

## **Job Opportunity: NWCDTP EDI Fellows 2025-2026**

Calling all NWCDTP PhD researchers!

The NWCDTP is recruiting **six PhD researchers** to act as EDI Fellows between **September 2025-September 2026**. One researcher will be recruited per project (see details below).

The six successful EDI Fellows will each receive a **£4000 tax-free studentship top-up** in return for completing certain objectives as part of their role. The funding will be paid in two tranches (£2000 at the start and £2000 at the end). In exchange for the additional funding, each Fellow will be expected to commit **three hours a week** to their individual project, and the nature of the work is flexible so as not to interfere with PhD study and other personal commitments.

The nature of each role will be discussed with, and guided by, the EDI Advocate. The specific nature and timeline of each objective will also be agreed after appointment. Each Fellow will be required to meet regularly with the EDI Advocate to provide updates on progress. An end-of-project impact report will also be submitted to the NWCDTP in order to evidence the impacts and outcomes of each project.

Additional funding is available to pay for logistical aspects associated with the Fellowships (for example training, travel, catering, equipment etc).

### **EDI Fellowships**

#### **a. Widening Participation in Research: Addressing Early Barriers in the Academic Pipeline**

The main objective of this role is to address early gaps in the academic pipeline. The successful Fellow will design and deliver accessible outreach sessions based on PhD research to school-age and/or Further Education (16-18-year-old-learners) providers, with the key aim of building confidence and skills and inspiring underrepresented students to consider university-level study in the future. The researcher carrying out this role will be passionate about enhancing awareness of university-level study in low participation areas across the region, and they will also seek to expand on/develop the work of previous Widening Participation Fellows' projects.

#### **b. Widening Participation in Research: Addressing Advanced Barriers in the Academic Pipeline**

The main aim of this role is to address later gaps in the academic pipeline. The successful Fellow will design and deliver accessible outreach sessions based on PhD research to undergraduate and/or postgraduate (MA-level) learners, with the key aim of inspiring underrepresented students to pursue doctoral research in the future, as well as raising awareness of other associated PhD-level experiences (e.g. publishing or conferences). The researcher carrying out this role will be passionate about enhancing awareness of doctoral study in low participation areas across the region,

and they will also seek to expand on/develop the work of previous Widening Participation Fellows' projects.

**c. Creating Supportive Communities: International PhD Student Experiences**

The main aim of the 'Improving International PhD Student Experiences' role is to recognise that international students often face additional and unique challenges as they relocate to the UK to study for a PhD. This role will investigate ways to help these students settle in and succeed with their PhD, working with the existing community of international NWCDTP-funded PhD students to identify key needs and gaps, develop appropriate support provisions, and plan additional pastoral/social events, meetings, and networks to support students. The focus would be primarily to work with existing NWCDTP researchers, but alumni may also be consulted as well. One outcome would be to produce a report of recommendations for the NWCDTP on best supporting our international students in the future as we move into a post-DTP landscape in 2026.

**d. Investigating Neurodivergent and Disabled PhD Student Experiences**

This project will explore the experiences of NWCDTP-funded PhD students who identify as neurodivergent and/or disabled. The researcher carrying out this role will seek to find out more about the experiences of our students and alumni with neurodivergent conditions and/or disabilities (via interviews, focus groups, questionnaires, and/or other non-traditional methods), taking into account additional factors and obstacles to success including PhD supervision, assessments, and the ways in which existing NWCDTP guidance, opportunities, and events are run and communicated. The researcher will also be expected to take an active role in contributing to the NWCDTP Neurodiversity Network. Another outcome would be to produce a report of recommendations for the NWCDTP on best supporting students with neurodivergent conditions and disabilities as we move into a post-DTP landscape in 2026.

**e. Supporting PhD Parents, Caregivers, and Beyond**

Many PhD researchers face barriers beyond their research, specifically due to parenting and caregiving responsibilities. The researcher carrying out this role will work closely with our existing students and alumni who have to balance research and parenting/caregiving responsibilities, investigating ways to better include all students in our training, events, and support provisions. This will involve first of all gathering student voices and experiences (via interviews, focus groups, questionnaires, and/or other non-traditional methods), which will shape the specific outcomes of the project. Importantly, this work will extend to our community of part-time students since many of our cohort often feel excluded by traditional PhD norms as a result of work and other commitments. A key outcome would be to produce a report of recommendations for the NWCDTP on best supporting students with parenting/caregiving responsibilities, as well as students studying part-time, as we move into a post-DTP landscape in 2026.

**f. Supporting Participation in Placements and Overseas Institutional Visits (OIV)**

Access and participation in Placements and Overseas Institutional Visits (OIV) are key priorities for the NWCDTP, particularly for students who face additional barriers (such as caregiving responsibilities, disabilities, and limitations of international student visa requirements). The Fellow undertaking this role will look at how the NWCDTP can best support students to explore, apply for, and take up these valuable opportunities. The Fellow will work closely with our Postgraduate Research Knowledge Exchange Placements and Partnerships Officer to tackle key topics such as: improving awareness of and access to placements; supporting process improvement; addressing isolation and sense of belonging whilst on placement; or designing 'toolkits', promotional materials, and running associated social and dissemination events. It would be advantageous if the Fellow has recently undertaken an NWCDTP placement or OIV, or is in the process of doing so, in order to provide valuable guidance and first-hand perspectives.

### Additional Information

Through participation in this opportunity, you will improve your professional experience and key skills, gain confidence in articulating your knowledge to those outside of academia, and earn additional money during your studies. The Fellowship will be a great addition to your CV, and it will help support your applications for postdoctoral, academic, and industry jobs in the future.

Please ['click here'](#) to complete the online application form.

If you would like to apply for this opportunity but do not feel that the application form is accessible for you, then please get in touch with Hannah ([h.j.helm@edu.salford.ac.uk](mailto:h.j.helm@edu.salford.ac.uk)), who will be happy to work with you.

### Key Dates

- Applications open: **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2025**
- Applications close: **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025**
- Recruitment panel: **early August 2025**
- Applicants notified: **mid-August 2025**

The application forms will be reviewed (anonymously) during the recruitment panel, and decisions will be made based on candidates' responses, interest, and suitability for the role they are applying for. No other materials (e.g. transcripts, references) will be considered, and there will not be any interviews.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with Hannah ([h.j.helm@edu.salford.ac.uk](mailto:h.j.helm@edu.salford.ac.uk)).