

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
DIVISION OF SOCIOLOGY
DOCTORAL RESEARCHER - HOMEAGE
VACANCY REF: HUM-021037

Salary:	Grade 6 £41,728 per annum depending on experience
Hours:	Full Time
Duration:	Fixed term from 1 September 2023 for 36 months
Location:	Oxford Road, Manchester

Enquiries about the vacancy, shortlisting and interviews:

Manager: Tine Buffel

Email: Tine.buffel@manchester.ac.uk

Background to the Doctoral Research post

Ageing in place is critical to the future of ageing societies in Europe. Older people's places are recognised as fundamental to long term health and wellbeing outcomes - a fact that has been magnified during the Covid-19 pandemic. Yet, critically, almost a third of older people in Europe experience neighbourhood deprivation, a fifth encounter a lack of cohesion, a growing number are homeless, and approximately 3 million continue to reside in institutional settings. There are significant concerns that efforts are failing to support ageing in place. With its development as a field fragmented across disciplines and sectors, and with few researchers equipped to tackle this fragmentation, innovation in research and policy risks stagnation.

This Doctoral Researcher position hosted by the University of Manchester is funded by the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) grant ref EP/X030482/1 and is available from 1st September 2023 for 36 months. The Doctoral Research post is linked to HOMeAGE, a new, nine country, Marie Skłodowska Curie (MSCA) Doctoral Network Programme, funded by the European Commission. HOMeAGE seeks to recruit 12 Doctoral Researchers (DRs) on a full-time basis over three years starting in September 2023. HOMeAGE will address the three interconnected challenges of (1) needs and systems, (2) home and belonging and (3) rights and voice. Based at the University of Manchester, the successful candidate for this Doctoral Research

Position will work as part of Work Package 3 and focus on the relationship between **ageing in place and urban regeneration**.

Overall purpose of the post

Working as part of the *Rights and Voice* work package, the successful candidate will conduct a doctoral research project focusing on how urban change and regeneration policies disrupt ageing in place for diverse groups and how participatory processes might counter this disruption. The aims are to investigate:

- (1) Experiences of ageing in place among diverse groups (long-term residents, ethnicity, gender, class) in neighbourhoods undergoing urban regeneration**
- (2) Whether regeneration policies reflect the diversity of ageing populations**
- (3) How the co-production of age-friendly initiatives can support inclusive decisions around city development and recovery post COVID-19**

The Doctoral Research will link with the Ageing in Place Pathfinder Programme, a co-produced action planning approach in Greater Manchester to test new ways of supporting people to live well for longer with better health and connections in their local community.

JOB DESCRIPTION AND MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The successful candidate will

- Conduct a PhD in Sociology at the University of Manchester PhD with an original research study focusing on ageing in place, urban regeneration, and co-production
- Participate in a 36-month international network-wide training program, public engagement activities and collaboration with HOMeAGE network members
- Undergo two secondments (placements): The first placement will be with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and its Ageing in Place Pathfinders Programme. The second placement will be at an international network member's research institution.
- Contribute to (group) writing of papers for refereed journals and other academic outputs.
- Publicise the research study, and engage in a wide range of academic and non-academic dissemination activities
- Develop participatory methods of co-production to involve multiple academic and non-academic stakeholder groups (including older people and policymakers) in all phases of the research programme
- Participate in the **Manchester Urban Ageing Research Group (MUARG)**. MUARG brings together researchers from a wide variety of disciplinary backgrounds and is committed working with national, regional, and local government, third sector organizations, NGOs, and older people, to promote 'age-friendly' urban environments. The Doctoral Researcher will be expected to contribute to the development this group, as well as department and faculty seminars aimed at sharing research outcomes.
- MUARG is part of, and has close links to, the Manchester Institute for Collaborative Research on Ageing (MICRA), a world-leading research Centre carrying out research into fundamental questions of ageing, bringing together over 300 researchers from across the biological, medical, physical, and social sciences, the arts and humanities.

- Be located within the Cathie Marsh Institute (CMI) and the Department of Sociology at the University of Manchester (or another relevant department in the School of Social Sciences).
- Report to Tine Buffel but will be supported by subject-specific mentors.
- Play an active role in the University of Manchester's research community, and actively follow and promote policies, including Equal Opportunities
- Carry out any other duties commensurate with the grade and purpose of the post
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GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Must have completed a Postgraduate/Master's degree or equivalent in sociology, anthropology, political sciences, geography, urban studies, or any other related subject at the time of start (Sept 2023).
- Must not have a doctoral degree at the date of their recruitment.

ESSENTIAL LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

The working language of HOMeAGE is English. Applicants are required to either be:

- A native English speaker;
- **Or**
- A non-native English speaker who has passed the academic IELTS (minimum score: 7.5) or TOEFL internet-based (minimum score: 113) tests.
- **Or**
- A non-native English speaker who has completed a Master's degree through English.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

We expect successful candidates to meet all the essential criteria and have two or more of the desirable attributes.

Essential

- Highly motivated, independent, and enthusiastic doctoral researcher with an excellent track record of academic achievement and a Postgraduate/Master's degree (or equivalent) in sociology, anthropology, political sciences, geography, urban studies, or any other related subject.
- Experience, knowledge about, or strong interest in ageing and age-friendly issues and urban developments
- Excellent analytical, oral, and writing skills in English
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with an ability to deal with a range of people and stakeholder groups
- Good time management skills and ability to work independently and in part of a team
- Proven leadership skills, including an ability/willingness to:
 - Initiate collaborations and develop joint research with academics from different disciplinary backgrounds and methodological approaches
 - Communicate with and disseminate research to a range of academic and non-academic stakeholders and audiences
- Creative, outcome-focused and a sense of initiative

Desirable

- Experience conducting empirical research involving excluded or marginalised groups of older people living in deprived urban neighbourhoods, and an awareness of the methodological issues involved
- An understanding of empirical research relating to ageing in cities, as well as the theoretical underpinnings of that research and associated age-friendly policy developments
- An understanding of empirical and theoretical research in relation to race, ethnicity, and racism
- Experience conducting participatory and co-production research involving a range of stakeholder groups in shaping the research process
- Skills in both quantitative and qualitative methods
- Experience using qualitative data analysis research packages (e.g., NVivo)
- An understanding of empirical research relating to ageing in place in cities, as well as the theoretical underpinnings of that research and associated age-friendly policy developments.
- Any peer-reviewed publications will be considered an advantage.
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THE UNIVERSITY

The University of Manchester, in its present form, was created in 2004 by bringing together The Victoria University of Manchester and UMIST. Twenty-five Nobel Prize winners have either studied or conducted some of their work here: Rutherford began his work on splitting the atom here and the world's first modern computer also came into being at The Victoria University of Manchester. Professors Andre Geim and Konstantin Novoselov were awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 2010.

The President and Vice-Chancellor of The University of Manchester, Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell, is leading a bold and exciting plan - the Manchester 2020 Agenda, which aims to make The University of Manchester one of the top 25 universities in the world. The plan identifies three goals: Research; Outstanding Learning and Student Experience and Social Responsibility.

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.

The University offers a range of support for new staff a great employment package that includes good terms & conditions and pension schemes, flexibility in approach, family friendly initiatives, development opportunities and services to support your health & wellbeing. In addition, there is a host of other staff benefits and excellent campus facilities. 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.

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.

Equality and Diversity

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. One of our guiding principles and values, as set out in Manchester 2020: The University of Manchester's Strategic Plan, affirms our commitment to being: "an accessible organisation, committed to advancing equality and diversity". Championing equality and diversity in all our activities, including staff employment and advancement, also forms part of our commitment to our strategic Goal Three: social responsibility.

Amongst many awards, the University has held an Athena SWAN Bronze Award since 2008, and was one of the first UK universities to be awarded a Race Equality Charter Mark. The School of Social Sciences was awarded Athena SWAN Bronze status in 2017. We are listed in Stonewall's list of Top 100 Employers for 2016, and have been awarded the Two Ticks symbol by Jobcentre Plus.

The School of Social Sciences is working hard to enhance the diversity of both its staff and student communities. Recent initiatives include the piloting of a fund to subsidise caring costs for staff whose work requires them to be away overnight. We run annual pre-university courses in economics, philosophy, politics, sociology, and social anthropology for local state school students who meet widening-participation criteria; we also participate in the University-wide Manchester Access Programme.

THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

The School of Social Sciences (SoSS), within the Faculty of Humanities, is home to eight distinct departments: Criminology, Economics, Law, Politics, Philosophy, Social Anthropology, Social Statistics and Sociology. The school comprises one of the largest collections of social scientists in the UK. We have over 349 academic and research staff, each of whom is supported with an annual research allowance.

The school submitted five 'Units of Assessment' – Economics and Econometrics, Politics and International Studies, Sociology, Anthropology and Development Studies and Philosophy – to the Research Excellence Framework (REF2014), which confirmed Manchester as one of the leading centres for Social Science research in the UK; ranked 3rd in the UK, based on research power. Sociology (including Social Statistics) is 1st in the UK, based on the percentage of overall research activity that is world leading (4*), and 2nd based on research power. Social Anthropology is also ranked 2nd, based on GPA (within the combined Anthropology and Development Studies assessment panel), but is now 1st among Social Anthropology Departments. Both Economics and Politics were ranked in the top 10 for Research Power. This broad configuration of discipline strength, together with major research centres and institutes (including the ESRC Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity, the British Election Study, the Sustainable Consumption Institute, the Cathie Marsh Institute for Social Research and the Manchester Institute for Collaborative Research on Ageing), provides an unparalleled range of degree programmes and delivers ground-breaking research, exploiting an extensive portfolio of quantitative and qualitative methods, applied to substantive socio-economic issues; including, but not limited to, macro-economic growth and development, global political economy, sustainability and consumption, social inequalities, diversity and cohesion, social and cultural change and moral and ethical behaviour.

The school's international and national reputations in its constituent departments are reflected in the substantial external research income that it generates, ESRC recognition for training PhD students and success in securing ESRC and AHRC studentships for research postgraduates. Individual and collaborative research is supported by the School's Research Office, whose staff provide assistance and expertise in applying for external funding and managing externally funded projects. We operate a one-semester-in-seven research leave scheme for all permanent staff on standard research and teaching contracts. The University Library is one of only five designated National Research Libraries (along with Oxford, Cambridge, LSE and SOAS) and we have an exceptionally generous library budget, allowing individual academic staff to order new library books for research and teaching purposes whenever they are required. The School of Social Sciences is committed to research-led teaching. It has an extensive portfolio of undergraduate teaching programmes: single and joint honours programmes in its constituent departments; joint programmes with other Schools in the Faculty of Humanities; and large interdisciplinary programmes – the BA(Econ) and as well as the BA Social Sciences. Teaching quality is high across the School's six departments, and is recognised in promotions and by recent external Faculty and University Teaching Awards.

THE CATHIE MARSH INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH (CMI)

The Cathie Marsh Institute for Social Research (CMI) was founded in 2014 through a merger of two dynamic and highly successful research groups within the School of Social Sciences – the Institute for Social Change (ISC) and the Centre for Census and Survey Research (CCSR). The Institute is named after Cathie Marsh who founded the Census Microdata Unit in 1993. CMI is directed by Professor Martin Everett. It is an internationally renowned institute of research excellence specializing in the application of advanced quantitative methods in an interdisciplinary social science context. It is committed to high quality research, innovative teaching methods and collaboration with other disciplines within the University, to improve the methodological rigour and range of quantitative enquiries in social science. A distinctive feature of CMI and Social Statistics is the application of advanced quantitative methods, within an interdisciplinary framework, to address social, economic and political questions. Research carried out include: social inequalities, population dynamics, social network analysis, statistical modelling, longitudinal analysis, survey methodology, missing data, analysis of complex survey data and statistical disclosure control. Work on social inequalities encompasses class, gender, ethnicity/race and ageing, and focuses on the substantive topics of: employment, education, social dynamics, social mobility, health and wellbeing, community cohesion, social and civic participation.

MANCHESTER INSTITUTE FOR COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH ON AGEING (MICRA)

The Manchester Institute for Collaborative Research on Ageing (MICRA) is a world-leading interdisciplinary research centre carrying out research into fundamental questions of ageing. MICRA is situated in the heart of Manchester, the UK's first city and region to achieve World Health Organization age-friendly status. At MICRA, international experts undertake cross-disciplinary and collaborative research to address the challenges posed by our ageing populations across the world, ranging from the biological processes involved in ageing to its societal implication and technological interventions designed to ameliorate age associated concerns. We address these questions through collaborative research across the biological, medical, physical and social sciences, in addition to the arts and humanities.

MICRA is part of The University of Manchester, a world leading University recognised globally for the excellence of its research and its social, economic and cultural impact. Ageing is a priority area for The University of Manchester, with more than 300 researchers actively engaged in research into ageing. MICRA's affiliated researchers attract over 50 new research grants each year, funded by diverse bodies including the National Institute for Health Research, UK research and Innovation, the European Commission, NHS Foundation trusts, central and local government, as well as foundations, trusts, charities and industry. Established in 2010, MICRA is renowned for its research on Urban Ageing (Through the Manchester Urban Ageing Research Group); public health and care; biological mechanisms of ageing; technology and ageing; work and retirement; and data science and analytics for an ageing population.

We engage critically with stakeholders and policy makers at all levels to deliver research with demonstrable policy impact. Pioneers in award-winning collaborative methodologies, we aim to embed contributions from older people and stakeholders into all stages of research, ensuring our work has meaning and societal relevance, engaging with stakeholders and policymakers at global, national, regional, city and community levels to deliver research with demonstrable policy impact.

We bring together academic researchers who address the unmet needs of an ageing population with organisations and civic institutions that influence policy and/or practice, to enable these changes.

How to apply

Your application must consist of :

Online application forms

Supporting materials, which must include: (a) curriculum vitae; (b) motivation letter; (c) evidence of qualifications (e.g. formal transcript and degree certificates) (d) evidence of less than 4 years of post-graduate research experience; (e) English language certificate, if applicable; and (f) two references (a single PDF-file).

Research proposal (2000 words maximum) based on the applicant's interpretation of the selected project.