Third Century Fellowship Scheme - Frequently Asked Questions

When does the Fellowship start?
We expect our cohort of Fellows to join us in November 2024.

How much post-doctoral experience must I bring to be eligible?
Although there is no set rule, the Fellowship Scheme is for researchers who are on the cusp of becoming independent researchers. The assessment process will focus on the applicant's career to date, their research proposal in addition to their potential.

What is the application process for the Fellowship?
To apply to the Fellowship, please provide the following documents:

- **Research Interest Statement:** (no more than two sides of A4, font size 11, 2 cm margin) Statement should include your long-term career aspirations, how your research till date and plans to develop and contribute towards your research interest in the future will impact the University's Research Strategy whilst working with an existing team of researchers.
- **Research Proposal:** (no more than four sides of A4, font size 11, 2 cm margins) Kindly provide a research proposal focused on a specific topic within the research faculty you are applying for. The proposal should be accompanied by a Gantt chart outlining a 3-year research timeline.
- **Curriculum Vitae** (include details of your education, citizenship, publications, funding & employment history)
- Please note that panels will not consider attachments that fall outside of the limits, where specified.

What are the timelines I must be aware of?

- The application window will be available for 8 weeks and will close on 29 May 2024
- Interviews will be held on-site in Manchester (where practical) in the w/c 17 and 24 June 2024
- We aim to make offers to successful candidates in the w/c 03 July 2024

What happens if I have a break in my career for personal or professional reasons?
The panellists will take this into consideration and assess your application based on your career to date, your research proposal as well as your potential. If you would like to discuss any extenuating circumstances with the team at Manchester Met, please write to use on researchfellowships@mmu.ac.uk

I am currently living/ working in a different country. Can I apply?
Yes. We are inviting applications from applicants globally.

Will Manchester Met sponsor a visa for me to be able to accept the Fellowship?
As you will require the 'Right to Work' in the UK, Manchester Metropolitan University will act as the sponsor for your work visa. Our UKVI Compliance team will be in contact after you have accepted the Fellowship, to discuss the details and guide you through the process.

I will have to relocate to Manchester. What support can I expect from the University?
We offer support with relocation to Manchester (or a nearby place that you choose to reside in). We work with an approved supplier to support the relocation process and provide advice on a range of topics with regards to settling in the UK / Manchester, including home search, school search etc.

Will I be provided any funding to start my research as part of the Fellowship?
Considering individual circumstances and recognising the breadth of the areas being supported by the scheme, candidates are encouraged to raise this with the host Faculty as part of the recruitment process. Any specific equipment requests should be identified in your project description.

Does the Fellowship Scheme welcome applicants who are engaged in interdisciplinary research?
Yes. It is essential that your research areas are available within the Manchester Metropolitan University and connect with the research areas identified for the scheme. Please do write to us at researchfellowships@mmu.ac.uk to discuss in detail.

During the tenure of the Fellowship, am I expected to apply for external funding or grants?
Yes. We expect all our academics to seek out external funding commensurate with their discipline and programme of work. We would strongly encourage fellowship holders to apply for other externally funded research fellowships whilst on the scheme.

During the tenure of the Fellowship, am I expected to commit to teaching?
This Fellowship restricts your teaching commitment to a maximum of 6 hours per week (this includes project work) to enable you to exclusively focus on your research project. Any teaching must be to enhance career progression as the fellowship progresses towards an open-ended academic contract on the Research-Education-Citizenship pathway. We believe that a Fellow who has an eye on their future will wish to contribute to the education agenda as well.

Is there any scope for flexible working as part of the Fellowship Scheme?
The University welcomes flexible working requests recognising it helps to create a more diverse and inclusive environment and to contribute to health and wellbeing. The University will normally seek to agree to flexible working request but it may not always be possible to accommodate all flexible working arrangements due to the impact on the effectiveness of the fellowship. There is an expectation that the fellow will be primarily based on the University's campus.

I already hold an open-ended academic position, can I apply?
No. The scheme is focussed on allowing researchers to embed and establish their research independence. The assumption is if you already hold an open academic position that you will have already demonstrated that independence. There are other hiring opportunities at the University that maybe more suitable for you please see our careers page.

Can I apply for the fellowship scheme if I hold a position outside of academia?
Please contact the team by email, researchfellowships@mmu.ac.uk indicating how you would meet the criteria and the research activity in your current position.

Is there any flexibility in the process for a person identifying as disabled?
Manchester Met is proud to be a Disability Confident Leader. Candidates have the opportunity as part of their application to let us know if they would like their application to be considered under the Disability Confident Scheme (DCS). If so, applicants will be guaranteed an interview where they meet the essential criteria as set out in the job profile. More information for candidates, in relation to the DCS can be found here.
If a candidate has any accessibility requests or would like to discuss any adjustments required to support them in attending an interview, we encourage you to contact us at researchfellowships@mmu.ac.uk

If you have any queries about the process, timelines or fellowship design, please contact us on researchfellowships@mmu.ac.uk

If you want to know more about a particular area of research, please contact the academic contact who has been named on the application page.