THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT

FACULTY OF SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

FSE RESEARCH INSTITUTES

DIVISION OF DALTON NUCLEAR INSTITUTE

DALTON RESEARCH FELLOW

VACANCY REF: SAE-032063

Salary:	Grade 7 £48,337 - £59,390 per annum, depending on relevant experience
Hours:	Full Time (1 FTE)
Duration:	Fixed Term For 48 Months
Location:	Oxford Road, Manchester

Enquiries about the vacancy, shortlisting and interviews:
Names: Prof. Phil Edmondson and Prof. Scott Heath
Email addresses: philip.edmondson@manchester.ac.uk; scott.l.heath@manchester.ac.uk
dalton@manchester.ac.uk

The flagship **Dalton Nuclear Research Fellowships** are aimed at outstanding scientists and engineers at an early stage in their academic careers. Fellows should show a high level of innovation and ambition in their ideas, and want to develop potentially transformative, high-impact research. We anticipate **up to 4** of these prestigious Fellowships to be offered. Each Fellowship is for an initial **4-year period**, with a possible extension for a 5th year dependent on performance. The Fellowship is an excellent stepping stone to establishing an academic career in nuclear science or engineering.

Eligibility To Apply
The Fellowship is for Early Career Researchers (ECRs). Applicants are expected to hold a PhD by the start date of the Fellowship or have equivalent research experience. There are no eligibility rules based on years of post-doctoral experience or whether the applicant holds a permanent academic position. The ethos of the Early Career Researcher scheme is to support candidates who have a track record of outstanding research and in delivering impact. Consideration will be given to applicants who have taken a non-standard career path after their primary degree. Applications are also welcome from candidates who wish to re-establish themselves after a career break or other period of absence from active research. Please note some of our fellowship options may require security clearance and/or have nationality restrictions.

Appointment Details and Conditions
The scheme provides funding for at least 4 years covering the applicant's salary, estate and indirect costs over this period. Successful candidates will undertake a limited amount of teaching-related work (up to 6 hours per week) as we aim to support the development of leading research programmes. Dalton Fellows who are about to start their first year are eligible to apply for a research grant of up to £20k, subject to a business case. There will also be an opportunity for PhD studentship to be allocated upon appointment. Candidates will be enrolled on the New Academics' Programme (NAP), which is part of a University wide approach to support new academics and to provide academic staff with the skills they need to carry out their research, teaching and learning and social responsibility duties at the highest level. All candidates will be provided with a senior colleague mentor with additional mentoring available for cross-School appointees.

Application Process
Candidates are encouraged to consider research proposals in themes detailed in the attached document. It is recognised that several of these themes are new and emerging, so candidates are unlikely to possess extensive and direct experience within these areas. Therefore, submissions will be assessed primarily on the quality of the proposal and the relevant transferrable skills the candidate possesses (see Selection Criteria below). Research proposals outside of the listed themes but still within the broad nuclear domain will be considered. Some fellowship topic areas will be joint funded with an industry partner, meaning that proposals will need to appropriately match against the topic area to be considered for these industry funded fellowships. An industry fellowship jointly funded by AWE in the area of actinide analysis and spectroscopy has been confirmed. Further details on any further industry funded fellowships will be provided in due course.

Key contacts and information about the Institute can be found on the Dalton website and queries may be emailed to Prof. Phil Edmondson and Prof. Scott Health, who will be leading this recruitment.

A webinar will offer further details on the submission process and fellowship expectations and you can sign-up to the webinar here:

Dalton Fellowships Information Session

Contact email addresses for queries:
philip.edmondson@manchester.ac.uk
scott.l.heath@manchester.ac.uk
dalton@manchester.ac.uk

Applications should be submitted via the application form on Jobtrain together with the following supporting documents **noting the maximum page numbers for each document**:

1. Curriculum Vitae (2 pages)
2. Please also upload your Research Proposal (2 pages), Academic Impact Statement (1 page) and Statement of Strategic Fit (1 page). These three documents must be combined into a single pdf (4 pages in total)

Deadline for applications: 23.59 (UK time) 21st Dec 2026

Appointment key dates below

Selection Criteria
The criteria for appointment will be based upon:

- Overall potential of the fellowship to establish and maintain a distinctive and outstanding research and/or innovation activity
- Quality of the proposal, particularly in relation to potential impact and deliverables
- The relevance of the proposal to the nuclear sector, industrial partners, policy stakeholders and/or academic funders
- **Contribution to Dalton research priority area(s) outlined in an attached document or an alternative nuclear priority area of strategic importance**
- Quality of the transferrable skills, training and experience possessed by the candidate
- Potential to act as an ambassador and advocate in their field

Key Responsibilities, Accountabilities or Duties:

Fellows will be expected to:

- Plan, develop and conduct world-leading research
- Win external funding for research
- Supervise postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers
- Engage with the nuclear sector and form positive working relationship between and across external academic, industrial and policy stakeholders
- Actively contribute to the Dalton nuclear community (e.g. engage in Dalton outreach activities, Dalton early career researcher development and networking, and/or contribute to the Dalton policy group)
- Extend, transform and apply knowledge acquired from scholarship to research and appropriate external activities
- Disseminate research findings widely via publications, conferences and other appropriate media and fora
- Participate and collaborate in external networks
- Develop positive and productive working relationships with other members of academic and professional services staff
- Plan and manage the effective use of research resources
- Conduct risk assessment and take responsibility for the health and safety of others
- Develop and realise pathways to impact for research
- Contribute to the teaching programmes, as appropriate, typically up to six hours per week
- Embed the University's social responsibility objectives, which include equality, diversity and inclusion, within all activities

MANCHESTER 1824
The University of Manchester

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential Knowledge, Skills and Experience:

- A relevant PhD (or equivalent qualification/experience) awarded prior to commencing the appointment
- Ability to develop a coherent world-leading research programme
- Ability to plan and build a team and deliver outstanding results
- Strong understanding of the importance of the impact of your research programme on the nuclear sector – either industrial partners or government stakeholders
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Excellent time management and organisational skills
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Ability to meet deadlines
- Ability to assess and organise resources
- Commitment to the value and goals of The University of Manchester, including our Social Responsibility goals
- An understanding of the potential for interdisciplinary collaborations to advance knowledge and discovery and a willingness to engage in developing such projects where appropriate

KEY DATES

Date Call issued:	**26th Oct'26**
Deadline for applications:	**21st Dec'26**
Shortlisting completed:	**22nd Jan'27**
Invitations to interview issued:	**w/c 25th Jan'27**
Interviews:	**Feb'27**
Applicants informed of outcome:	**March 27**
Fellowship Start date:	As soon as possible after announcement of success

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Applications are particularly welcomed from women and Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic applicants who are currently under-represented at this level. Appointments will be made on merit. The faculty will support requests to hold the award part-time over a proportionately longer period for childcare commitments.

The potential for research excellence is the main criterion on the basis of which **Dalton Nuclear Research Fellowship** is awarded. However, career breaks as well as unconventional research career paths will be taken into account. Evaluations will be monitored to identify potential biases, e.g. in terms of gender and race, to guarantee transparency, fairness and impartiality in the treatment of proposals.