The Global Development Institute

PGR Open Day

Tuesday, 22 October 2026

Osman Ouattara



Postgraduate Research at The Global Development Institute

Two PhD Programmes

- **Development Policy and Management PhD**

Caters for those students wishing to focus on the analysis and improvement of development policy and management.

- **Development Studies PhD**

➢Development Studies stream
For those who wish to study development as a process of historical social change, with social, political and environmental, as well as economic dimensions.

➢Development Economics stream
For those looking to have their expertise in development economics

The Rory and Elizabeth Brooks Doctoral College

- **Candidates pursuing research degrees at GDI are part of the Rory and Elizabeth Brooks Doctoral College, a multidisciplinary research community.**

- **The Rory and Elizabeth Brooks Doctoral College is also the first philanthropically funded doctoral college in the UK with support from the Rory and Elizabeth Brooks Foundation.**

- **It provides opportunities for up to 100 early career researchers and bolsters the University's commitment to addressing global inequalities and making a difference to the lives of people living in poverty.**

- **The Brooks Doctoral College aspires to be a world-class community of doctoral researchers contributing to socially just global development through the research of its members and their progression into leadership roles in public, private and civic institutions.**



Research centred around seven interdisciplinary research groups



Research Approach:

1.Producing and *co-producing* research that extends knowledge frontiers.

2.Ensuring our research has a positive impact on policy and practice.

3.Educating future generations of researchers and development leaders, through research-led teaching.

Master Classes





Social Events









Funding

- School of Environment, Education and Development PhD Studentships 2026 Entry: https://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/funding/list-of-awards/seed-pgr-studentships/
- University of Manchester Joint Award – China Scholarship Council 2026 Entry: https://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/funding/list-of-awards/university-of-manchester-joint-award-china-scholarship-council/
- Trudeau Doctoral Scholarship 2026 Entry: https://www.trudeaufoundation.ca/become-a-scholar
- Commonwealth PhD Scholarships: https://cscuk.fcdo.gov.uk/scholarships/commonwealth-phd-scholarships-for-least-developed-countries-and-vulnerable-states/
- Commonwealth PhD Scholarships For High Income Countries: https://cscuk.fcdo.gov.uk/scholarships/commonwealth-phd-scholarships-for-high-income-countries/
- School of Environment, Education and Development Enhancing Racial Equality (SERE) Scholarship 2026 Entry: https://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/funding/list-of-awards/sere-scholarship/

Thank You!

PhD in Geography











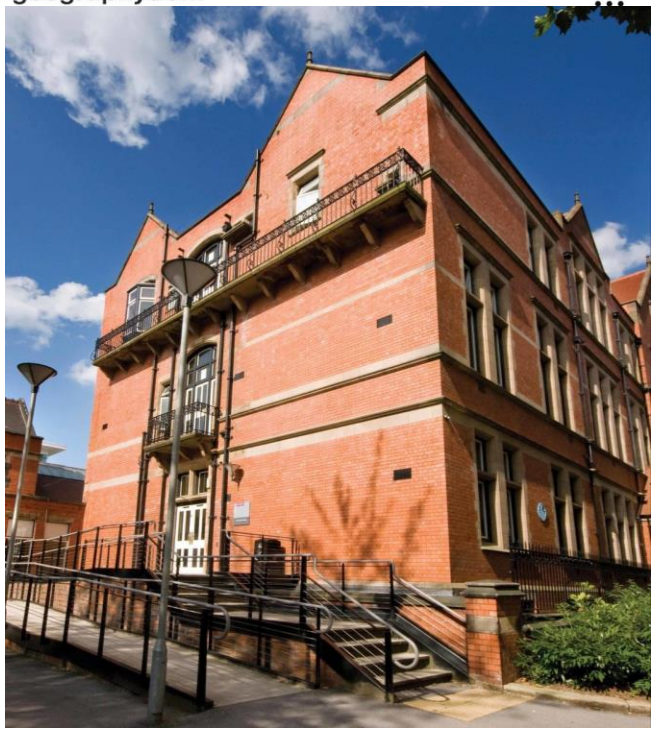


22 October 2026

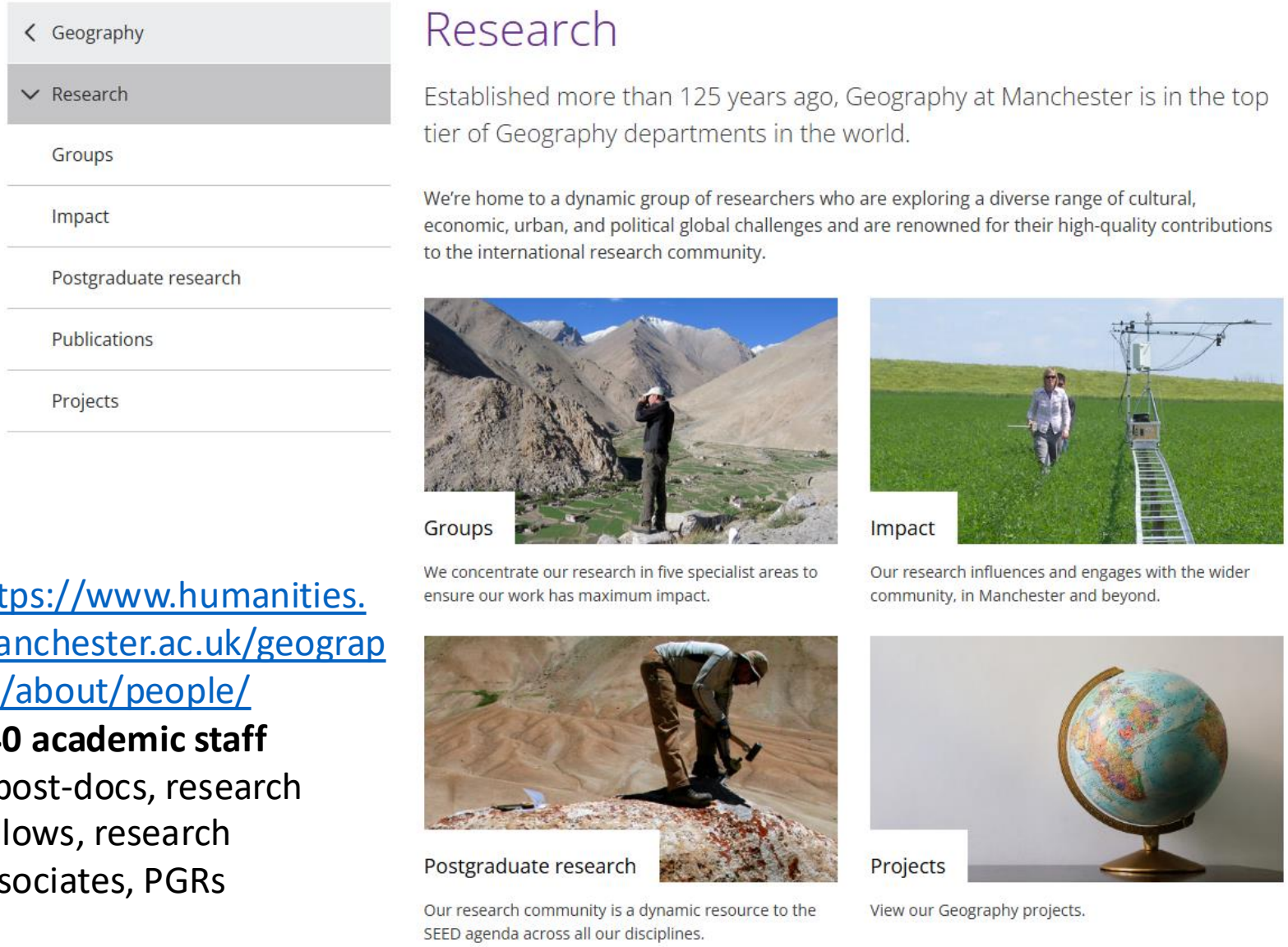
Saskia Warren – Human Geography and Abi Stone – Physical Geography

Where, what and who…

geographyuom



https://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/geography/research/



https://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/geography/about/people/

~40 academic staff

+ post-docs, research fellows, research associates, PGRs

Our research groups



Cities, Politics and Economies (CPEG)

Working at the interface of urban, political, economic, and social and cultural geography.



Environmental Processes (EPRG)

Understanding fundamental processes and their relation to contemporary environmental challenges.



Mapping, Computing and Geographical Information Science

Facilitating collaboration between colleagues from geographical sub-disciplines involving GIS and mapping.



Quaternary Environments and Geoarchaeology (QEG)

Exploring Quaternary climate changes and landscape dynamics in diverse global systems.



Society and Environment (SERG)

Developing just, inclusive, and sustainable transitions to future ways of living on earth.

Physical Geography

Past climate and environmental change:

- ecosystem change
- glacial reconstruction (field and remote-sensing)
- dryland environmental change
- geoarchaeology
- river systems

Environmental processes:

- peatlands and ecological resilience
- wildfires and biomass burning
- urban green infrastructure and nature-based solutions
- remote sensing and geospatial analysis of environmental chance



Quaternary Environments and Geoarchaeology (QEG)

Exploring Quaternary climate changes and landscape dynamics in diverse global systems.

Christopher Darvill
Will Fletcher
Anna Hughes
Phil Hughes
Abi Stone
Matt Tomkins
Jamie Woodward



Environmental Processes (EPRG)

Understanding fundamental processes and their relation to contemporary environmental challenges.

Gareth Clay
Polyanna Bispo
Matthew Dennis
Angela Harris
Sarah Lindley
James Rothwell
Emma Shuttleworth
Jonny Huck



Mapping, Computing and Geographical Information Science

Facilitating collaboration between colleagues from geographical sub-disciplines involving GIS and mapping.



Cities, Politics and Economies (CPEG)

Working at the interface of urban, political, economic, and social and cultural geography.

Saskia Warren
Jamie Doucette

Sarah Marie Hall
Cristina Temenos

Amy Barron
Martin Hess



Society and Environment (SERG)

Developing just, inclusive, and sustainable transitions to future ways of living on earth.

Saska Petrova
Aurora Fredriksen
Eric Swyngedouw

Mark Usher

Ali Browne
Yawei Zhou

Karen Lucas
Joe Blakey



Mapping, Computing and Geographical Information Science

Facilitating collaboration between colleagues from geographical sub-disciplines involving GIS and mapping.

Human Geography

Society and Environment:

- Water governance
- Global urbanization,
- Political and energy ecologies
- Climate Change

Cities, Politics, Economies:

- Diverse identities, territories and economies
- Austerity, injustice and inequality
- Alternative, sustainable, and socially just futures
- Policy and political theory

Mapping, Computing and GIS:

- Emergent technologies
- Data analysis
- Data visualisation and software development

Geography by Practice

Doctor of Philosophy

PhD Geography by Practice

Specialist doctoral training in geography supervised by researchers with very strong reputations for research quality.

Year of entry: **2027**

Duration: **3 Years [Full-time], 6 Years [Part-time]**

Full-time: In person
Part-time: In person

Full entry requirements **How to apply**



Our facilities

We're one of Europe's best-equipped universities for studying geography. Students can access our state-of-the-art laboratories and computer facilities.

Students can learn professional skills such as coding and programming. We offer industry-standard software for image processing, Geographic Information Systems, and cartographic representation.

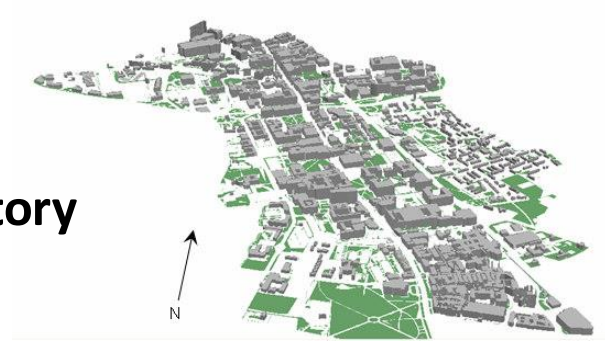
Our laboratories

Our laboratories are based in the Arthur Lewis Building. The neighbouring Humanities Bridgeford Street building offers students a dedicated study space. Our extensive store of field equipment can support students' dissertation projects.

For detailed information about our laboratory, field, sampling and analytical equipment, see the Geography Laboratories blog.



- + Main teaching laboratory
- + Microscopy laboratory
- + Sediments and project laboratories
- + Spectroscopy laboratory
- + X-ray laboratory



Physical Geography laboratory facilities

GIS computer suite



Human Geography

Virtual Reality Laboratory



Manchester Museum

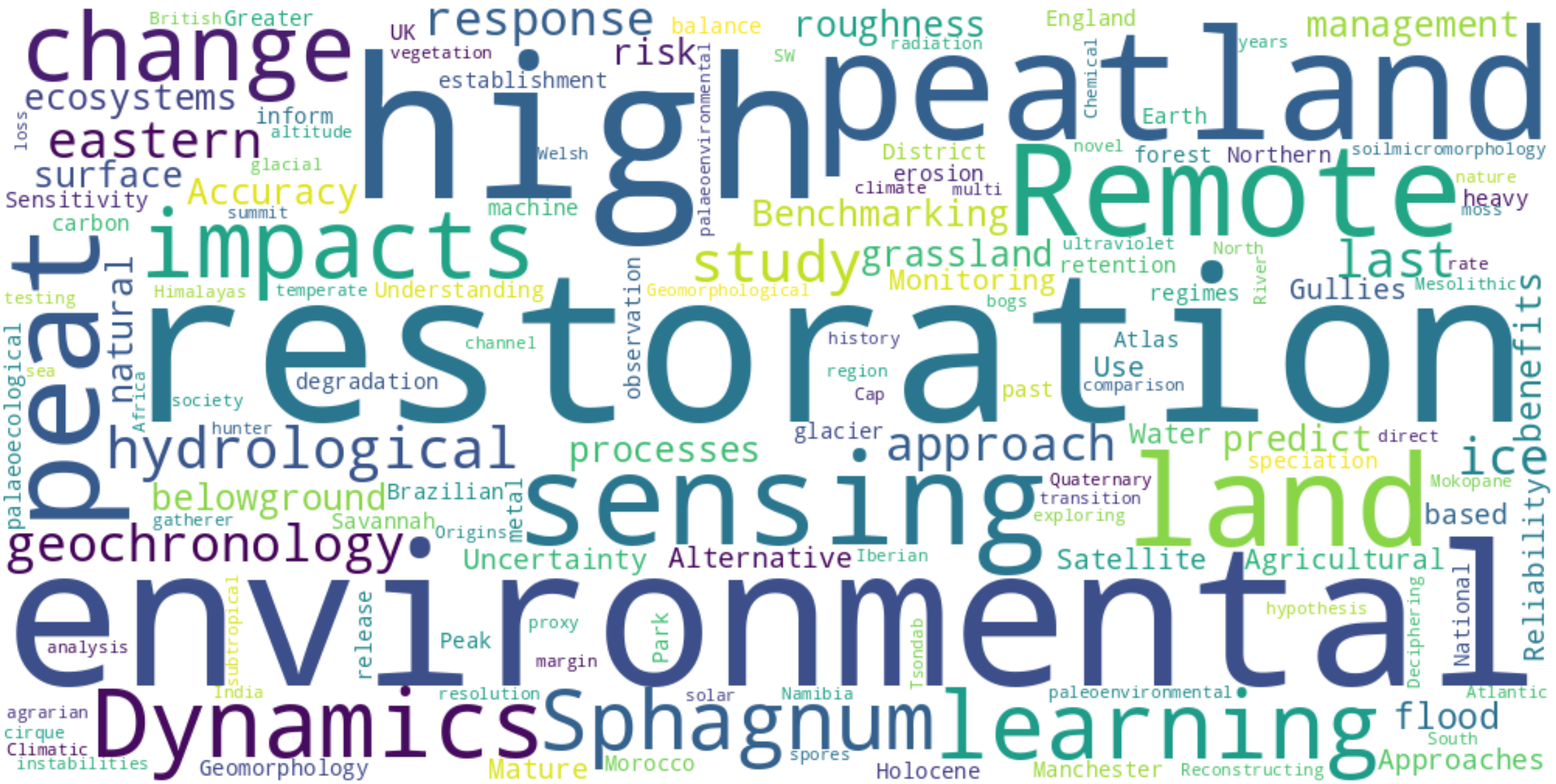
European Museum of the Year 2025

Equipment to support fieldwork

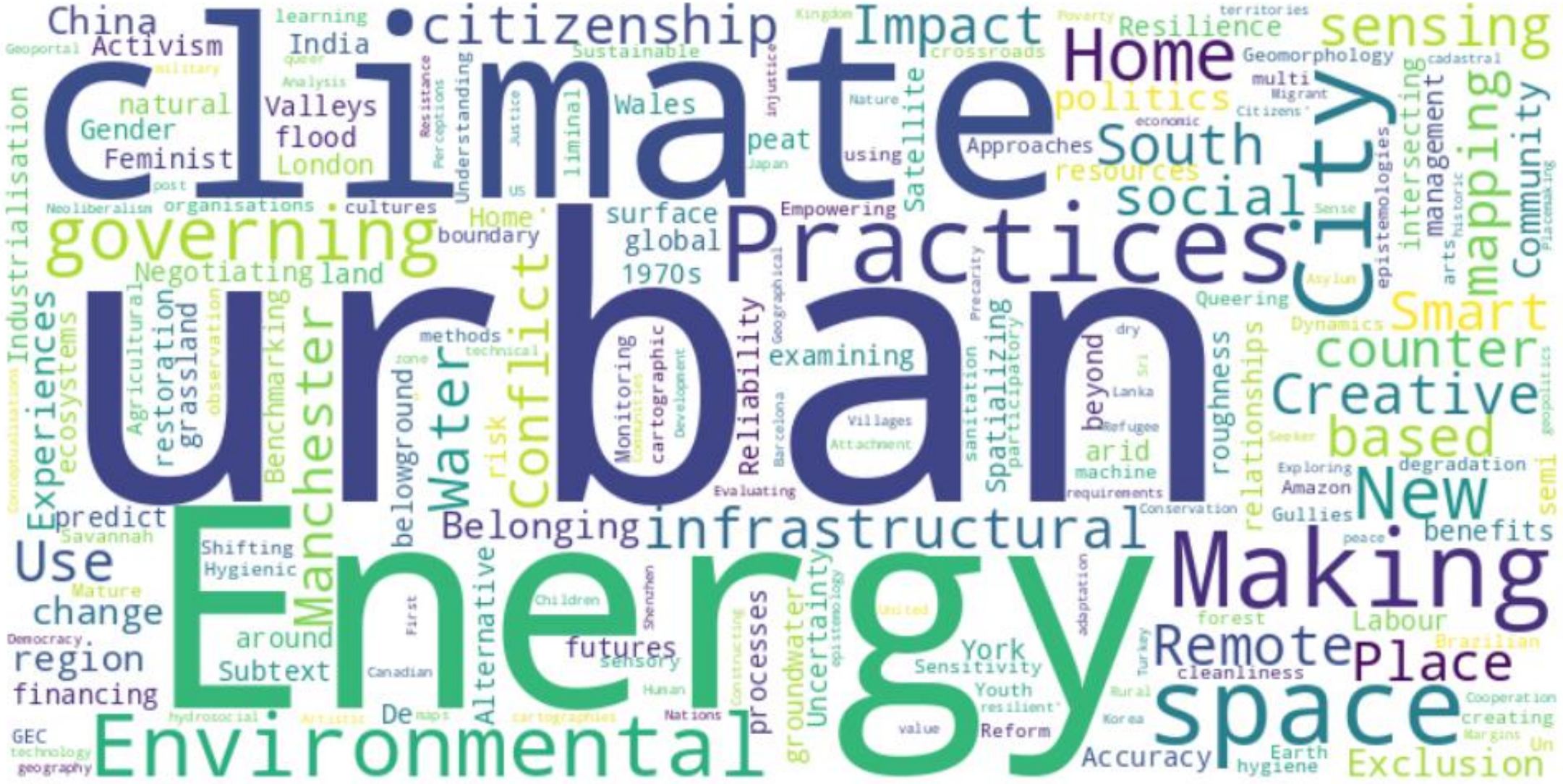
The themes for a PhD in Geography at Manchester are varied!



Physical Geography: recent PhD title words



Human Geography: recent PhD title words



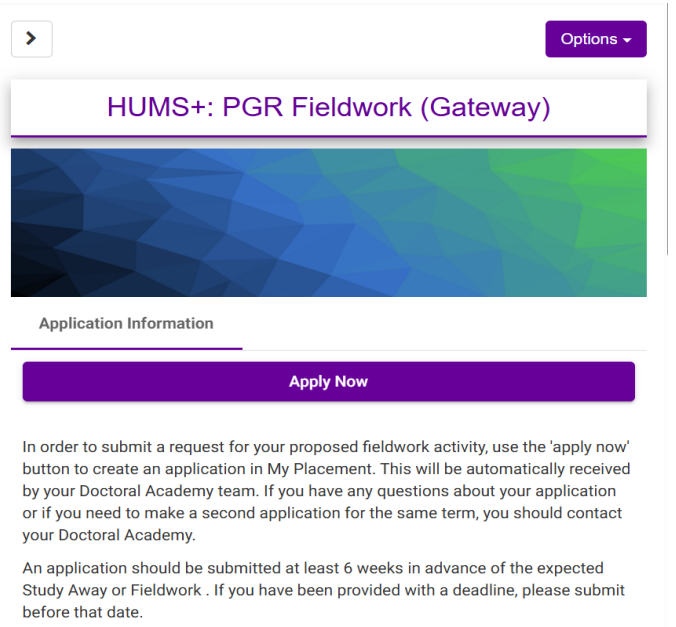
Fieldwork…

- Many PhD students in Geography undertake fieldwork to gather data
- This can be for extended periods (i.e. months away in Year 2)
- Or this can be for regular short periods throughout the PhD (although mostly in years 1 and 2)
- Fieldwork requirements need to be considered when devising a PhD proposal
- Support in designing fieldwork
- Submit a request, with risk assessment and ethical approval















Data collection approaches are varied…

- Archival research
- Remotely-sensed data
- Creative methods
- Creative practice

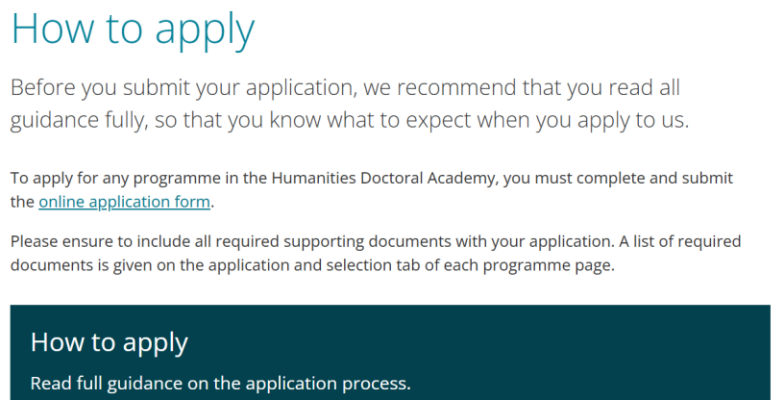
If you are thinking of applying…

1) Approach a potential PhD supervisor

2) Develop a proposal: it helps to get feedback from a potential supervisor

3) Look out for information about Admissions process: other information sessions from HUMS DA and online

4) Consider funding sources
   - SEED and ESRC scholarships process
   - Other sources of funding



https://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/how-to-apply/

Approaching a potential PhD supervisor

Geography Staff List
https://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/geography/about/people/

Or via Research Groups
https://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/geography/research/groups/

- **Be clear about your ideas** and why you have contacted someone to potentially supervise you.
- Don't be disheartened if people say 'no', often the reason is because of workload and capacity
- Consider if the application makes for a **good fit with the department and UoM**
- You might be asked:
  - who else you have contacted (their colleagues)
  - your educational background (UG and PG grades)/ CV
  - any related experience and skills you may have

Developing a research proposal

- It is important to **maintain contact** with your chosen potential supervisors
- This will naturally happen with them reading and commenting on your proposal
- Usual to have 2 or 3 **iterations of the proposal:** needs to be PGR-led but shaped to institutional/departmental expertise
- Keep in mind application deadlines (particularly those for funding)





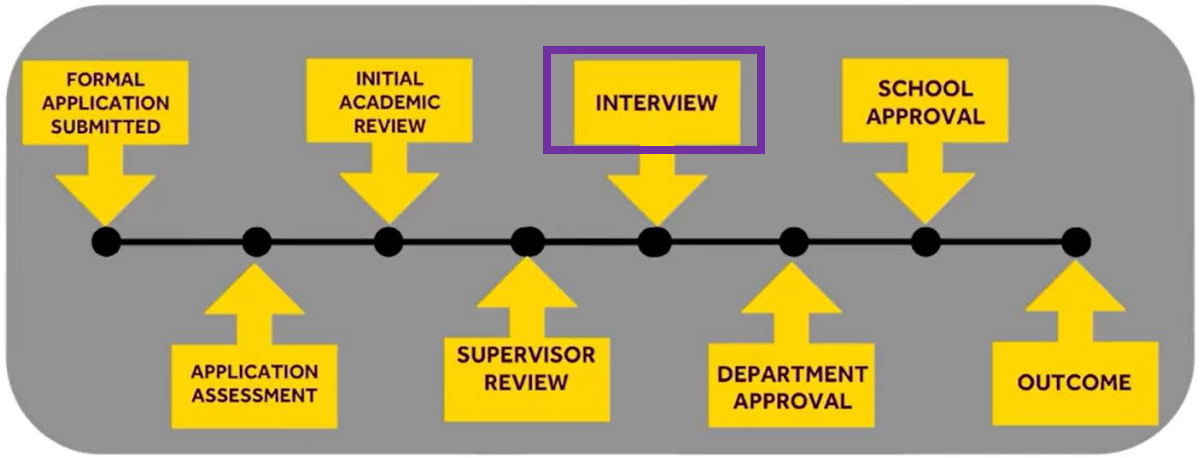
Now

Look out for other funding schemes:

- Manchester-Melbourne joint PhD
- ESRC CASE awards
- Commonwealth scholarships
- Trudeau Doctoral Scholarships for Canadian students (Nov 6th, 2026)

If you want to be considered for funding

January	China Scholarship Council
January 2027	UoManchester, SEED funding
February 2027	ESCR NWSSDTP



Interview (by end February)
with your proposed supervisor and independent interviewer

Funding (SEED) competition
Ranking by end March
Panel meets in April


ANY
QUESTIONS?

Funding



Section 9 of your application

- **SEED scholarships** 1 or 2 per year for each of Human Geography and Physical Geography
- **ESRC open competition (through NWSSDTP) Human Geography** https://nwssdtp.ac.uk/
  Social Science/ Human Geography: Consortium of the Universities of Keele, Lancashire, Lancaster, Liverpool, and Manchester
- **China Scholarship Council (CSC)**

Other sources

- **ESRC CASE awards (through NWSSDTP)**
  Look out for advertised studentships from academic + non-HEI partner
- **Manchester-Melbourne Scholarships** look out for website updates on **suggested projects** and timelines
  https://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/golden/melbourne/apply/
- **External funding for International Students**
  Commonwealth scholarships
  Trudeau Doctoral Scholarships for Canadian students (Nov 6th deadline)
- **Alternative Guide to Postgraduate Funding** https://www.postgraduate-funding.com/

The SEED Scholarships: criteria



- The SEED scholarships are offered according to **precise** (though interpretative) **criteria**, which **mirror those of the ESRC**
- Because of the 50-50 weighting in the criteria between proposal quality and academic track record, applicants with a 2ii or below at undergrad or pass at Masters are very unlikely to be funded
- Proposal quality criteria:

  1) quality and feasibility of the research question, 2) engagement with the field,
  3) appropriateness of methodology 4) critical appreciation of sources.
- The criteria also ask: "How well does the application fit with the School and Department research strategy, with relevant Research Groups, and with the supervisory team?"

MANCHESTER 1824
The University of Manchester

Pursuing Postgraduate research in PPEM

Dr Vaidehi Tandel
Lecturer in Real Estate and Urban Economics
PGR disciplinary coordinator for PPEM

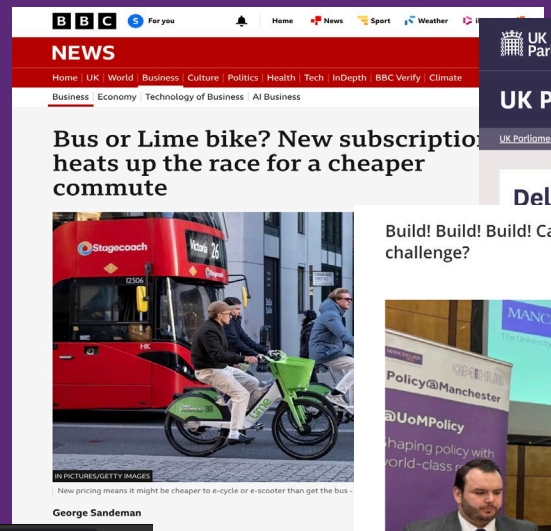
Overview

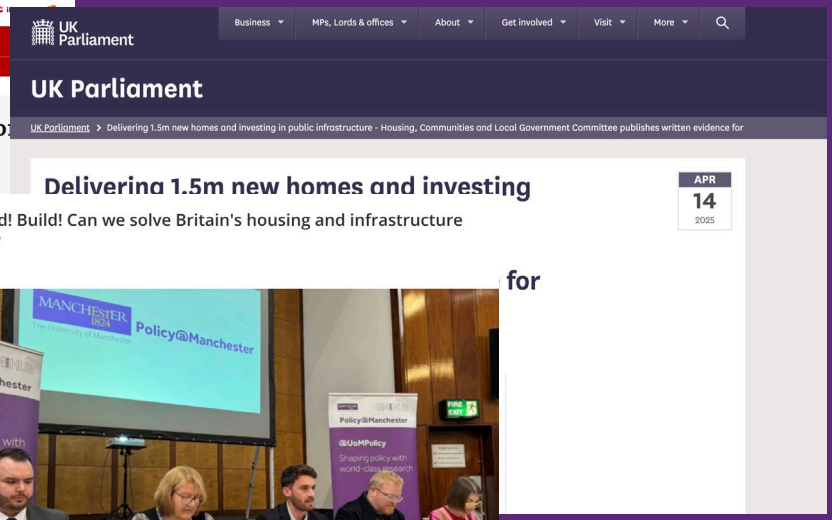
- **Rich Academic History**
- Celebrated our 70th Anniversary in 2022
- One of the UK’s largest planning departments

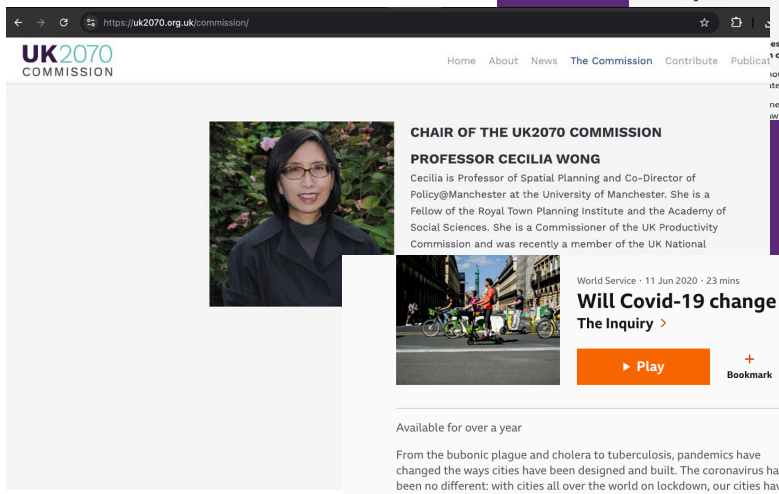
- **Five research beacons:**
- **Addressing global inequalities**
- Advanced materials
- Cancer
- Energy
- Industrial biotechnology

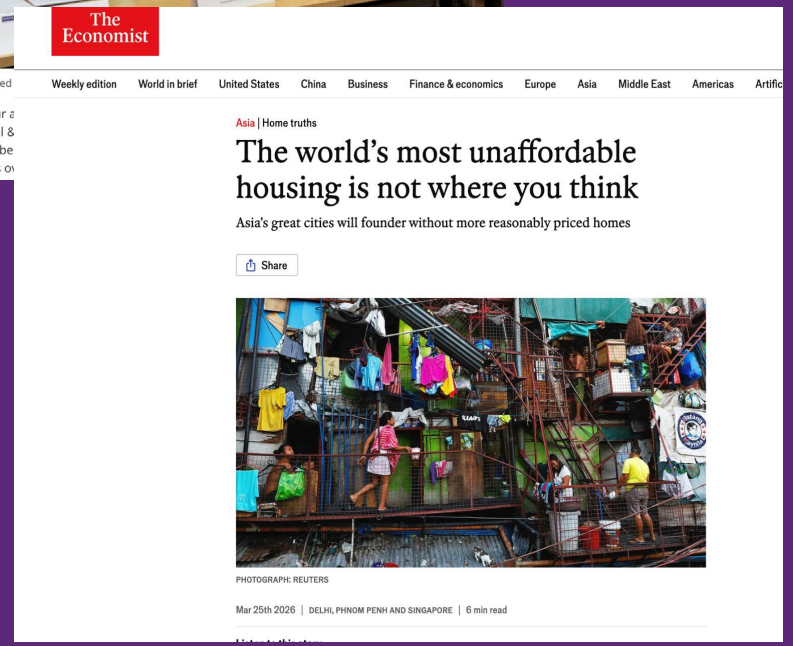
Overview

Department influences policy and social outcomes









Research groups and themes & interdisciplinarity

Spatial Policy and Analysis	Environment, Policy and Place	Real Estate and Urban Economics
Digital planning and decision support	Environmental risks, resilience, and uncertainty	Housing markets
Land use and urbanisation	Green infrastructure	Commercial property markets
Regeneration and community	Designing healthy and accessible places	Political economy of real estate
Spatial inequalities, policy and governance	Environmental impact assessment and sustainability assessment techniques	Real estate finance and investment
Transport and mobility	Responses to environmental change	Urban and environmental economics

https://www.seed.manchester.ac.uk/planning/research/groups/

Recent PhD theses

- Sustainable spatial rebalancing for Northern England: alternative models and future scenarios
- Assessing the role of housing association regeneration activity in tackling health inequalities in Greater Manchester
- Planning for shrinking cities in China: from a new institutionalism perspective
- Green infrastructure as a tool for climate change adaptation and greenhouse gas emission mitigation strategies in European cities
- Simulating the behaviours of urban negotiators using agent-based modelling
- Mapping the spatial and socio-technical dynamics of the food-energy-water nexus: evidence from Greater Cairo Region

Entry requirements

- Academic entry qualification overview
  - Bachelor's (Honours) degree at 2:1 or above (or overseas equivalent); and
  - Master's degree in a relevant subject - with an overall average of 65% or above, a minimum mark of 65% in your dissertation (or overseas equivalent)

- English language
  - IELTS test minimum score - 7.0 overall, 7.0 in writing, 6.0 in other sections.
  - TOEFL (internet based) test minimum score - 100 overall, 25 in all sections.
  - Pearson Test of English (PTE) UKVI/SELT or PTE Academic minimum score - 76 overall, 76 in writing, 70 in other sections.
  - To demonstrate that you have taken an undergraduate or postgraduate degree in a majority English speaking nation within the last 5 years.

Contact Us

- CV and research proposal
- ~ 30 academic staff who accept PhD students, see academic profiles: https://www.seed.manchester.ac.uk/planning/about/people/
- Not sure who to contact?
- E-mail CV and research proposal to: PGR-planning@manchester.ac.uk