

Welcome to the School of Law!

We are delighted that you are joining us to start your programme of postgraduate research (PGR). You will become part of a lively and enthusiastic community of scholars, who are themselves engaged in high quality research and are keen to support your project.

Introduction to School

Induction day - Tuesday 22 September

You are most welcome to make contact with your supervisors before arriving in Manchester, but you will meet them more formally during our induction day, which takes place on Tuesday 22 September.

The programme for the induction day will also provide the opportunity to introduce you to the programme directors and the team from the PGR office, and to meet other PGR students, both new to the School, like you, and those in their second and third years. Key elements of the programme will be highlighted in short sessions organised around a buffet lunch.

(The programme is available at <http://www.law.manchester.ac.uk/welcome/research/>)

Postgraduate Research Conference – Wednesday 21 October

You should also put the date of our annual PGR conference in your diary. This is a one-day event, which allows second and third year students to showcase their work to fellow students and to the academic staff. It will enable you to see the range of PGR activity taking place in the School and to experience the buzz of enthusiasm and dedication that our students bring to their work. Information about the conference is available at the following link and will be updated with further details leading up to the event:
<http://www.law.manchester.ac.uk/research/student-research/pgr-conference-2015/>

Programme structure

Details of the PGR Programmes and relevant policy and procedures can be found in our online PGR Handbook: <http://www.law.manchester.ac.uk/pgr-handbook/>

Here, some key points are indicated by way of introduction. You should familiarise yourself with the Handbook in the first few weeks of your studies and refer to it throughout your programme.

The PhD and MPhil programmes are structured through a combination of supervised research, research training and researcher development. You will begin work on your research from the start date of your programme with support from your supervisory team.

The normal expectation is that you should meet with your supervisors at least once a month throughout the programme but, in discussion with them, you may well meet much more frequently at important points in your research.

Research training is available at School, Faculty and University levels and your training needs and requirements are an important part of discussion with your supervisors.

Researcher development is also available and consists of further training provided by the Faculty of Humanities under the Researcher Development Framework. The main focus of this is on the personal and professional skills required to produce a high quality PhD.

It is a requirement of the University that formal mechanisms are in place to ensure that all students make progress on their programme, with a view to submitting a high quality thesis within the permitted timeframe. Academic progression and monitoring for PGR degrees is governed by the University's Policy on the Progress and Review of PGR students (September 2007) which forms part of the University's Code of Practice for PGR.

Your progress will be monitored via eProg, which is a University-wide system that is specifically designed to help to structure your programme and enable both you and your supervisors to monitor your progress.

Progress is also monitored via formal 'Progress Reviews,' which are meetings that are held twice a year. Satisfactory progress is a condition of being allowed to continue to the next year of the programme.

Facilities

Postgraduate research study rooms

All School of Law postgraduate research students are entitled to use of a desk and computer in one of the School's rooms designated for this purpose. Information about the availability of desks in the PGR study rooms will be provided during welcome week. Information about registering and connecting to the University's computer network will also be provided during that week. Information about registration and activating your IT account is also available at the following link: <http://www.studentnet.manchester.ac.uk/crucial-guide/academic-life/registration/>

The University of Manchester Library

The University of Manchester Library, a designated National Research Library, offers a range of services that directly underpin research at Manchester. This includes the provision of research support facilities across campus, access to an unparalleled range of electronic resources including over 40,000 e-journals and a comprehensive range of research datasets.

The Library operates across a number of sites. The Main Library offers group study rooms, individual study spaces and computer clusters. WiFi is available throughout the building and a cafe lounge is located on the ground floor.

The Alan Gilbert Learning Commons provides a state of the art 24/7 learning environment, offering flexible open learning spaces, multimedia facilities, computer clusters and bookable group study rooms plus runs a wide range of study skills workshops throughout the academic year.

For further information see: [Library locations, facilities and opening hours](#)

Researcher training

As part of your postgraduate programme registration, we expect you to develop as a researcher in a variety of respects as part of your career development. We have a dedicated training hub for postgraduate researchers in the Faculty of Humanities called ProGress@humanities.

Importantly

All of us in the PGR team are looking forward to meeting you. We very much hope that your time with us at Manchester will be intellectually stimulating and fulfilling – but also, and importantly, really enjoyable!

With best wishes

Professor Tom Gibbons

Director of Postgraduate Research