Faculty of Humanities
and School of Arts, Languages and Cultures

Two Doctoral Studentships, 2027-8 (NB: the final year)

Queer and Trans Healthcare and Creativity

https://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/funding/list-of-awards/queerandtranshealthcareandcreativitystudentships/

MANCHESTER 1824
The University of Manchester

Award Details and Deadlines

This award will cover:

- Fees (home or overseas) for 3.5 years.
- Annual maintenance stipend (this was £21,805 p/a 2026/7).
- Closing date for formal candidate PhD application: **27 November 2026**
- Formal interview panels (online) to be held for selected candidates:
  w/c 1 March 2027
- Candidates informed of the outcome, formal offer and funding letter issued:
  w/c 8 March 2027

- **NB: Find out further information in our** application guidance

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Model of Doctoral Study: 3 elements (Gareth)

These PhD studentships will work on a hybrid model, leading to Partnership PhDs that include:

- a critical thesis (50,000 - 60,000 words);
- a creative element which may consist of the candidates' own writing, film, video, performance or digital practice, or consist of significant event, workshop series, or exhibition curation accompanied by a written reflection;
- an agreed work package with the identified partner, whose aims the overall project must be clearly engaged with in its vision, approach and practice.

Context

- Feminist, queer and trans work on gender, sexuality and sex by colleagues in the Centre for the Study of Sexuality and Culture: https://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/english/research/centres/cssc/

- For example: Interventions on the 2025 UK Supreme Court Ruling (Gareth Gavin, Ben Nichols and Jackie Stacey): https://sites.manchester.ac.uk/humanities-blog/2025/05/13/the-supreme-court-ruling-a-response-from-the-centre-for-the-study-of-sexuality-and-culture/

- Collaborations with other disciplines and faculties: Creative Manchester; the Centre for New Writing; the Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine; and colleagues involved in the development of an LGBTQ+ inclusive medical curriculum.

- Cross-disciplinary research group on the Sexual Politics of Biology with colleagues from the above.

- Colleagues in CSSC have worked numerous external partners in Manchester on (inter alia) HIV activism; trans healthcare and creative writing; cancer and sexuality in performance; queer theory for queer artists; archiving working-class feminist activism; young LGBTQ+ writing workshops; feminist, queer and trans film screenings.

Partnership Framework

Each application must include a proposed project aligned with **one (or *exceptionally* two)** of our five partners**; since SICK! and the Sunday Boys** were not partnered in 2026 studentships, priority will be given to applications engaging with these two partners. But the quality must still be of the highest standard.

SICK!

The Sunday Boys

LGBT Foundation

Factory International

George House Trust

Partnership/s in your proposals

We are looking for applications with the potential for a creative encounter between the doctoral student's own research interests and those of our non-HEI partner organisations.

These PhD studentships will respond to developments in queer and trans health and wellbeing needs by centering creative forms of care developed by/with LGBTQ+ communities in Greater Manchester.

You need to research these partners yourselves and generate your ideas for a collaboration with them related to your study.

There is no advantage to aligning with two rather than one partner.

Partners are not available to discuss your proposals at this stage (the high numbers on this information session indicates why).

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An expansive understanding of creativity (Gareth)

As well as critically investigating creative forms (from literature and cinema to live performance) as primary sources, students will be supported to communicate their research via creative methods, such as:

- inventive curation
- repurposing archives
- workshop design
- creative writing
- performance
- visual practices

Interdisciplinarity

We are looking for new cross-disciplinary research into queer and trans health needs that is

- historically and theoretically literate
- and clearly engaged with real-world concerns

These doctoral partnership awards will

- build upon rigorous knowledge of the history and current circulation of concepts such as ‘sex, ‘sexuality’ and ‘gender’
- generate innovative projects of direct relevance to queer and trans communities

We envision the development of doctoral projects that

- place creativity at the heart of cross-disciplinary collaborations between those working in gender and sexuality studies and those concerned with delivering provision

Supervision and PhD Programme

- You can contact me, Jackie Stacey, for administrative advice in the first instance, but I cannot advise on proposals for reasons of fairness.

- You should select me as first supervisor to ensure all applications come to me as the co-ordinator of this process. You can suggest a second supervisor from any discipline/field.
- You need to apply to PhD Programme: PhD Queer and Trans Healthcare and Creativity.

- Once two candidates have been offered and accepted the studentships, the most appropriate supervisory team for their project will be discussed and agreed.

2 thematic clusters as prompts (Gareth)

- How have shifting classifications of **naturalness** and **the biological** historically influenced healthcare provision and support for LGBTQ+ people?
- How have embedded assumptions about natural and unnatural desires/bodies dissuaded queer and trans people from accessing primary care, causing negative ‘downstream’ effects?
- What can we learn from how LGBTQ+ creative practitioners have responded to these histories?
- What kinds of **care ecologies** have emerged from creative collaborations that have helped develop networks of mutual aid and resource distribution?
- How can these ecologies be fostered in ways that interact with urban environments?
- What is the relationship between urban history, the transformation of queer and trans healthcare and creative cultures of mutual aid and support?

Form of Application (Gareth)

Project Overview (suggested: 300-400 words) Overall, this section should provide an abstract for your proposal – your project at a glance.

Introduce and define your topic and identify the project's contribution to knowledge and understanding. What does your project address, what new insights does it promise to offer, and why is it important?

Provide a brief overview of your research methods and explain how your approach is reflected in the proposed components of the thesis.

Identify the proposed partner institution. Indicate the relationship between your project and the focus of the partner and suggest how you would contribute to their objectives.

Research Context (suggested: 300-400 words)

Situate your project's topic with reference to existing scholarship (and creative work if relevant). Here you should offer a characterisation of the relevant debates and conversations and explain how your project will engage with these in order to shape its own intervention.

Identify and explain what concepts and ideas will be central to your research. How will your project challenge or advance these?

Approach (suggested: 300-400 words)

Explain and justify your research methods (i.e. provide a rationale for why you plan to take this approach). Here you should indicate the proposed composition of your thesis and explain how you will carry out the research for each component.

Make sure you explain the approach of each component. For example, if you are proposing a novel as a creative output, you should indicate its form, themes and content, and explain how this component contributes to the overall aims of the project. You should also provide an account of the critical essay – what will you discuss, and why, and whose work will your discussion be in dialogue with?

Explain in more detail the relationship between your approach and the work and focus of your proposed partner(s).

Preparedness for Research (suggested: 100 words)

You can use this section to explain how you have arrived at this project and what skills and experience you will bring to it. These could be practice-based, creative, scholarly, professional, or some combination of these.

Bibliography

This should give an indication of the project's **core** working bibliography. What are the most important pieces of work / scholarship informing your topic and approach?

Questions?