

## **Introduction.** 0:00-0:52

Hello to everyone. I'm [Dr Kirstie Andrews](#) and I'm the Head of Faculty [Research Degrees for Science and Engineering](#) and I'd like to welcome you to your Faculty postgraduate research degree induction. First of all, many congratulations on successfully applying to study a postgraduate research degree level. This marks the start of a new phase in your academic learning so far. We currently live in interesting times. You're starting your postgraduate research degree at a time when your research and associated skills will be very much required as leaders of the future to create innovative solutions and developments, whatever your area of study.

## **The Science and Engineering Faculty and Departments** 0:53-1:10

So, [the Faculty of Science and Engineering](#) consists of five Departments: [Natural Sciences](#), [Engineering](#), [Life Sciences](#), [Computing and Mathematics](#) and [Sports and Exercise Sciences](#).

## **Research Centres** 1:10-1:44

Our research is aligned with six Research Centres and groups that cover the areas of: [Bioscience](#), [Ecology & the Environments](#), [Advanced Materials and Surface Engineering](#), [Advanced Computational Science](#), [Musculoskeletal Science and Sports Medicine](#), and [Smart Infrastructure and Industry Research](#). You'll find out specifics about all of these departments and centres, where you sit within them, and how they will relate to and benefit your particular research as we go through the induction.

## **Projects and multi-disciplinary opportunities** 1:44-3:00

But it's important for you to know that our Faculty has expertise in a wide range of cutting-edge projects and a particularly exciting aspect of our Faculty approach is that a large number of these are multidisciplinary. So, they work across departments and centres. It's also really critical that they are focused on the actual application and the end use. So, this

means that not only do you extend the knowledge that you have, you're going to gain and how that benefits the field that you're working in, but it's also actually considered relative to the benefit to the end user and society itself. So, this is incredibly positive, it's impactful and it's worthwhile from a personal level and from a professional level.

Importantly, it's also increases your [employability](#) at the end of your degree. So, I hope that you're looking forward to your chosen degrees and projects. Connected to these you are starting on the road to becoming independent researchers and hopefully experts in your chosen field of research.

### **Potential challenges** 3:00-4:00

You're in the minority doing postgraduate research degrees, so less than 2% of the world's population hold PhDs, for example. So, what you're embarking on is an exciting period for you all, but to be upfront, your degree will challenge you like never before. This will genuinely be the most difficult period of your studies to date. There's a significant jump from undergrad and postgrad taught to postgraduate research and you need to be aware of this, so that you can take it into account and act on it. There will be highs, there will be lows, this is absolutely normal. Enjoy and celebrate the highs and work through the lows. It's important that you tackle these and move towards leading your project and your postgrad journey, but it's equally important to be realistic. You're just starting on this journey, and you don't know everything and that's fine.

### **Advice and Support** 4:00-4:54

Some important guides to follow are not to become insular: you need to keep talking to your supervisors and your peers. Keep on top of any milestones, particularly the research degree milestones that you'll hear about through your induction. If you do have any problems or queries just ask. You have fantastic support available in the form of your supervisory team, the Department Research Degree Co-ordinators, the Research Centres,

[myself](#), and the amazing [Graduate School Team](#). Speak to people as soon as possible if you're having any issues. You also have access to the full range of University services such as [the Wellbeing Team](#). So don't feel that you have to face anything that happens on your own; help is there if you need it.

## **Employability, Opportunities and Events**      4:54-6:03

Whatever your degree, remember to make the most of this opportunity and I mean this in many respects. Your projects are of course about contributing new knowledge to the respective fields and providing novel innovative solutions to move the area's forward, but they are just as much about your own development as independent researchers. Yes, as I said, less than 2% of the population have PhDs, but these are likely to be the people that you are competing for jobs against. There will be opportunities for continuing professional development and social events and training throughout your degrees. So, make the most of these and make sure that you are increasing your own employability as well as moving your project forward. So, I look forward to seeing you develop through your degrees, enjoy your induction, get to know each other but most of all, welcome to the [Faculty of Science and Engineering at Manchester Metropolitan](#) and good luck on your projects.