

## Health Inequalities Innovation Lab

The University of Manchester's Innovation Labs explore real-world challenges and innovation opportunities that could be delivered/informed through collaboratively designed projects that bring together a range of academic disciplines working directly with non-academic partners.

On Thursday 26 June, the [Healthier Futures research platform](#) will be hosting an Innovation Lab to explore partners' research challenges in relation to health inequalities – the unfair, avoidable differences in health between different groups in society – and the determinants of these inequalities.

### Aim of the Event

The event will bring together 3-5 organisations working who are seeking to overcome a specific challenge or to develop innovative products and services. The University will curate individual groups of academic experts from a range of complementary disciplines to respond to each challenge, and over the course of this facilitated workshop we will develop tangible project plans to pitch for seed funding to cover academic time to develop the project.

### Manchester Innovation Labs

#### How does it work?

- The Innovation Labs follow a facilitated process led by a creative consultancy.
- At each Lab we host 3-5 partners from the public sector, charitable and community organisations, or business, working in teams of 4-6, with cross-discipline academic groups.
- We work through a dynamic, creative process – collectively defining the problem and generating a range of solutions, before concluding with the optimal project which will be pitched to our expert panel for seed funding. There is a strong emphasis on jointly developing projects which have the potential to grow into larger collaborations.

#### What are the benefits?

- To engage in a trusted model for facilitating the generation of collaborative research projects.
- The opportunity to secure seed funding (up to £10k) to cover the costs of the research project to help overcome your organisation's challenge. Further additional funding may also be available to help support community-based groups.
- University support will be available to further develop these seed funded projects into larger collaborative research funding proposals.
- Develop new relationships with university researchers with cross-cutting areas of expertise.

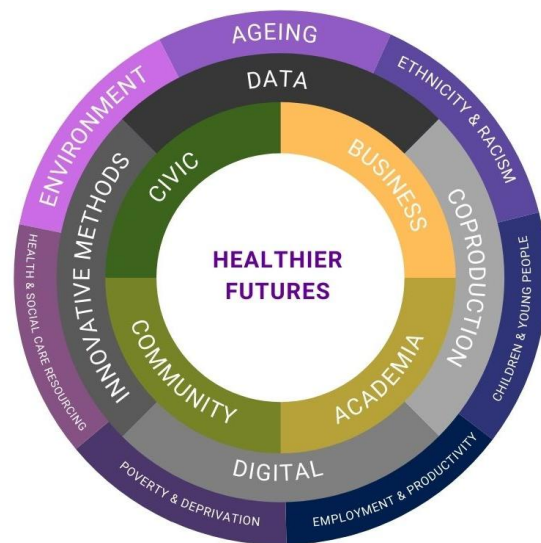
## What do we need from partners?

- We need you to share a high-level overview of the challenge for which you wish to develop solutions in partnership with academic experts.
- Commit 2-3 representatives to attend the half-day workshop (5 hours), (to get the most out of the session we recommend you bring representatives who will be involved in overcoming the challenge if your project is funded e.g. technical staff if your problem is technical in nature).
- Where organisations are able to do so, we would encourage partners to consider an element of match-funding or in-kind support to conduct projects as designed at the workshop, this will enhance the scope of the project. ***Please note that matched funding is not mandatory; the University is keen to work with those organisations who are working directly on the pressing challenges of health inequalities, and we are happy to work out ways to facilitate projects from all organisations.***
- Consider challenges with potential to develop into a larger research collaboration down the line.

## Our Expertise

The University of Manchester has a wealth of expertise that relates to health inequalities, which we bring together in our Healthier Futures research platform.

Our focus is on the unfair and avoidable factors that hinder people's chances to live **healthier lives**, in **healthier places**, with equitable access to health and care systems (**healthier systems**). The University is committed to work in partnership locally, nationally and globally, across all sectors, to work towards health equity.



We have seven themes, but we are interested in any areas where we can apply our broad expertise across all disciplines to improve health, care and wellbeing for all.

## Interested? Here's What You Need to Do Next.

Please complete the Expression of Interest form here: <https://forms.office.com/e/zcFZfgPRmJ>. We will consider your submitted challenge matching it with our academic expertise and should the challenge be shortlisted we will invite you to the Innovation Lab.

The event will take place face-to-face on the University of Manchester campus on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025 from 12 noon-17:30pm. Details will be confirmed with the official invitation.