

Research, Development & Innovation: The RDI Team

ECR Workshop
May 5th, 2026



**Research Development Officer (Funding
and Impact)**

SCHOOL OF NATURAL SCIENCES

Betsan Edwards

Research Development and Innovation

FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
fse.rdi@manchester.ac.uk

The Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Team comprises four functions: Research Development and Strategy, Business Engagement, Impact, and Internationalisation. The team's overarching objectives are to help the Faculty increase and diversify its income from research and innovation, maintain its world-leading research environment and impact, and develop its research collaborations with key partners. We work closely with the Vice-Dean for Research and the Associate Deans for Business Engagement and Innovation, Internationalisation, Impact, and Institutes and Facilities as well as Heads of Research and other academic leads. We look forward to working with our academic community and other colleagues to achieve the Faculty's research and innovation ambitions.

Research Development and Strategy

We facilitate research bids that are of a high value or of strategic importance regionally, nationally, or globally, and we coordinate and drive strategic Faculty- and University-wide research initiatives, including building communities to position us to benefit from current and future opportunities.



Research Development Manager
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
Emma Davies



Research Development Manager
SCHOOL OF NATURAL SCIENCES
Aaron McGaughey



Research Development Manager
INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH
Nic Hylton



Research Development Officer (Funding and Impact)
INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH
Rachel Jones



Research Development Officer
MANCHESTER ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (MERI)
Asha Fullerton



Programme Manager
CENTRE FOR AI FUNDAMENTALS (AI-FUN)
Barbara Ruggeri



Project Officer
CENTRE FOR AI FUNDAMENTALS (AI-FUN)
Toluwalashe Osho



Research Development Officer (Funding and Impact)
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
Agnieszka Marczuk-Dupim



Research Development Officer (Funding and Impact)
SCHOOL OF NATURAL SCIENCES
Betsan Edwards



Research Development Manager
INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH
Hazel Jones



Research Development Officer
ADVANCED MACHINERY AND PRODUCTIVITY INSTITUTE (AMPI)
Alex Lam



Research Development Officer
QUANTUM
Jonathan Rodd



Research Development Officer
CENTRE FOR AI FUNDAMENTALS (AI-FUN)
Matthew Harrison



Graduate Intern
CENTRE FOR AI FUNDAMENTALS (AI-FUN)
Minahil Tariq

Management and administration



Head of Faculty Research Development and Innovation
Shaden Jaradat



Research Development and Innovation Senior Administrator
Sarah Gaffney-Lang



Research Development and Innovation Administrator
Ashika Vijay



Research and Business Support Administrator
Leanne Lightfoot

Research Impact

Our objectives include identifying, developing, and evidencing impact from research taking place within the Faculty and offering support for grant writing, focussing particularly on weaving impact plans into proposals to maximise the benefits, reach and significance of the Faculty's research.



Research Policy, Governance, and REF Manager
Chris Roberts



Research Development Officer (Funding and Impact)
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
Kerry Wilkins



Research Development Officer (Funding and Impact)
SCHOOL OF NATURAL SCIENCES
Alicja Nazgiewicz



Research Development Officer (Funding and Impact)
INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH
Tana Joseph



Research Development Officer (Funding and Impact)
SCHOOL OF NATURAL SCIENCES
Emilie Brady

Business Engagement

fse-be@manchester.ac.uk

We help to establish and develop relations with industrial partners with the ultimate objective of increasing the Faculty's income generated through research and development.



Business Engagement Manager
Elena Zelenkova



Business Engagement Officer
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
May Bassanino



Business Engagement Officer
SCHOOL OF NATURAL SCIENCES
Jonathan Roby



Business Engagement Officer
INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH
Chenchen Zheng



Graduate Intern
BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT
Fatima Talat

Internationalisation

We work with colleagues across the Faculty and the University to embed the internationalisation agenda into core business areas, focussing on international research collaborations and industry research and development with international partners.



International Research and Partnerships Development Manager
Alex Gaskill



Internationalisation Senior Administrator
Shazia Dar

Research Development and Innovation

Research
Development and
Strategy

Business
Engagement

Research Impact

Internationalisation

Other RDI Teams



Impact – help with realising the impact of your research



Business Engagement – help with finding external business partners and negotiating their involvement. Bid request letter template



Internationalisation – Focus on developing international research collaborations with academic and industry partners

Strategic Initiatives



Map expertise in thematic areas across UoM



Bring together groups of academics at workshops aligned to specific calls



Work with you to identify key themes to focus future research in the community



Plan, organise, and support key funder & partner visits

Bid Development

Bring the bid team together

Plan meetings

Coordinate activities in accordance with internal & external timelines

Ensuring deliverables are met

Organising mock interviews

Run collaborative research interactions, such as workshops, training

Identify internal academic partners

Engaging with external partners on proposal scope and development

University letters of support sign off

Reviewing Your Application

Other Funding and Grant Support



[Research Professional](#) for funding searches



[Research Services](#) - Grant submissions and project mobilisation



[Research Strategy and Innovation Funding Bulletin](#) – Upcoming deadlines



FSE.RDI@manchester.ac.uk – Queries and registration to the Faculty's research newsletter



[Researcher Development](#) – Help you to reach your potential and make a difference



[UMIF](#) – The Innovation Factory help you to realise impact with your IP



[RDI SharePoint](#) – Further information on the support available to you, including guidance on how to respond to impact and EDIA questions in grant applications

Any Questions?



The University of Manchester

RDI Non-Technical Review Process Overview

ECR Workshop

May 5th, 2026

What We Can Help With

The structure and consistency of the application.

The case made for the importance and urgency of this project in the context of the scheme aims.

The clarity of the proposed methodology.

The feasibility of the work plan.

Project resources.

The skills and experience of the applicant(s) (R4RI), including external collaborators.

Research culture, including EDIA.

Development plans for the lead and other team members.

Plans for outputs, dissemination and impact.

General readability

Requesting Support

Complete the RDI Bid
Development Support
Request Form,
attaching any initial
drafts

Submit reasonably
cohesive drafts in MS
Word format

Your project must fall into **at least one** of these criteria

Eligibility



A. The project is expected to deliver **£1m+ of revenue (recovered costs)** for UoM, per the scheme guidance and/or RS [Costing Request Form](#).



B. Prestigious, high-value **early career** schemes

Includes:

- FLF
- URF

Excludes:

- MSCA
- Newton
- Leverhulme ECF



C. Other **strategically important** calls which may arise.

Your project meet **all** of
these criteria

Eligibility



The project is led by The University of Manchester, and the Principal Investigator/Project Lead is based in FSE (or would be incoming to FSE, in the event of an award to an external candidate).



Where relevant, the team has initial group/departmental approval to go ahead.



Compliance with all relevant RS policies on [Applying for Research Funding](#).



The request falls within the timeline for this service

What to Expect



You will be assigned a member of the FSE RDI team with experience of supporting bid development and reviewing applications



Comments will be honest and constructive, highlighting specific potential issues and, where possible, offer suggestions to remedy them.



Feedback may be given as annotations on the draft proposal and/or using the review template.

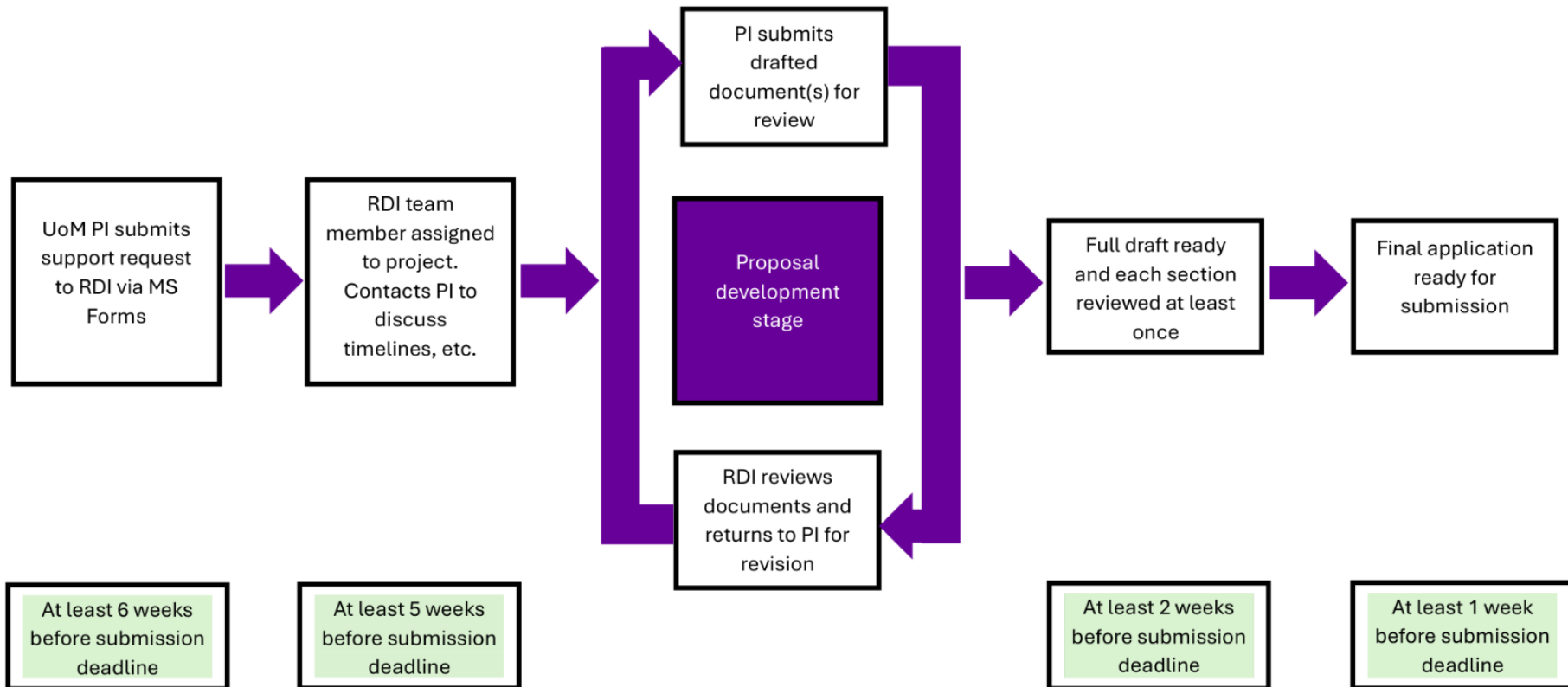


Evaluating the proposal's **scientific credibility remains the preserve of academic peer reviewers.**



The final decision on whether to make any particular change suggested by a reviewer **remains with the applicant.**

Deadlines



Deadline Exceptions – No guarantee



Calls that are released with less than 6 weeks of notice – submit your request asap



Funder imposed institutional caps leading to delays in candidate selection



Demand management processes leading to delays in candidate selection

The Form

The screenshot shows a SharePoint page titled "Bid development" under the "FSE Research Development and Innovation" department. The page features a purple header with the university logo and navigation links. A main banner image shows a molecular structure with the text "RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGY". The main content area includes a heading "Bid development" and a paragraph describing a non-technical review service. A purple button labeled "Request RDI proposal review support" is positioned on the right side of the page.

livemanchester.ac.sharepoint.com/sites/UoM-FSE-RDI/SitePages/Bid-development.aspx

SharePoint Search this site

MANCHESTER 1824 The University of Manchester

FSE Research Development and Innovation

Research Development and Strategy Business Engagement Impact Internationalisation Administrative support Meet the team Request bid support ☆ Not following Share

RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGY

Bid development

The RDI Team offers a **non-technical review service** for eligible external research funding applications.

Please scroll down for eligibility criteria and details of how to use this service. This support sits alongside any departmental level, academic peer review procedures; it does not replace them.

Request RDI proposal review support

The Form

Name

Department/Institute
affiliation

Link to the funding
scheme

Scheme deadline/RS
submission deadline

Name of your RS
contact

Proposal working
title

Confirmation of
eligibility

If prepared, proposal
draft

More Information



The Request Bid Support page on the [RDI SharePoint](#)



Embedding EDIA into funding guidance [SharePoint pages](#)



To discuss wider/longer-term bid development strategies or activities, please contact the [team aligned to your School or Institute](#).



Please direct all other queries to fse.rdi@manchester.ac.uk.

Any Questions?