

MANCHESTER  
1824

The University of Manchester  
Alliance Manchester Business School

# PhD Programme

Original Thinking Applied



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**Coming  
in 2018**

Our ambitious new business school will provide world-class facilities for our research community



"Welcome to Alliance MBS and our Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programme.

"When we opened our doors in 1965, we were renowned for innovation in business and management education. Much has changed in the world since then. Our core aim of generating the highest quality research to inspire the business leaders of the future remains the same however.

"I hope you choose to join us at this exciting time in our history and start your PhD journey with Alliance MBS."

Professor Fiona Devine OBE FAcSS  
Head of Alliance Manchester Business School



"At Manchester, we aim to recruit students who have a thirst for developing new knowledge that tests existing thinking and challenges theories and professional practice.

"Alliance Manchester Business School provides a rich environment in which to develop pioneering research and innovation and our doctoral programmes have a reputation for producing world-class scholars and leaders in their field.

"We inspire bright and creative individuals to transform their lives through engaging in exciting debates and contributing to our critical, multi-disciplinary community."

Dr Anne McBride  
Director of Postgraduate Research

## The Manchester PhD

**Full-time:**  
**3 years**

**Part-time:**  
**6 years**

### Why choose the Manchester PhD?

Alliance MBS provides world-class facilities and a supportive research environment in which to study and develop the essential skills for a successful career, whether in academia or industry.



Experience a thriving, internationally renowned research community with interdisciplinary links to key areas across the University such as engineering, health, mathematics and social sciences.



Engage in continuous skills training and research support activities throughout the programme to support your academic and research needs.



Develop a set of crucial transferable skills such as presenting, writing and resilience that will set you apart throughout your career.

Study in Manchester: the original modern city



We take our inspiration from the pioneering city and University we are part of.

## The University of Manchester

Established in 1824 |  
25 Nobel Prize winners |  
International reputation  
for top-quality research  
and teaching.



Where the atom was first split  
and the first computer built.



A history of  
driving economic  
and social reform.

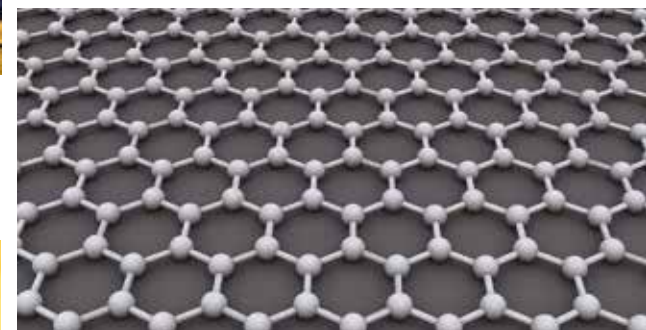


Home to two billion dollar football clubs.



Renowned for sport,  
vision, creativity and  
entrepreneurial spirit.

Globally connected - direct flights  
to over 200 destinations.



The birthplace of the Industrial  
Revolution and graphene.

What does Manchester mean  
to us? Watch our video at:  
[mbs.ac.uk/mcr-means](https://mbs.ac.uk/mcr-means)

## Rankings and accreditations

Alliance Manchester Business School receives a number of rankings and accreditations from numerous awarding boards - not only in the UK but from all over the world.

**2<sup>nd</sup>**  
in the UK for  
research power\*\* 

One of the UK's first two  
business schools established in

**1965**

MBA ranked

**4<sup>th</sup>**

in the UK\*

**10<sup>th</sup>**

in Europe\*

**36<sup>th</sup>**  
globally\*

**4<sup>th</sup>**  
in the UK for depth  
and breadth of research\*\*

**6**  
international centres:  
Dubai, Hong Kong,  
Manchester, São Paulo,  
Shanghai and Singapore

3 international accreditations



Part of a select group of business schools to achieve this

\*Financial Times Global MBA Rankings 2018.

\*\* Chartered Association of Business Schools,  
REF 2014: Analysis of UK Business Schools' performance.

## World-class research community



"As a full-service business school, we conduct research across all areas of business and management, structured around four divisions. Our doctoral students sit at the heart of this research community.

"We have an interdisciplinary approach, with collaborations taking place across the School, University, research groups, centres and institutes. This diversity will enrich your learning, give you new perspectives and open up pioneering opportunities".

Ken McPhail  
Director of Research

### Alliance Strategic Investment Fund

At Alliance Manchester Business School, our research goes beyond traditional areas of business and management. We established the Alliance Strategic Investment Fund in 2015, following our landmark donation from Lord Alliance of Manchester, to support research in some of the most original areas of business and management, for example the Business and Human Rights Catalyst, the Health Services Research Centre and the Big Data Forum.

Read more about our Alliance research projects:  
[mbs.ac.uk/alliance-projects](https://mbs.ac.uk/alliance-projects)



BUSINESS  
AND HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
CATALYST

Health  
Services  
Research  
Centre



Big Data Forum

Some examples of the broad range of areas we cover are shown below:



### Accounting and finance

- Accounting, auditing and accountability
- Corporate finance
- Corporate governance and executive remuneration
- Corporate reporting and disclosure
- Derivatives and asset pricing
- Functioning of capital markets
- Global standards and professional regulation
- World-class research community
- Management accounting
- Mergers and acquisitions
- Public private partnerships (PPPs)
- Sustainability, ethics and human rights



### Management sciences and marketing

- Big data
- Branding
- Consumer behaviour
- Corporate reputation
- Decision science
- Digital networks
- Ethical supply chains
- Information systems, global outsourcing and supply chains
- Marketing
- Operations management
- Retail service systems



### Innovation management and policy

- Creative industries
- Digital economics
- Emerging technologies
- Foresight
- Governance
- Healthcare
- Innovation management
- Innovation policy
- Public policy
- Science policy
- Societal challenges
- Sustainability
- System transitions



### People, management and organisations

- Banking and financialisation
- Comparative and international business
- Critical perspectives on business and management
- Fairness and equality at work
- Global value chains
- International HRM
- Labour markets, industrial relations and employment
- Managing healthcare
- Organisation studies
- Project management
- Responsible business
- Workplace psychology and psychometrics

For further information about our research, please visit  
[mbs.ac.uk/research](https://mbs.ac.uk/research)

# The Manchester PhD

The Manchester PhD is typically completed in three years (full-time) or six years (part-time). You can choose from one of three specialisms:

- Accounting and Finance
- Business and Management
- Science, Technology and Innovation Technology

Working alongside our expert faculty, you will join our multidisciplinary research community, which will provide a supportive, specialist environment for your research.

## Programme Structure



### Year 1:

- Develop your research proposal
- Study a series of units designed to enhance understanding in your chosen field
- Complete the **Research Training Programme (RTP)**. This is a compulsory, taught and assessed component of your first year
  - Units to build key theoretical and methodological skills
  - A Research Ethics seminar
  - Cohort Development Programme, facilitated by the Brathay Trust



### Years 2-3:

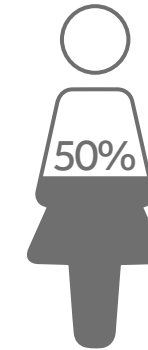
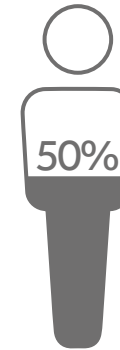
- Focus on thesis research, analysis and writing under the guidance of supervisors
- Participate in research seminar series
- Presentation and job market skills training
- Present your work at conferences

Continual research support [see p14]

## PhD student profile

Male Students

Female Students



Age range:  
**23-66**

**60**  
Nationalities



## Research support

We will develop your skills and deliver training to support your academic and research needs, as well as your student experience.



### Research Training Programme

Get the skills to become a leading business and management science researcher [see page 12 for more information]



### Annual Doctoral Research Conference

- Present and gain feedback on your research from an engaged audience
- Attend presentations and workshops delivered by leading AMBS researchers and external experts



### PhD workshops

Opportunities include:

- Development workshop: help you settle in (year one)
- Presentation skills workshop: includes individual coaching, group exercises, interactive scenarios and one-to-one training (year two)



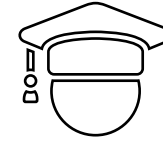
### Specialist databases

- Access excellent data resources, including all the major specialist financial and business databases
- A range of statistical software packages so you can publish in leading academic journals.



### Monthly networking

Meet with colleagues and supervisors over lunch to share ideas



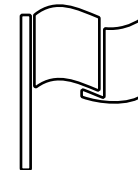
### Alumni events

From lectures on campus to dinners, discussions and networking opportunities around the globe



### Research seminar series

- Hear national and international experts discuss their research
- Network with peers



### Student placement scheme

- Flexible and optional placement scheme
- Offers placements ranging from two weeks to six months (year two or three)

For more information about research support, please visit:

[mbs.ac.uk/phd](http://mbs.ac.uk/phd)

## Specialist skills training

### Year 1: Personal and cohort development event

- A facilitated activity that helps with:
  - Integration and resilience
  - Peer-to-peer support
- Meet and build relationships with fellow PhD students and researchers
- Learn how Manchester offers a unique environment in which to build your career

### Year 2: Presentation skills training

- A workshop that provides presentation skills that are essential for a successful professional career

### Year 3: Writing retreat

- Two-day retreat for final year students
- Progress writing projects and produce a range of written outputs; e.g. PhD chapters, books, conference abstracts, journal articles and research proposals





## Collaborate with the best

Our experts are globally-renowned for research excellence across all areas of business and management. They will share their original thinking – and nurture yours. Here are some examples of the experts you could work with.



**Marie Dutordoir**

**Areas of expertise:**

Corporate securities issuance |  
Mergers and acquisitions |  
Short selling | Social responsibility

**Recent publications:**

The impact of reshoring decisions on  
shareholder wealth | Why do firms issue  
convertible bonds? Evidence from  
the field | The market value impact of  
brand value announcements



**Mark Healey**

**Areas of expertise:**

Strategic management |  
Managerial and organisational  
cognition | Behavioural strategy

**Recent publications:**

Making strategy hot | Toward a theoretical  
framework for organizational neuroscience  
| When teams agree while disagreeing:  
Reflexion and reflection in shared cognition



**Edward Lee**

**Areas of expertise:**

Capital markets research in accounting |  
International Financial Reporting Standards  
(IFRS) | Social responsibility

**Recent publications:**

Who benefits from IFRS convergence in  
China? | Do Chinese state subsidies affect  
voluntary corporate social responsibility  
disclosure? | Corporate debt maturity and  
stock price crash risk



**Eva Niesten**

**Areas of expertise:**

Entrepreneurship | Innovation |  
Strategy | Sustainability

**Recent publications:**

Characteristics of investors in onshore wind  
power in Sweden | Sustainable collaboration:  
The impact of governance and institutions on  
sustainable performance



**Luis Araujo**

**Areas of expertise:**

Business-to-business marketing  
and purchasing | Market studies |  
Sociology of markets and marketing

**Recent publications:**

Product biographies in servitization and  
the circular economy | 'Is there a gap in the  
market, and is there a market in the gap?'  
How advertising planning performs markets



**Rudolf Sinkovics**

**Areas of expertise:**

Inter-organisational governance | Global value  
chains and economic geography issues in  
international business | ICT and technology  
issues in reconfiguring global value chains

**Recent publications:**

Rapid export expansion across institutional  
distance | Advances in qualitative comparative  
analysis: Application of fuzzy set in business  
and management research



**Julia Handl**

**Areas of expertise:**

Data-mining | Machine learning |  
Multicriterion decision making |  
Optimisation | Evolutionary algorithms

**Recent publications:**

An improved and more scalable evolutionary  
approach to multiobjective clustering |  
Multicriterion segmentation of demand  
markets to increase forecasting accuracy of  
analogous time series: A first investigation



**Gail Hebson**

**Areas of expertise:**

Employment relations in service work |  
Gender relations and equality in the  
workplace | The changing experience of  
work for those in low skilled occupations

**Recent publications:**

Rethinking job satisfaction in care work:  
looking beyond the care debates | Applying  
a gender lens to employment relations:  
revitalisation, resistance and risks

Accounting and Finance

Innovation, Management and Policy

Management Sciences and Marketing

People, Management and Organisations

- Three-year full-time programme
- Advanced training to develop leading research in Accounting, Market-based Accounting Research (MBAR) and Finance



## Research focus

Working alongside expert faculty, our PhD students focus on the following areas:

- Management accounting and information systems
- Auditing and accountability
- Market-based accounting research
- Corporate finance and corporate governance
- Asset pricing and market microstructure



## Programme structure

### Year 1:

- Develop your research proposal
- Complete the Research Training Programme (see p12)
- Study a series of units designed to enhance understanding in your chosen field.

### Core units include:

- Advanced Accounting Research Seminar
- Advanced Finance Theory
- Advanced Financial Accounting Theory
- Empirical Corporate Finance
- Finance Research Seminar
- Market-based Accounting Research Seminar

You can also select elective units in economics, econometrics and business and management.

### Years 2 and 3:

- Focus on thesis research, analysis and writing under the guidance of supervisors
- Participate in research seminar series
- Presentation and job market skills training
- Present your work at conferences

## Linked research

### The Manchester Accounting and Finance Group (MAFG)

The Group is one of the leading accounting and finance units in Europe. Home to over 70 academic and research staff, MAFG engages in research of an innovative and interdisciplinary nature covering important conceptual and practice/policy-relevant issues.

### Centre for the Analysis of Investments Risk (CAIR)

Encompasses research relevant to the professional needs of private, institutional and corporate investors in both domestic and international markets. Its research combines theoretical rigour with practical policy relevance.

## Career destinations include:

Athens University of Economics and Business  
CASS Business School  
Central Bank of Chile  
Fudan University

Morgan Stanley  
Singapore Management University  
Universidad de Chile  
Warwick Business School

**"Alliance MBS' high reputation and world-leading research output attracted me to study here. Due to the excellent track record of PhD placements and research output, I knew I would have a very good supervisory team for my doctoral thesis, with good publication prospects.**

"The best thing about studying here is the training and research support. If you happen, like me, to do quantitative research in accounting and finance, then the School boasts one of the most comprehensive collection of databases which gives you access to the best possible data to solve the burning research questions you have.

"The School is extremely research intensive and being a PhD candidate really gives me a unique opportunity to immerse myself in this intellectually stimulating environment. You feel that you are part of the research community here from day one."



**Stephen Xianglong Chen, China**  
PhD in Accounting and Finance

**Research topic:**  
Corporate governance

- Three-year full-time programme
- Advanced training to develop innovative research in all areas of business and management



## Research focus

Working alongside expert faculty, our PhD students focus on the following areas:

- Critical management studies
- Data science
- Decision science
- Fairness and dignity at work
- Health services management and policy
- Human resource management and industrial relations
- Innovation management
- International business and management
- Marketing
- Organisational psychology
- Operational research
- Operations management
- Organisational studies
- Strategy
- Supply chain management



## Programme structure

### Year 1:

- Develop your research proposal
- Complete the Research Training Programme (see p12)
- Study a series of units designed to enhance understanding in your chosen field.

### Core unit:

- Research Process

### Plus two additional units from:

- Critical Perspectives on International Business
- Critical Research Methods
- Epistemology
- Qualitative Research Methods
- Qualitative Research Methods in Practice
- Quantitative Research Methods
- Science, Technology and Innovation Studies
- The Craft of Fieldwork: Method, Text and Writing

You can also choose elective units and workshops in: action research, case study research, NVivo, elite interviewing, meta-analysis, mixed methods, advanced survey design.

### Years 2 and 3:

- Focus on thesis research, analysis and writing under the guidance of supervisors
- Participate in research seminar series and research centres
- Presentation and job market skills training
- Present your work at conferences

## Linked research

### Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health

Part of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and a partnership between providers and commissioners from the NHS, industry, the third sector and the University.

### Decision and Cognitive Science Research Centre

A world-leading centre of research excellence in the areas of Multiple Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) and Decision Support Systems (DSS).

### Health Services Research Centre

A leading research centre in the study of health services organisation, management and leadership, research implementation and policy.

### Manchester Institute of Innovation Research

A world-leading centre of excellence in the study of science, technology and innovation policy and management.

### Sustainable Consumption Institute

Multidisciplinary centre of global excellence researching major national and international issues associated with sustainability and consumption.

### Work and Equalities Institute

Identifies and promotes the conditions for more inclusive and fair work and employment arrangements.

## Career destinations include:

American Institute for Research  
Lancaster University  
National Bank of Greece  
Telekom Malaysia

Texas State University  
Universidad de Chile  
University of Edinburgh  
World Bank Group

**"I have experienced first-class supervision and support at Alliance MBS; with an emphasis on helping me to achieve the very best I can while also offering practical advice regarding academic careers."**

"There are great opportunities to be involved in the School with attendance at seminars and units from other programmes. Staff are incredibly supportive and there to help.

"It's an excellent place to be, where you can carry out research that really makes a difference."

### Karen Nokes, UK

PhD in Business and Management

### Research topic:

PhD in Business and Management



- Three-year full-time programme
- Advanced training to develop innovative research in all areas of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy



## Research focus

Working alongside expert faculty, our PhD students focus on the following areas:

- Assessment and governance of emerging technologies
- Responsibility in research and innovation
- Managing and measuring policy
- Knowledge production, innovation, technology deployment, and user engagement
- Roles of universities, public research centres, and other organisations in science and innovation
- Evaluation, foresight and strategic intelligence in science, technology and innovation policy

You may also look at the wider governance of science, technology and innovation, including:

- How societal, economic and state factors interact to shape the production of scientific knowledge and new technologies
- The generation, diffusion and use of innovations
- The development of socio-technical systems.

The focus on governance and policy offers unique opportunities to link your research to the work of senior colleagues in other faculties at The University of Manchester.



## Programme structure

### Year 1:

- Develop your research proposal
- Complete the Research Training Programme (see p12)
- Study a series of units designed to enhance understanding in your chosen field.

### Core units include:

- Advanced Methods in Science, Technology and Innovation Policy
- Advanced Topics in Science, Technology and Innovation Policy
- Qualitative Research Methods or Quantitative Research Methods
- Research Policy in Science, Technology and Innovation Policy
- Research Process
- Research Process 2: Science, Technology and Innovation Studies

You can also choose elective units and workshops in action research, case study research, NVivo, elite interviewing, meta-analysis, mixed methods and advanced survey design.

### Years 2 and 3:

- Focus on thesis research, analysis and writing under the guidance of supervisors
- Participate in STIP seminars and the activities of MIoIR
- Presentation and job market skills training
- Present your work at conferences

## Linked research

### The Manchester Institute of Innovation Research

The Institute is a world leading centre for the study of science and innovation policy and management. Our 45 members of staff and 50 doctoral students build on more than five decades of interdisciplinary science, technology and innovation studies in Manchester. Research, teaching and engagement activities are based upon a guiding principle of excellence, both in terms of academic rigour and societal relevance.

**"I realised that this is a unique opportunity to do research with internationally renowned supervisors in an area that I am passionate about. It also enables me to significantly advance my career on an international level and prepares for leading roles in academia and research or industry."**

"Alliance MBS combines a highly diverse set of cultures, nationalities and research activities. This mix provides the basis for world-leading research with real impact. In my field, the expertise available in innovation, entrepreneurship, and policy studies is supporting my research in an incredible way. The Manchester Institute of Innovation Research is unique and on an international level.

"The environment here is multi-cultural, liberal, thought-provoking, and highly innovative. On top of that, the supervision and the financial support are both excellent. It enables you to significantly develop your personality, as well as your research skills in a short period of time."



**Paul Sterzenbach, Germany**  
PhD in Science, Technology and Innovation Policy

**Research topic:**  
Innovation, entrepreneurship and policy

## Application and funding

Entry is competitive; therefore we seek applicants with high motivation, strong qualifications and the potential to undertake advanced research.

### Entry requirements

You must hold both a Bachelor's degree (or equivalent) and a Master's degree.

#### Bachelor's degree

- We look for a First Class or Upper Second Class (2:1) Honours degree from a UK university, or the overseas equivalent.
- Professional qualifications and relevant experience may be taken into account if you don't have a Bachelor's degree.

#### Master's degree

- We look for an overall grade of 65% or above (70% or above for the PhD in Accounting and Finance); B or above; or GPA of 3 or above.
- If you don't have a Master's degree, or your qualifications are from a nonstandard background, you may apply for the MRes + PhD (1+3) route.

For full entry details, including English language requirements, visit:

[mbs.ac.uk/phd](https://mbs.ac.uk/phd)

### Funding

We offer a significant number of fully-funded PhD studentships to outstanding candidates.

For further information visit:

[mbs.ac.uk/phd/funding](https://mbs.ac.uk/phd/funding)

### Application process

#### 1 Check the entry requirements

Before starting your application, check that you meet the entry requirements for academic qualifications and English language.

#### 2 Prepare your supporting documents

You will need to submit the following documents with your application form.

- Research proposal
- Degree certificates and transcripts
- English language test results (where applicable)
- Two academic references

#### 3 Apply online

Complete and submit your application online, along with your supporting documents.

For further information visit:

[mbs.ac.uk/phd/apply](https://mbs.ac.uk/phd/apply)



### Support at each stage

Please contact us to speak to a member of the PhD team who will guide you through the programme, funding and application process. Our team will provide advice and can put you in contact with current PhD students and alumni.

### Meet us

You can meet us in person at events in Manchester and further afield. Please check the website or contact us to find out more.

For help with your application contact:

[mbs-pgresearch@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:mbs-pgresearch@manchester.ac.uk)

+44 (0)161 275 1200

## Contact details

+44 (0) 161 275 1200

[mbs-pgresearch@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:mbs-pgresearch@manchester.ac.uk)

[mbs.ac.uk/phd](http://mbs.ac.uk/phd)

Connect with us:



UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

