

Thank you for your request for information received by The University of Manchester on 6 February and please accept our apologies for the delay in response.

Your questions and our responses are provided below:

Under the Freedom of Information Act:

1. Could I please ask you to send me the all the minutes of the Board of Governors that are not available for download from this page:

<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/about/governance/structure/board-governors/>

i.e. from August 2024 onwards.

All the minutes should now be available:

<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/about/governance/structure/board-governors/>

2. Similarly, could I please ask you to send me the all the minutes of the Finance Committee that are also not available for download? i.e. from October 2023 onwards.

As per above:

<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/about/governance/structure/board-governors/board-committees/finance-committee/>

3. In addition to anything not in the above minutes, could I please ask for all documentation relevant to the establishment, financing and management of the Bicentenary PhD Studentships and Fellowships programme:

<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/research/bicentenary-phd-studentships-and-fellowships/>

Please see attachments *(added below)*

In particular any documentation or information:

• confirming the total funding agreed for the scheme, and which committees agreed the funding;

£29.2m funding agreed. See attachments SLT bicentenary paper Nov 2024. Please note we don't have final figures yet for the 25/26 cohort as the process is still in progress.

• **giving any terms of reference or agreements about the manner of administration of the scheme;**

See attachments SLT bicentenary paper Nov 2024. *(added below)*

• **about how the proposed expenditure had been budgeted:**

- justification for the expenditure: for example, was it accepted that it would be affordable as a direct reduction in the surplus of the central University finances? If not, was it accepted that Faculty budgets would bear the costs and that they would be returning smaller surpluses to central finances as a result? Or was it expected to be funded by cuts to other budgets? If so, how?

The budget for this scheme was funded from USS pension savings, when the pension rate was reduced from 21.6% to 14.5%. This scheme is also attractive from a philanthropic perspective and the University is actively seeking fundraised income to support this scheme.

The bicentenary programme has been adopted by the campaign team as a core fundraising proposition. As it stands our major and transformational gift pipeline for the programme includes:

- a. Three potential donors at ask stage (total c£1.5m)
- b. Three potential donors being cultivated for a gift to the programme (total c.£750k)
- c. Eight potential donors who we are engaging with about the programme (total c.£2m)
- d. Identification of another 28 potential donors who DDAR are approaching about the programme, and this number will increase through discovery conversations

In addition, DDAR invited 899 prospects to a dinner themed around the programme and received 25 acceptances and 88 warm declines. This is a high response rate for this type of event. This includes a number of cold or previously unengaged prospects. DDAR are following up with all of them to progress conversations

- whether a separate Bicentenary account is set up and devolved to each faculty?

The budget is devolved to each Faculty but how each manages the scholarships, in terms of accounts codes, may vary.

- how much has been allocated to each faculty to spend on the scheme?

See table below:

Bicentenary costs £m

	RBE	FBMH	FSE	HUMS	Total
2024/25	0.07	0	0	0	0.07
2025/26	0.08	1.20	1.20	1.20	3.67
2026/27	0.08	2.39	2.39	2.39	7.26
2027/28	0.08	2.39	2.39	2.39	7.26
2028/29	0.08	2.39	2.39	2.39	7.26
2029/30	0.08	1.20	1.20	1.20	3.67
TOTAL	0.49	9.57	9.57	9.57	29.20

- by faculty, how many studentships have been allocated funding through the scheme to start in the current round and their cost—for example, is it broadly true that 45 in each faculty were funded by the scheme, as suggested by the website?

- by faculty, how many studentships have in fact been offered to PIs for funding? Is it true that approximately 60 were offered in FSE, and if so, how the discrepancy has arisen?

Please see tables below:

PGRs

Fac	Target number of PGRs	Number of projects submitted	Number of projects advertised	Number of applications	Number of interviews	Number of offers	Number of Accepts
FBMH	40	121	71	780	71	34	25
FSE	45	56	56	559	49	34	27
HUMS	6	20	10	149	10	6	6
TOTAL	101	197	138	1488	130	74	58

Fellows

Faculty	Target number of fellows	Number of applicants	Number interviewed	Number of fellows recruited
FBMH	3	51	TBC July 2025	TBC July 2025
FSE	0	0	0	0
HUMS	13-14	304	23	12
TOTAL	16-17	355	TBC July 2025	TBC July 2025

Please note - FBMH and HUMS have completed recruitment for studentships for 25/26 but FSE are still recruiting for other intakes during 25/26

- in each faculty, how have the budgets for PDS, DDS and PGRTA places changed since the introduction of the scheme? Have any been reduced to make way for PDS, DDS and PGRTA places?

Other budgets have not been affected. However, budgets for other scholarships can vary from year to year depending upon how the budgets develop as other priorities shift.

4. By faculty, what cost-cutting measures, if any, are currently being planned; and how these are justified with relation to the planned expenditure on the Bicentenary PhD and Fellowship scheme, or other planned expenditure, or as mitigations against projected decreases in income (with a breakdown of any such)?

None as this is funded from USS savings as noted above

I hope you find the information provided of use.

Item 4i

Bicentenary Scholars - outline of the scheme

Scheme overview

☐ £29.2 m in total has been allocated to the Bicentenary Scholars scheme to fund a combination of PGRs and

fellows across the three Faculties.

☐ The scheme will provide an envelope of funding between 2024/25 until 2029/30

o PGRs will be on 4 year programmes in 2 cohorts (starting in 2025/26 and 2026/27)

o Fellows will be on 3 year fixed term contracts

☐ It is at the discretion of Faculties to determine the priority for recruitment within their own faculty, both in

terms of recruiting PGRs/fellows but also overall recruitment themes. Faculties are encouraged to align with

platforms and University themes:

- o Digital and AI (including robotics)
- o Environment and climate change
- o Health inequalities
- o Creative (tbc)
- o Open theme

Budget breakdown / number of scholars

☒ The £29.2m budget will be split as follows:

- o £492k of this will be allocated to RBE to provide PS resource to coordinate the scheme, support the

fellows strategy group and deliver additional researcher development activities for fellows

- o The remaining £28.71m will be split equally between the three faculties giving each faculty £9.57m

over the period of the scheme. A maximum of £100k of this may be used by each faculty over the

period of the scheme to provide additional PS support if required.

☒ PGRs

- o Fees will be waived and approximate costs per PGR used for modelling are £100k (stipend plus £5k

RTSG) NB: this is based on the current UKRI stipend rate but recent discussions across the sector

with UKRI indicate that the stipend rate may increase significantly to be more in line with inflation

and average graduate salaries

- o If the total Faculty budget was used to only recruit PGRs this modelling would allow for recruitment

of approximately 96 PGRs over 2 cohorts per Faculty (48 per cohort per faculty).

☒ Fellows

o Approximate costs used for modelling are £200k per fellow

o If the total Faculty budget was used to recruit fellows only, this would allow for recruitment of

approximately 48 fellows per Faculty over the 5 years of funding

☐ Approximate split of funding across the 6 years is as follows:

RBE FBMH FSE HUMS Total

2024/25 £0.07m 0 0 0 £0.07m

2025/26 £0.08m £1.20m £1.20m £1.20m £3.67m

2026/27 £0.08m £2.39m £2.39m £2.39m £7.26m

2027/28 £0.08m £2.4m £2.39m £2.39m £7.26m

2028/29 £0.08m £2.4m £2.39m £2.39m £7.26m

2029/30 £0.08m £1.20m £1.2m £1.20m £3.67m

TOTAL £0.49m £9.57m £9.57m £9.57m £29.2m

Recruitment / comms

☐ A comms plan will be coordinated by the project team working with Comms to advertise the Bicentenary

scholars at University level and any branding will be linked to bicentenary celebrations

☐ Marketing would be released in Summer 2024, with combined advertising for PGRs and fellowships (For

PGRs this would fit with a recruitment cycle for the first cohort in 2025/26)

☐ The campaign will ensure UoM is attractive to applicants by promoting the culture of support, training and

variety of career development opportunities.

☐ Consideration will be given to reusing and rebranding materials from previous presidential fellows and

presidential Doctoral Scholars schemes

Project oversight and reporting

- The project will provide data on EDI tracking (monitor demographics of those applying/shortlisted/awarded),

subjects recruited to and outputs and additional funding awards (adjusted for PGRs vs fellowships)

Questions for MDCSG

Budget

☒ Should the cost per PGR used for modelling be increased from £100k to £120k to allow for stipend inflation

and the possibility of enhanced RTSG costs? (This would mean 80 PGRs per faculty over 2 cohorts (so 40 per

cohort per faculty).

Comms / marketing

☒ What are the expectations and requirements from a comms and marketing point of view?

☒ How will comms and marketing be resourced given existing commitments?

☒ How will the opportunities be advertised? E.g. will we use FindaPhD.com or is there budget for paid

advertising?

☒ What requirements are there around the building of new web pages?

☒ Do we envisage that Faculties will cover any additional costs for advertising?

Paper for SLT

1. **Title: Bicentenary PhD Studentships and Fellowships**
2. Author: Melissa Westwood, Helen Baker [SLT sponsor – Colette Fagan]
3. Date/version: 26th November 2024, Version 1
4. Status of document (please highlight as appropriate):
 - **For information – on progress towards launch of scheme**
 - For pre-policy discussion
 - For endorsement ahead of formal approval by FCPSC
 - For decision
5. Action:
 - By whom: SLT
 - By what date: 26th November 2024
6. Communications implications:
 - To whom should outcomes be communicated? Cascade to Doctoral Academies, Research Fellows Strategy Group, Comms and Marketing
 - By whom: Melissa Westwood, Helen Baker
 - Timeframe: end of 26th November 2024