

Research Associate (Research) in Financial Technology (FinTech)

Faculty of Humanities

Alliance Manchester Business School

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At Alliance Manchester Business School, '[Original Thinking Applied](#)' sits at the heart of everything we do.



THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
ALLIANCE MANCHESTER BUSINESS SCHOOL
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE (RESEARCH) IN FINANCIAL TECHNOLOGY (FINTECH)
VACANCY REF: HUM - 15457

Salary: Grade 6 - £32,816 to £40,322 per annum (according to relevant experience)

Hours: 100% FTE

Duration: Fixed-Term for 3 years

Location: Oxford Road, Manchester

Responsible to: Professor Jamie Burton
Alliance Manchester Business School

Contact information for enquiries

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Role Summary and Job Description

Research Associate (PostDoc) in Financial Technology (FinTech)

The role is within Alliance Manchester Business School, and open to different subject area groups depending on the candidate background and experience.

Overall Purpose of the Job:

Following a 2.5million donation by Greensill, a leading British FinTech company founded by Lex Greensill, Alliance Manchester Business School at The University of Manchester is looking to appoint a Research Associate (PostDoc). The appointment will have an emphasis on Financial Technology and be part of the School's strategy to strengthen research and teaching on the topic and boost the region's capacity and capability in Financial Technology (FinTech). The anticipated start date for the faculty position is September 1st, 2020 but is also negotiable based on circumstances.

We seek outstanding candidates with a strong academic background who will be comfortable engaging with the vibrant cross-disciplinary community of FinTech across the School and the University. The ideal candidate will be able to demonstrate commitment to produce original and innovative scholarly work and publish at top academic journals in their discipline and at the same time be comfortable in a business setting.

The candidate should also be able to work with students in mentoring around the School's FinTech Lab, design new research projects and help in existing ones. Alliance MBS plans to set up a FinTech research centre and thus the above characteristics and the ones described in the "person specification" section below will be invaluable to this initiative.

Main Responsibilities: Research Associate

Research and Scholarship: The successful candidate will be expected to work independently and develop research objectives, projects and proposals; Conduct individual or collaborative research projects; identify sources of funding and contribute to the process of securing funds (where applicable); extend, transform and apply knowledge acquired from scholarship to research (and occasional teaching) and appropriate external activities; write or contribute to

publications or disseminate research findings using other appropriate media; and make presentations at conferences or exhibit work in other appropriate events.

Disseminate research through publications in peer-reviewed journals and books at a level of excellence consistent with a world-class institution, through academic conferences, and through publication in other outlets oriented at policymakers and practitioners.

Liaison and Networking: The successful candidate will participate in and develop external networks, for example to identify new research projects and potentially sources of funding, market the institution and build relationships for future activities (such as Lab and conference participation).

Managing people: The successful candidate will support colleagues with less experience and advise on personal development. Depending on the area of work role holder could be expected to supervise the work of others, for example in research teams or projects or as PhD advisor/mentoring and assisting early-stage researchers in the FinTech research group.

Teamwork: The successful candidate will act as a responsible team member and develop productive working relationships with other members of staff as part of research projects. They also may be asked to manage and conduct administrative tasks associated with the research programmes they are involved in.

Teaching: The successful candidate may also be given the opportunity and exposed to undergraduate and/or postgraduate teaching helping selectively with some lectures/seminars based on their area of expertise. This would give them the ability to enrich their CV and develop their teaching skills. However, this will not be a central part of the role.

Person Specification

You should use your application to clearly demonstrate with evidence how you meet the following aspects of the person specification.

Essential Knowledge, Skills and Experience: Research Associate/PostDoc in FinTech

Role holders at this level will have or be about to obtain a relevant PhD:

Due to the multidisciplinary nature of financial technology (FinTech) studies, applications will be accepted from candidates in all fields of core business disciplines ranging from PhD in Information Systems and Strategy, to Accounting & Finance, Innovation & Entrepreneurship, Management Science, Operational Research, and Economics. In that respect a variety of methodological backgrounds (quantitative or qualitative) are also welcome if one can demonstrate a genuine interest in the study of technology in finance. A PhD in Computer Science, Computer Engineering or Statistics would also be desirable as long as it focuses on problems of significant interest to the financial services community.

More explicitly we encourage applications from individuals who have done their PhD and have working papers, or published work on **topics** such as:

- The economic effects of technology adoption and use in financial services
- Examining the role of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in finance and financial services work or leveraging expertise in AI/ML to address issues related to financial markets, financial decision making and financial services
- Digital strategy in banking; market entry strategies of fintech startups
- Regulatory technologies in financial markets and banking
- The role of information infrastructures and digital platforms in financial services such as identification infrastructures and digital identity
- The future of money and role of cryptocurrencies as well as the role of distributed-ledger technologies such as blockchain
- Payment systems/technologies and payments innovation
- Financial inclusion and FinTech applications (e.g. micro-finance, payments, etc.) in developing countries

Role holders will:

- Possess understanding of new and emerging technologies or trends in finance such as blockchain, cryptocurrencies, peer-to-peer lending, roboadvising, the role of AI in financial services, algorithmic trading, or regulation of technology.
- Possess sufficient breadth or depth of specialist knowledge in the discipline to work within established research programmes.
- Have aptitude to engage in continuous professional development.
- Possess very good written and spoken English

Research:

- Role holders will have an emergent record of output of high-quality publications, or a “pipe-line” of working papers targeting top journals or other equivalent recognised forms of research output appropriate to the discipline. Appetite and ideas to participate in and

develop new research projects while taking ownership and leading research projects (from literature/research questions to research design/data collection and analysis, etc.)

- Some involvement in supervision of PGR students (especially on FinTech-related topics)
- Evidence of positive recognition in the relevant international research communities

Knowledge Transfer and External Engagement:

- You will be able to demonstrate some evidence of productive involvement in knowledge creation and transfer in partnership with industry, government, NGOs, learned societies or professional bodies

Desirable Knowledge, Skills, Experience and Qualifications:

- Some experience with engaging with the industry (e.g. FinTech startups) would be valuable as would application of FinTech techniques to existing companies that need to evolve and compete.
- Access to unique FinTech datasets or experimental platforms is also desirable.
- Membership or collaborative experience with appropriate learned societies and/or professional bodies
- Some success in obtaining external research funding or active participation in externally funded research
- The ability to write and communicate effectively with policymaker and practitioner audiences.



The Faculty of Humanities and Alliance Manchester Business School

The Faculty of Humanities

[The Faculty of Humanities](#) is made up of five Schools: Environment, Education and Development; Law; Social Sciences; Arts, Language and Cultures; and the Alliance Manchester Business School. With 36 discipline areas, a total income over £230m per annum, over 16,800 students, some 1290 academic and 680 professional support staff, the Faculty is equivalent to a medium-sized university in the UK. [REF 2014 results](#) confirmed The Faculty and the University of Manchester as a genuine international powerhouse, with exceptional performances in a wide range of disciplines.

Alliance Manchester Business School

At Alliance Manchester Business School, '[Original Thinking Applied](#)' sits at the heart of everything we do. With triple accreditation from AACSB International, AMBA and EQUIS, we provide world-class, industry-focused education to undergraduates, postgraduates and executives across the globe. Our centres in Dubai, Hong Kong, São Paulo, Shanghai and Singapore open up a world of opportunities for our students, researchers and clients. All over the world, we engage with businesses of all sizes to share expertise and form rewarding partnerships. Ranked 2nd in the UK for research power, our influential research impacts all

areas of business and management – from accounting and health management to big data and human rights.

Established in 1965 as one of the UK's first two business schools, we are proud to be part of the prestigious University of Manchester and the UK's largest campus-based business and management school.

Our Vision and Mission

Our vision is to be a world renowned Business School, harnessing virtuosity for the enduring benefit of human kind. Our mission is to give everyone the opportunity to transform their lives and, in doing so, help them transform the organisations they work for and the wider communities in which they live. This vision and mission is captured in our School strapline, Original Thinking Applied. As one of the original Business School established in the UK, we are inspired by Manchester which is renowned as the original modern city with an ethos of enterprise, culture and innovation. Our thinking has generated research on issues including the transitions to sustainability, the conditions for innovation in services, changing patterns of work and employment and public sector infrastructure finance and accountability. Our work is applied in our research-led teaching and consultancy, impact and public engagement.

Working for The University of Manchester

The University of Manchester is the largest single-site university in the UK with around 38,000 students and more than 11,000 staff. Our [2020 vision](#) is to become one of the top 25 research universities in the world and we are committed to delivering an outstanding teaching and learning experience, contributing to the social and economic success of local, national and international communities, producing the highest calibre graduates, and developing our staff to be amongst the very best of their peers. To achieve our ambitious goals we aim to attract and retain the very best people to work across a range of academic disciplines and support functions.

The University of Manchester strives to make our community a welcoming, caring and enthusiastic one, fuelling ambition with opportunities and support to help us all achieve our personal and professional goals.

Our diverse job opportunities include an attractive [benefits package](#) with family-friendly policies that provide for flexible working. We care deeply about career and personal development, offering a structured induction programme for new staff, an annual performance and development review, staff training for all career stages and mentoring opportunities to support your career development.

We have a genuine commitment to [equality of opportunity](#) for our staff and students, and are proud to employ a workforce that reflects the diverse community we serve. As a global institution, situated at the heart of a lively, culturally diverse city, we welcome applicants of all nationalities. To help [international job applicants](#) plan for life in the UK, we have put together some useful information on passports and visas, travel to the UK, accommodation and a number of other practical considerations. We also offer a generous [relocation service](#) to those relocating to Manchester.

The City and the Region of Manchester

Manchester is one of the great European cities and the University's main campus is within walking distance of the city centre. The city's architecture represents one of the high points of Victorian achievement. The modern city is a major centre of banking, commerce and manufacturing, and hosts MediaCity UK, the country's most significant centre for creative and digital businesses.

Manchester has a highly cosmopolitan atmosphere and its cultural life is internationally renowned. Within a fifteen minute walk of the campus there are three outstanding professional theatre companies, the halls of the Hallé and BBC Philharmonic orchestras, the HOME arts centre and other cinemas, and Europe's fastest-growing Chinatown. Amongst developments enriching the area's cultural life have been: the opening of The Lowry at Salford Quays; the Bridgewater Concert Hall; Urbis, the Imperial War Museum North, designed by Daniel Libeskind, and the refurbished City Art Gallery.

Manchester is renowned internationally for sport: it is a venue for Test cricket and the home of Manchester United and Manchester City. The Commonwealth Games were held in Manchester in 2002. The University is a stakeholder in the Commonwealth Pool – now known as the Manchester Aquatics Centre – which offers on campus, world-class swimming facilities. Housing

is varied, plentiful and, by English standards, moderately priced. There are excellent schools across the region.

Manchester is well served by a major international airport, with direct scheduled flights to many destinations in Europe as well as North America and Asia. Manchester Piccadilly railway station has been refurbished and is served by inter-city and other train services – with a direct link to Manchester Airport. The expanding network of Metrolink tram services offers an alternative mode of public transport from certain parts of the conurbation. Some of the most beautiful countryside in Europe is just over a thirty minute drive from the University, in the Peak District National Park, while the Lake District and Snowdonia are also within easy reach.

Commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The University of Manchester and Alliance Manchester Business School are committed to creating an environment where diversity is celebrated and everyone is treated fairly, regardless of gender, gender identity, disability, ethnic origin, religion or belief, sexual orientation, marital or transgender status, age, or nationality.

We have a genuine commitment to equality of opportunity for our staff and students, and are proud to employ a workforce that reflects the diverse community we serve.

Our University is a very diverse community: 16% of our staff are from a black and minority ethnic background, women make up 48% of our workforce, and international staff members make up 22%. We also have more than 40,000 students, including 11,000 international students from more than 160 countries.

Equality Objectives:

1. Improve the representation of women and black and minority ethnic (BME) staff in senior leadership, academic and professional support positions.
2. Take action to further understand and improve the experience of disabled staff as indicated in the staff survey.
3. Take action to further understand and address any differential outcomes of undergraduate students in relation to access, retention, attainment and progression to a positive graduate destination in relation to disability, ethnicity, gender and socio-economic status.
4. Take action to understand and address any inequalities for researchers.
5. To better understand the challenges, obstacles and barriers faced by different groups at the University and to foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it.
6. Better understand the potential impact of University functions on certain groups by improving disclosure rates and reporting mechanisms for age, disability, ethnicity, caring responsibilities, religion or belief (including lack of belief) sexual orientation and gender reassignment.

Charter Marks:



Alliance Manchester Business School currently holds an Athena Swan Bronze Award. The Athena Swan Charter was established in 2005 to encourage and advance the careers of women in STEMM employment. In May 2015 the Charter was expanded to include non-STEMM Schools, professional and support staff, technical staff, and Trans staff and students. The Charter now also recognises work undertaken to address gender equality more broadly, and not just barriers to progression that affect women.



The [Race Equality Charter Mark](#) aims to improve the representation, progression and success of minority ethnic staff and students within higher education.

It is owned by the Equality Challenge Unit, ECU, which works to further and support equality and diversity for staff and students in Universities and Colleges.

The framework for the race equality charter mark builds on the experience and methodology of ECU's Athena SWAN Charter.

The University of Manchester was proud to be one of the 31 higher education institutions involved in the trial of the Race Equality Charter Mark

The University of Manchester placed 20th in the 2019 Stonewall Equality Index making it the most inclusive University in England for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans* employees.

Stonewall is Britain's leading charity for lesbian, gay, bi and trans equality, working to create a world where every single person can be accepted without exception.

Stonewall's Top 100 is compiled from submissions to the Workplace Equality Index, a powerful benchmarking tool used by employers to assess their achievements and progress on LGBT equality in the workplace, as well as their wider work in the community and on service provision.

Each organisation must demonstrate their expertise in 10 areas of employment policy and practice, including networking groups, senior leadership, procurement and how well they've engaged with LGBT communities.



The University is a Disability Confident employer, committed to interviewing all disabled applicants who meet all of the essential criteria set out in the person specification.

Learning, Development and Progression

Staff Learning and Development

The Staff Learning and Development (L&D) team support the personal and professional development of all staff in the University.

They work closely with learning experts around the University including those based in local HR teams and those supporting academic staff and early career researchers (ECR)

L&D offer everything from off the shelf, face to face training, to bespoke one to one development support. By planning activity both in response to the strategic goals of the University and the learning needs of individuals, we aim to become a truly leading learning organisation.

Faculty of Humanities Researcher Development Team

The Faculty of Humanities Researcher Development Team works in collaboration with methods@manchester and artsmethods@manchester to offer relevant, effective and comprehensive professional development for researchers at various stages of their careers. The team work alongside other University training providers, each School in the Faculty and with Researcher Development teams in the other Faculties allowing for shared delivery of training events, and promoting an interdisciplinary approach to the development of first-class research skills



Humanities Teaching Academy

The Humanities Teaching Academy brings together a range of teaching and learning enhancement activities, from training and CPD through to dissemination, projects and awards. Wherever you are on your teaching journey, from TA to Programme Director, opportunities are available to help you develop, share or be recognised for your teaching practice. Development opportunities include:

Academic Staff Promotion

As an equal opportunities employer, Alliance Manchester Business School is committed to promoting equality and diversity for all and will support all suitably qualified candidates for promotion.

The University has a transparent Academic promotions processes and criteria. It seeks to reward activity that contributes to the success of the University in achieving its goals. Colleagues will be expected to take an active approach to their own career development, but will be given support and advice with their applications.

Academic Staff Probation

The University of Manchester has a supportive probation process to ensure newly appointed colleagues are provided with effective support, allowing them to achieve their full potential and to satisfy their career aims in research and scholarship. All probationers will be supported by a mentor and a probation supervisor, and supported through the Faculty "New Academics" development programme