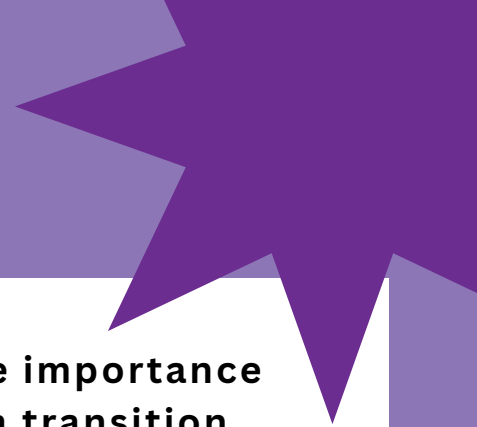
Be clear about your interests but remain flexible, as STIP will push you to refine and deepen your thinking through exposure to multiple disciplines and perspectives.

Muhammad Danish Faisal
2024 cohort

I highly recommend taking part in the wide range of activities organised by the programme and the institute, as they always left me feeling refreshed, inspired, and more connected.

An Yu Chen
2021 cohort

ADVICE FOR STIP STUDENTS



A central message for new STIP students is the importance of ownership. Entering the programme marks a transition to a new stage of academic life, where responsibility lies primarily with the student. Supervisors provide guidance and support, but the direction, initiative, and intellectual development must come from the researcher themselves. Engaging actively, asking questions, seeking feedback, and driving progress is essential.

Jakob Edler
Professor of Innovation Policy and Strategy

Embarking on a PhD is both an exciting and demanding journey, but joining the STIP programme offers an incredible opportunity to connect with a vibrant community of peers and mentors. It's a supportive environment that can turn the challenges of doctoral study into a truly enriching and rewarding experience.

Adrien Querbes
Senior Lecturer

A key expectation for STIP students is that they transition from being recipients of knowledge to contributors to the field. Students are encouraged to be curious, to read widely, to engage with others, and to develop their own ideas.

The aim is for students to move from input to output – to produce new knowledge and contribute to ongoing debates in science, technology and innovation policy.

Philip Shapira
Professor of Innovation Management and Policy

STIP MOMENTS



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Best of luck with the future. I think we might need it, but STIP has given many of us tools to respond.

*Adam McCarthy
2020 cohort.*

The only message I can leave for the STIP community is to keep up the good work.

*Matt Ziembla
2020 cohort.*

May the PhD STIP programme continue to flourish as a nurturing ground where its graduates grow into catalysts for global leading research, contributing thoughtfully to the future of science, technology and innovation policy.

Khaleel Malik, Professor of Innovation Management

May STIP continue to nurture curiosity that shapes the future of innovation studies. I look forward to seeing future cohorts push the boundaries of our field.

Dr Andrew James, Professor of Innovation Management & Policy.

STIP's strength lies in its diverse cohort bringing different national contexts and disciplinary perspectives. Keep nurturing this diversity

*Tinnakorn Phongthiya
2016 cohort.*

Congratulations on 10 years—wishing STIP the next decade of bold questions, rigorous research, and meaningful impact.

Yaomin Zhang, 2016 cohort

WISHES FOR **STIP**'S FUTURE



PHD STIP 10 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

23.02.2026



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PHD STIP 10 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

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PHD STIP 10 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

Social Event at Brew Dog Manchester Outpost
23.02.2026



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VIDEO CLIPS

Recorded Interviews with STIP Students and Alums

During the PhD STIP 10-year anniversary, we listened to the voices of current students and alums. They shared their journeys and motivations, demonstrating how STIP is guiding and inspiring new scholars and practioners with direction and purpose for the future.

Select picture or name to view video clip



Nick Matthews

STIP PhD 2021



Oishee Kundu

STIP PhD 2021



Mateusz Ziembla

STIP PhD 2025



Michi Ochiai

Current STIP PhD Student



Alia Alshaiji

Current STIP PhD Student

LOOKING AHEAD

As STIP enters its second decade, it continues to grow as a community of scholars working at the intersection of innovation, policy, and societal change. The challenges ahead are complex — but so is the ambition to address them.

Looking forward, we hope STIP will continue to:

- Inspire curiosity and critical thinking
- Connect research with real-world impact
- Build an open, collaborative community
- Shape the future of innovation policy

“There is a strong commitment to further develop the STIP PhD programme. We seek to expand sustainable student scholarship funding and strengthen our research community to address leading edge challenges in science, technology and innovation policy”

Philip Shapira



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all STIP supervisors, whose guidance, expertise, and commitment have been central to the development of the programme and the support of its doctoral community.

We are deeply thankful to:

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- Eva Niesten
- Jakob Edler
- Jonathan Pinkse
- Josephine Mylan
- Khaleel Malik
- Kieron Flanagan
- Laurence Stamford
- Luke Georghiou
- Mabel Sánchez-Barrioluengo
- Maria Nevedeva
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- Philip Shapira
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- Shukhrat Nasirov
- Silvia Massini
- Simone Turchetti
- Suneel Kunamaneni



Their contributions — through supervision, teaching, and intellectual leadership — have shaped STIP into a vibrant and internationally recognised community of research and practice.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Over the past decade, STIP has brought together a diverse and international community of doctoral researchers and alumni. Their work, ideas, and contributions have shaped the programme and its impact across academia, policy, and industry. We would like to recognise the following members of the STIP community:

- Alia Alshaiji
- Alejandra Navea Parra
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- Firman Azra
- Gary Young
- Gianncarlo Duran Diaz
- Hoang Nguyen
- John Andrews
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- Mina Rezaeian Abrishami
- Mingwei Zhang
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- Oishee Kundu
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- Peiyu Zhan
- Pooria Miladi Ghareaghaj
- Priscila Ferri de Oliveira
- Seung-Hyun Lee
- Taeje Park
- Tausif Bordoloi
- Tinnakorn Phongthiya
- Usman Aziz
- Wasin Punthong
- Wanyu Zhang
- Xinger Wei
- Yelin Hu
- Yenpat Khamdaengyodtai
- Yiwen Sun
- Yaomin Yasmin Zhang
- Yuhan Wang
- Han Phan (MRes 25-26)

Together, they represent a global community of researchers shaping science, technology, and innovation policy.



MORE ABOUT...



Follow the links to learn more:

- **Manchester Institute of Innovation Research (MIOIR)**
- **Current MIOIR PhD Students** (STIP and Business & Management PhD programmes)
- **PhD Studies at the Alliance Manchester Business School** (including the STIP PhD)
- **Applying to the PhD in Science, Technology and Innovation Policy** (The University of Manchester)

***STIP does not end with the PhD –
it continues through people, ideas, and
connections.***

This book was created to celebrate the **10-year anniversary of the STIP PhD programme** — its people, ideas, and impact.

It was developed and compiled by **Mariia Bobyleva** and **Han Phan**, bringing together contributions from founders, supervisors, students, and alumni achievements across the STIP community.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed their reflections and helped make this booklet possible.



Mariia Bobyleva
2025 cohort



Han Phan
MRes Management (STIP)