



**The University of Manchester and The University of Melbourne  
Call for jointly awarded/ dual PhD Projects to commence in 2022/23**

**Deadline: Monday 25th October 2021 (17:00 UK)**

**PURPOSE OF THE SCHEME**

The University of Melbourne (Melbourne) and the University of Manchester (Manchester) support research collaboration and the development of globally-engaged researchers through [the Melbourne and Manchester Graduate Research Group](#). Highly sought-after calls for PhD project proposals in 2019 and 2020 provided funding for 26 supervisory teams and 32 candidates. Jointly awarded/dual PhD<sup>1</sup> programs provide candidates with access to complementary facilities, expertise and field environments, a global perspective and an international fluency that will enable future developments in their field and provide a pool of talented employees for global academia and industry.

Melbourne and Manchester are again calling for project proposals to establish **pairs** of jointly awarded/dual PhD research projects. Each successful team of collaborating Primary Investigators (PIs) will receive funding for **two** jointly awarded/dual PhD candidates, one based in Manchester and one based in Melbourne. Funding for each candidate will include tuition fees, a full living stipend allowance, research training support, health insurance and travel allowance.

The jointly awarded/ dual PhD candidates, subsequently recruited to the successful projects, will form the third cohort of the [Melbourne and Manchester Graduate Research Group](#).

**THE JOINTLY AWARDED / DUAL PHD SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Graduate Researchers (GRs)/Postgraduate Researchers (PGRs) participating in the jointly awarded/dual PhD program will be enrolled/registered at both institutions from the start of their program. The research work will be performed under joint supervision, with at least one primary supervisor appointed from each of the two institutions. The work will be judged according to academic standards at both institutions.

**The periods spent abroad by the GR/PGR candidate will be decided by supervisors from both sides, with at least 12 months spent at each institution.**

At the end of the successful completion of the program, each GR/PGR will be eligible to receive a PhD, recognised by two testamurs, one from Melbourne and one from Manchester, stating the joint nature of the award and name of the partner institution.

**All candidates must meet the eligibility requirements at both Melbourne and Manchester to successfully enrol at both universities on the jointly awarded/dual PhD program.**

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<sup>1</sup> University of Melbourne refer to this program as 'jointly awarded' and University of Manchester refer to this program as 'dual-award'.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

This call for project proposals is open to a supervisory team of at least two Principal Investigators (PIs), one from Manchester and one from Melbourne. The PIs must have capacity to supervise two PhD candidates. Each PI must meet the supervisor eligibility criteria set by their own institution and each PI is responsible for checking their own eligibility.

### *Manchester*

The Supervisory team must meet Manchester's criteria as set out in the [University's Policy on Supervision for Postgraduate Research Degrees](#).

### *Melbourne*

Melbourne academics must be registered to supervise as per the [Supervisor Eligibility and Registration Policy](#). Primary supervisors should be employed at UoM beyond the envisaged submission date of their PhD candidates (2027). If their employment contract does not extend beyond the submission date, then alternative arrangements must be in place, by either having:

- a) A named co-supervisor at Melbourne beyond the envisaged submission date of their PhD candidates (2027);  
*or*
- b) A letter of support from the respective Head of Department/Head of School detailing the arrangements in place to ensure continuity of supervision.

For more information, including forms for supervisor registration, please consult the [information for supervisors section on the Graduate Research Hub](#).

Honorary employees whose primary academic affiliation is the University of Melbourne are eligible to lead an application as a PI if they are a registered Principal Supervisor at Melbourne, and either:

- a) Their primary employer has entered into a written agreement for this call to fund the Melbourne cash component of the collaborative activity; *or*
- b) They participate at their own expense if they are otherwise unaffiliated (for example, they hold an emeritus position).

### *Additional notes for all applicants*

Previous recipients may not currently reapply to the scheme but may participate in projects as a co-investigator.

Additional colleagues (including other partners in Australia, the UK or internationally) that are not affiliated with Melbourne or Manchester are not eligible to apply as primary supervisors, although they can participate in co-supervision of joint PhDs.

Adherence to respective equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) policies are a core feature of this program to ensure that all participants can do their best work, thrive and succeed. Applicant teams should consider how they can take meaningful steps in their future collaborations to foster an environment that values, supports and respects a diverse range of views, knowledge and experiences. Applicants should consider EDI as it applies to gender, indigenous peoples, disabilities, career stages and sectors.

Applications that do not satisfy these criteria will **not be eligible**.

## FUNDING

Up to a total of twelve (12) PhD scholarships will be awarded, with each successful supervisory pair receiving scholarships for two candidates. In 2022-2023, Melbourne is funding up to 6 PhD scholarships and Manchester is funding up to 6 PhD scholarships. The scholarship duration is 42 months (3.5 years).

Summary of funding for each project:

| <b>University of Melbourne</b>   | <b>University of Manchester</b>  |
|--|--|
| Tax-free scholarship (stipend) for Melbourne-based jointly awarded/dual PhD candidate. See the <a href="#">Graduate Research Scholarship page</a> for full details.                              | Manchester stipend for Manchester-based jointly awarded/dual PhD candidate (equivalent to UKRI standard)                         |
| Tuition-fee waivers for both jointly awarded/dual PhD Candidates.  | Tuition-fee waivers for both jointly awarded/dual PhD candidates.  |
| Support to each Melbourne PI for relevant activities, including mobility support for the Melbourne-based candidate to travel to Manchester: \$10,000 AUD lump sum.                               | Research Training Support Grant (RTSG) – up to £5,000 per year plus student Travel allowance of £1500 over the 3.5-year program. |
| Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) Single Membership for international students who require a student visa to study in Australia, when in Australia, and Travel insurance while on Study Away. | Health Insurance in Australia while on Study Away.   |

## PROJECT PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

- Up to six proposals, each including projects for two PhD candidates, will be supported. Projects must be led by one primary supervisor from each institution and each PI must meet the eligibility criteria of their home institution.
- Each pair of PIs should submit two projects, one for a Melbourne scholarship and one for a Manchester scholarship). There should not be any interdependence between these two projects. The projects can be on a similar research topic or theme, but the candidates cannot rely on each other’s results or completed thesis work to progress in their candidature.
- The duration of projects is 42 months (3.5 years), with at least 12 months of the project to be spent at either institution (i.e. at least 12 months at Melbourne and 12 months at Manchester).
- For proposals involving a PI from Melbourne’s Faculty of Arts: You must also provide a statement addressing how the candidates will meet the Faculty’s PhD coursework requirements in your application. Please refer to the [Faculty’s guidelines](#) for additional information. It is recommended to contact the Associate Dean (Graduate Research) for any further guidance.

Project proposals are open to all research areas, particularly those that are of mutual research strength for Manchester and Melbourne. However, Manchester’s Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health encourages applications from the following areas:

- Cancer
- Inflammation
- Neuroscience
- Mental Health
- Digital Health

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| Release project proposal call                      | Monday 16th August 2021   |
| Deadline for project proposal applications         | Monday 25th October 2021 – 17:00 (UK time)                                      |
| Panel to discuss and approve project proposals     | November 2021   |
| Successful projects advertised for PhD recruitment | December 2021   |
| Joint interview and recruitment deadlines          | May 2022 (Manchester-based projects) / December 2022 (Melbourne-based projects) |
| GR/PGR start date                                  | September 2022 (Manchester) / Before March 2023 (Melbourne)                     |

**PIs must successfully recruit both candidates by December 31st 2022. If the PIs do not meet this deadline, the scholarships and mobility funding will be recalled for use in a future call.**

The Manchester Melbourne jointly award/ dual PhD program will advertise the top six paired projects as agreed by both institutions. Successful projects will be published on the Melbourne and Manchester websites during the application rounds so that prospective candidates can apply for specific projects.

## EVALUATION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS

Manchester and Melbourne will rank the paired projects in order of meeting the selection criteria and agree on up to six top-ranking research pairs (and twelve jointly awarded dual PhD projects).

### SELECTION CRITERIA

- **Collaborator complementarity** – What is the added value of a new collaboration or building on an existing research relationship? How does the collaboration combine mutual areas of interest and strength at Melbourne and Manchester? What is the quality and extent of the planned collaboration?
- **Quality of supervision** – How will the PIs work together effectively in jointly supervising their shared PhD candidates? What are the beneficial learning outcomes and experiences for the joint PhD candidates? Have the PIs accounted for any challenges that may arise when supervising a joint PhD candidate?
- **Project design and rationale** – How clearly presented and justified is the basis for, and design of, the joint PhD project? What are the anticipated benefits of involving joint PhD researchers in the collaboration? What is the benefit of the candidate spending a minimum of 12 months at each institution?
- **Potential impact** – What is the level of originality and innovation in the research proposal? To what extent does the research proposal plan to address significant challenges and what is the anticipated benefit to local or international communities?
- **Capacity for expanded collaboration** – What is the extent of the planned collaboration between the PIs beyond joint supervision? How well does the proposal plan to leverage external funding? To what extent are future collaborations made possible as a result of the proposed activities? How could the project seed the development of a larger network of researchers across both universities within the project's research area?

### REPORTING AND OTHER CONDITIONS

Melbourne recipients will be required to provide regular updates on project progress during the candidature of their candidates. These updates will be requested on a quarterly basis by the International Research Training Group (IRTG) Academic Lead. Recipients who fail to participate in regular reporting mechanisms for this IRTG may be found ineligible for participation in future Researcher Development Schemes.

### SUBMISSION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

A single, jointly prepared application in English must be submitted using the Smart PDF application form to Sarah James-Ford ([Sarah.James-Ford@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:Sarah.James-Ford@manchester.ac.uk)).

All Melbourne projects must ensure that the Head of Department/School and Associate Dean (Graduate Research) endorsement is attached to the application.

**The application deadline is Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021 – 17:00 UK time**

Please note no feedback will be given on any submissions until the joint evaluation has taken place.

*Submission and Manchester contact details:*

**Sarah James-Ford**  
Postgraduate Research and Researcher  
Development Coordinator  
The University of Manchester  
[Sarah.James-Ford@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:Sarah.James-Ford@manchester.ac.uk)

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