THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

FACULTY OFFICE - HUMANITIES

DIVISION OF HUMANITIES RESEARCH AND BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT

BICENTENARY RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS IN HUMANITIES

VACANCY REF: HUM-027681

Salary:	Grade 6/7 £36,924 to £56,921 per annum, depending on relevant experience
Hours:	Full time (1 FTE)
Duration:	Fixed term from 01 October 2025 to 30 September 2028
Location:	Oxford Road, Manchester

Enquiries about the vacancy, shortlisting and interviews:
Name: Chloe Jeffries
Email: HUMS.researchfellowships@manchester.ac.uk

Background
The University of Manchester is celebrating 200 years of achievement in research-driven learning, development and innovation with our prestigious Bicentenary PhD Studentships and Fellowships. This new initiative 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'll 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 12 Bicentenary Research Fellowships (3 years duration) for outstanding postdoctoral researchers within 4 years of their PhD. Fellows will need to work with a named mentor / mentoring team and address one or more of the Faculty priority research themes of Digital Futures; Sustainable Futures; Creativity; Global Inequalities; and Adaptive Societies.

Applications will be judged principally on the excellence, creativity and feasibility of the research proposal as described; on the level of candidate's research experience; and lastly on the fit with

the Faculty's thematic research priorities (see Appendix 1) and with the strategic goals of the university. Candidates are advised to pay particular attention to ensuring that there is a clear link between the length of Fellowship requested 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 must be completed annually and at the end of the Fellowship.

Candidates are strongly advised to discuss 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 HoD and Vice-Dean for Research.

Flexible working requests will be considered in line with University policy.

How To Apply [important information - please read carefully]

Please complete the electronic application form via the University's electronic recruitment system. You will be asked to indicate the School and Discipline (subject) Area or Research Institute/Centre most appropriate to host your area of research. Please indicate only one primary Discipline Area or Research Institute/Centre.

Please complete your research proposal on the 'Fellowship Proposal Form' (https://documents.manchester.ac.uk/DocuInfo.aspx?DocID=74910) and upload as part of your CV document. Your proposal should be no more than 2,000 words (excluding 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/.

Please attach a CV (2 pages) including a list of your publications (published/in the public domain, in press and in progress).

Interviews will be held in March 2025. If you have not been contacted by mid-May, 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.

Any other documents requested as part of the multi-upload section of the application form are not relevant to this application and you can ignore them.

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Person Specification

Essential Knowledge, Skills and Experience

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

- A PhD (to have been awarded by, and not more than four years prior to, the closing date for applications. The Fellowship Committee will consider special circumstances (i.e. career breaks) in respect of the four-year postdoctoral experience regulation)
- 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 make an original contribution to research in one of the priority research themes in the Faculty of Humanities (see Appendix 1)
- The ability to construct an excellent, original and achievable research proposal that is relevant to the nominated academic centre and Faculty priority research themes
- The ability to function as an independent researcher, including managing research projects and meeting deadlines
- 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)
- The potential to reach the requisite research profile to secure an academic post on completion of the Fellowship

Desirable Knowledge, Skills, Experience and Qualifications

The following would be a distinct advantage:

- Experience of external engagement of communicating research to non-academic audiences
- Experience of collaborative or interdisciplinary working

For questions relating to the Bicentenary Research Fellowship please see the list of Frequently Asked Questions (https://documents.manchester.ac.uk/DocuInfo.aspx?DocID=46192)

Regulations – Bicentenary Research Fellowships

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 four 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 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 us 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 The University of Manchester | Code of Good Research Conduct
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:

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/

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Appendix 1 Faculty of Humanities Priority Themes

Digital Futures

Digital Futures brings together researchers from different disciplines across all three of the University's faculties into multidisciplinary communities to tackle important research problems, build critical mass in new and emerging research areas and to work with external stakeholders to support Greater Manchester's ambitions as a leading digital city.

Digital Futures is built around challenges and cross-cutting capabilities. Societal Challenges focus on real-world activities that are economically and socially important, building on multidisciplinary strengths within the University. Institutional Challenges focus on the potential for digital technology to transform what we do as a University and how we do it: how we conduct research, what and how we teach, and how we function as an organisation. Cross-cutting capabilities are digital frameworks, technologies and methods that are important areas of research in their own right and provide the underpinning for addressing the challenges.
The matrix below demonstrates the interactions between our Societal Challenges, Institutional Challenges and Cross-cutting Capabilities.

Sustainable Futures

Realising sustainable futures requires new and integrative solutions to address the interacting global environmental challenges.

Sustainable Futures brings together the unique depth and breadth of internationally leading research at The University of Manchester and builds on the University's track record of successful interdisciplinary working, to produce integrated and truly sustainable solutions to urgent environmental challenges.

Sustainable Futures will develop complete understandings of the environmental systems on which we depend and human interactions with them. It will spur scientific innovation and facilitate societal change at scale and pace to address urgent environmental crises. Sustainable Futures is unique in connecting core environmental expertise and broader societal agendas to develop systemic, innovative and actionable solutions.

Sustainable Futures is arranged around a number of interconnected 'challenge areas'

Resilient futures: fulfilling societal functions in the face of accumulating and disruptive environmental change at various scales, whilst ensuring our natural environments are protected, restored and sustained.
Resourceful futures: providing for human needs in ways that sustainably manage finite resources and recover value from rather than lose materials into the environment.
Net-zero futures: delivering rapid emissions reductions and enhancing our ability to remove and store carbon.
Healthy futures: managing risks to humans and ecosystems and realising the benefits of transitioning to an environmentally sustainable future.

Inclusive and prosperous futures: delivering environmental sustainability through a just transition that enables communities to thrive.

Creativity
Awarded platform status in September 2021, Creative @ Manchester is a new cross-university platform promoting research and engagement for arts, cultural and creative industries. It builds on, but also goes beyond, the Creative @ Manchester initiative, which ran from 2018 – 2021.

The vision for Creative @ Manchester is to:

- Position the University in the Creative Industries sector through 3 core goals
- Strategic Partnerships: Strengthen collaborations with cultural sector
- Development of creative talent pipeline for the ever-growing creative industries
- Contribution to Creative Economy and Local Economy / Civic Engagement

The platform will drive collaborative research around theme themes:
Creative Industries and Innovation
Creative and Civic Futures
Creative Inclusion, Health and Social Change

Global Inequalities
There are pronounced inequalities across the world, within individual countries, and in our own city of Manchester. While progress has been made on some aspects of inequality, it's still the case that food, healthcare, infrastructure and resources are plentiful in some areas, yet scarce in others. Far too many households struggle with low income and poor job prospects.

Across the world, men and women's opportunities, experiences, their potential and their quality of life are shaped by unequal treatment, prejudice and discrimination due to their personal characteristics or family background.

As we have done for almost two centuries, The University of Manchester is leading the way in addressing all aspects of inequality, from poverty to social justice, from living conditions to equality in the workplace. Bringing together some of the best academic minds in applied medicine, business, law, social sciences and the arts, we're meeting these challenges head on, creating and sharing knowledge to understand our world and directly change it for the better.

Adaptive Societies
This theme grew out of the response by researchers to the Covid-19 pandemic and now covers research that examines the ways in which societies and communities shift through shocks and crises. Researchers working on this theme may also be developing new methods and reflecting on changes to their own research practice in response to external challenges.

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