

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER**

**PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT**

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES**

**FACULTY OFFICE - HUMANITIES**

**HUMANITIES RESEARCH AND BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT**

**BICENTENARY RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS IN HUMANITIES (FIFTEEN POSTS AVAILABLE)**

**VACANCY REF: HUM-030375**

<b>Salary:</b>	Grade 6/7 £42,254 to £51,753 per annum, depending on relevant experience
<b>Hours:</b>	Full Time
<b>Duration:</b>	Fixed Term from 1 October 2026 to 30 September 2029
<b>Location:</b>	Oxford Road, Manchester

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**Enquiries about the vacancy, shortlisting and interviews:**

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**Background**

The University of Manchester has been celebrating 200 years of achievement in research-driven learning, development and innovation: this has included investing in our prestigious Bicentenary PhD Studentships and Fellowships. The scheme represents a major University investment of £28 million to recruit and fund more than 200 early-career researchers between 2025/26 and 2026/27.

As a Bicentenary Research Fellow, you will contribute to the ongoing success of our university and the next two centuries of research excellence. We particularly welcome approaches that foster interdisciplinary research (a priority within our strategic plan) and build on our strengths to address major challenges across key themes.

The Faculty of Humanities is pleased to offer up to 15 Bicentenary Research Fellowships (3 years duration) for outstanding postdoctoral researchers within 3 years of their PhD. Fellows will need to work with a named mentor / mentoring team and address one or more of the University research priorities ([From Manchester for the world, our strategy to 2035 | The University of Manchester](#)).

Applications will be judged principally on the excellence, originality, significance, and feasibility of the research proposal as described; on the level of candidate's research quality and potential; and lastly on the fit with the University's thematic research priorities and strategic goals ([From](#)

[Manchester for the world, our strategy to 2035 | The University of Manchester](#)). Candidates are advised to pay particular attention to ensuring that there is a clear link between the length of Fellowship and the research proposal.

A condition of the Fellowship is that fellows take part in annual networking and cohort development activities for Fellows. A detailed project report, submitted to the departmental mentoring team must be completed annually and at the end of the Fellowship.

Candidates are required to discuss and develop their applications with the relevant or preferred Discipline Area or Research Institute/Centre **before** submission, to ensure a good fit with the school research priorities.

The fellowship is a full-time commitment and though not compulsory, provides opportunities for the Fellow to undertake a limited amount of teaching of a maximum of up to 5 hours per week where there are opportunities available in their host department. All teaching is agreed at the discretion of the Fellowship Committee.

Flexible working requests will be considered in line with University policy (<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/connect/jobs/flexible-working/>).

## How To Apply

Please complete the electronic application form via the University's electronic recruitment system.

You will be asked to indicate the School and Department most appropriate to host your research along with the relevant UoM institute or platforms which you see your proposed research connecting to. Please indicate only one primary School and Department.

Please ensure that you fully complete all sections of the application form. Please upload a **two-page** CV. This will be used for reference but please note that **anything not detailed in the application form will not be used to assess your application**.

As part of the application, you will need to submit a research proposal. This will be submitted via the electronic application form and so you are advised to work on the proposal on a separate document and copy into the relevant sections of the application form. Please **do not** upload a separate copy of your research proposal – only the information supplied in the form will be used in the assessment of your application. Your research proposal should be no more than 2,250 words (including references) and should be relevant to the overall research plans of your nominated academic centre (i.e. School and department or institute). Your proposal must clearly identify your nominated host school and department or institute and the name of a proposed mentor/mentoring team. Your proposal should also provide a short statement outlining what steps you will take to engage with areas outside of the immediate academic community. Further advice and guidance on research impact and 'pathways to impact' can be found here <https://www.ukri.org/councils/esrc/impact-toolkit-for-economic-and-social-sciences/>.

Your proposal will be assessed by **non-experts** in your field. Please bear this in mind when writing your proposal.

You will also need to upload a signed statement of support from your primary mentor. Please ask your mentor to complete this on the 'Supporting Statement Form' which can be downloaded from the advert page. **Only one statement is required.** Please do not upload any other documents as these will not be used in the assessment of your application.

Interviews will be held in March 2026. If you have not been contacted by the end of March 2026, you must assume on this occasion that your application has been unsuccessful. Due to the volume of applications normally received only limited feedback will be provided to unsuccessful applicants unless they are shortlisted for interview.

For questions relating to Humanities Research Fellowships, please see the list of [Frequently Asked Questions](https://documents.manchester.ac.uk/DocuInfo.aspx?DocID=46192) (<https://documents.manchester.ac.uk/DocuInfo.aspx?DocID=46192>)

## Person Specification

### Essential Knowledge, Skills and Experience

The successful candidate will have the following essential knowledge, skills and experience:

- A PhD or equivalent (to have been awarded by, and not more than three years prior to, the closing date for applications. The date of PhD award is taken as the date of successful viva voce examination. The Fellowship Committee will consider special circumstances (i.e. career breaks) in respect of the three-year postdoctoral experience regulation)
- Candidates must not have held, or currently hold, a permanent academic position (rolling temporary contracts do not, in this case, equate to a permanent position)
- Candidates must not normally have held previous fellowships of more than 24 months cumulative total
- The ability to construct an excellent, original, significant and achievable research proposal that is relevant to the department research fields and the University priority research themes
- The ability to make an original and significant contribution to research in one of the priority research themes in the University ([From Manchester for the world, our strategy to 2035 | The University of Manchester](#))
- Demonstrable potential for high quality research in relevant subject areas through, for example, a record of research and publications appropriate to the level of post-doctoral experience
- The ability to function as an independent researcher, including managing research projects and meeting deadlines
- The potential to reach the requisite research profile to secure an academic post on completion of the Fellowship
- Experience of collaborative or interdisciplinary working
- Experience of external engagement of communicating research to non-academic audiences
- Experience of working with PS staff as well as academic staff
- High potential to conduct groundbreaking research that may be high risk/high reward

## Regulations

1. The Fellowships will be open to early career scholars who have been awarded a PhD by the closing date for applications and not more than three years prior to the closing date for applications, and who do not already hold, nor have held, a permanent university academic post. Applicants will have already demonstrated a potential for high quality research and the Bicentenary Fellowship Committee will take into consideration the contribution that the Fellow would make to the research programme of the unit to which they would be assigned
2. Fellows may be allowed to undertake a limited amount of teaching at the discretion of the Vice-Dean for Research who shall consult with the Head of the Unit to which the Fellow is assigned. Limited is defined as a maximum of up to 5 hours per week averaged out over the academic year
3. The Fellow will be required to devote their whole time to the duties of the Fellowship. They shall not, without the consent of the Bicentenary Fellowships Committee, hold any other Fellowships, Scholarships or Exhibitions or hold any paid appointment or undertake any remunerative work
4. The value of the Fellowships shall normally be within the current range for lectureships. The value of award offered shall be determined by the Bicentenary Fellowships Committee and shall be in accordance with the experience and qualifications of the Fellow. Fellows will have the opportunity to bid for the funding from a dedicated internal fund to cover research expenses related to their project. Research funds of up to £6,000 per annum will be available, by application, to each Fellow
5. A Fellow who is already a member of the Universities Superannuation Scheme Ltd., shall be allowed to continue his/her membership, and in other cases a Fellow who so desires may, with the consent of the University, be proposed for membership of the scheme. In all cases the full contribution shall be a charge on the emoluments of the Fellowship
6. Fellows shall normally be required to be resident in Manchester during their period of tenure but, subject to the consent of the Bicentenary Fellowships Committee, each Fellow may be allowed to conduct their research in the places or institutions most suitable for the purpose for such period or periods as may be approved by the Committee
7. No tuition or laboratory fees shall be payable by a Fellow in respect of the Fellowship
8. The Board of Governors shall have power to deprive a Fellow of the Fellowship at any time should the Fellow be guilty of misconduct or fail to fulfil the objects of the Fellowship. [Good research conduct at The University of Manchester](#)
9. As a condition of the acceptance of a Fellowship, each Fellow and their supporting unit must agree to submit an annual and a final report on the work undertaken during the Fellowship and to deposit in The University of Manchester Library two copies of any publication that arises from that work
10. In supporting any particular candidate for a Fellowship, the Head of Department/Institute to which the Fellow would be assigned, and the Fellow's proposed mentor must provide the Bicentenary Fellowships Committee with a statement of the proposed contribution that the candidate, if appointed, would make to the research programme of the Unit, and how they would be supported

11. The appointments to the Fellowships shall normally terminate by the passage of time without any action on the part of the Board of Governors. An appointment is otherwise terminable by the Fellow by giving three months' notice in writing. The University may otherwise give notice of termination of the appointment in accordance with the University's General Ordinance XII

### Why Manchester

- We are a world leading university (ranked 34th in the world in the QS World University Rankings 2025)
- 1st in Europe and 2nd in the world for social and environmental impact (Times Higher Education Impact rankings)
- 26 Nobel Prize winners among our current and former staff and students • 93% of our research activity assessed as 'world-leading' (4\*) or 'internationally excellent' (3\*) (Research Excellence Framework 2021)
- Access to development programmes specifically tailored to Fellows and our University-wide Fellows network

### The Faculty of Humanities

The Faculty of Humanities (<https://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk>) is home to over 1,000 academics and research staff plus over 1,000 PGR students engaged in research (<https://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/research/>). We have a reputation for the quality and impact of our research work.

Our REF submission and positive outcomes from REF2021 (<https://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/research/>) demonstrate the remarkable breadth and quality of our scholarly activity.

With a strong focus on collaborations, Humanities' research crosses a range of disciplines. We have a range of flagship institutes, centres and networks (<https://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/research/centres-institutes/>), and our research is based within departments or divisions our four Schools (<https://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/about/schools/>) :

- Alliance Manchester Business School - <https://www.alliancembs.manchester.ac.uk/>
- School of Arts, Languages and Cultures - <https://www.alc.manchester.ac.uk/>
- School of Environment, Education and Development - <https://www.seed.manchester.ac.uk/>
- School of Social Sciences - <https://www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/>