

Goal 2 Outstanding Learning and Student Experience.

Our strategy for teaching, learning
and the student experience





Outstanding Learning and Student Experience

Ambition

We will provide a superb and distinctive higher education and learning experience to outstanding students, irrespective of their backgrounds. We will produce graduates distinguished by their intellectual capabilities, employability, leadership qualities and ability to contribute to society.

Focus

Our ambition is based on an effective partnership between students and staff, as set out in our Student Charter. We will remove barriers to study and recruit students who are most likely to benefit from, and contribute to, the exceptional educational environment at The University of Manchester. We will attract students who want to study in a large research-intensive university, where they can make a positive contribution to society through their learning.

We will deliver a personalised student experience in a rich, inclusive and diverse environment, where students and staff will be recognised for their achievements and encouraged to keep developing. Our global outlook and commitment to interdisciplinarity will remove boundaries, with flexible learning and excellent teaching ensuring we fully support students to reach their potential.

Students will make The University of Manchester their first choice because of the outstanding higher education we provide. We will demonstrate our impact via the quality of our graduates, many of whom will go on to be recognised as world leaders through their contribution to knowledge advancement and wider society.

We will combine the objectives for outstanding learning and student experiences with those of world-class research, while embedding social responsibility into our teaching and student opportunities. Our students will not only profit from learning in a research-intensive university and acquiring the key skills of excellent researchers, but will also develop their intellectual curiosity, their willingness to take risks and to be creative. We will prepare our students for life after university, as responsible citizens and future leaders, and challenge them to give something back to the University, their peers and wider society, be that locally or globally.

Signature themes

Four cross-cutting themes underpin all that we aspire to do:

1

Enhancing the student experience through partnership

2

Personalised support for learning and well-being

3

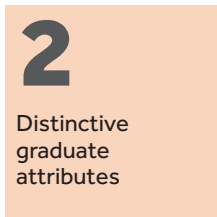
Recognising and rewarding excellence

4

Promoting interdisciplinary learning

Distinctive characteristics

The five distinctive characteristics of a University of Manchester education are:



1. Excellent and innovative teaching

Our curricula will be informed by research, social responsibility and the needs of students. An outstanding learning experience will be based on internal and external partnerships, where students will be exposed to theory and real-world problems in their learning. Students will be taught by well-supported, enthusiastic and engaging teachers, who treat them as individuals in a motivating environment that encourages curiosity and a critical approach to learning. We will be inclusive and create a sense of identity and belonging, and respond to changes in student requirements, learning styles and their diverse backgrounds.

We will support pedagogic research so that our teaching is innovative and responsive. Technology will be seen as an opportunity rather than an obstacle, and we will encourage staff development by recognising and rewarding those who strive to improve. We will create a learning environment where the only boundaries are the limits of a student's curiosity.

2. Distinctive graduate attributes

Our graduates will be outstanding by virtue of their intellectual and personal attributes, and their high levels of achievement. They will gain intellectual courage through their research experiences and be distinctive because social responsibility and global awareness are embedded in our teaching and co-curricular activities. We will prepare students for a range of careers and further study by providing opportunities for work experience, applied forms of teaching, promoting interdisciplinary learning and engaging with students to plan their future. We will encourage the development of the following key behavioural characteristics because we know these are important for the world of work:

- Curiosity – to explore and take every opportunity to gain from a broad range of experiences
- Resilience – to bounce back, learn from setbacks and constantly adapt
- Networking – to connect, build and maintain contacts
- Communication – to engage and adapt to different audiences
- Reflection – to recognise the skills they need to acquire to differentiate themselves from the competition

3. Making a difference

Our curricula will be distinctive through our commitment to social responsibility. Students will confront key social and moral issues facing modern society, both within their discipline and beyond it, through opportunities to consider grand ethical challenges such as sustainability, social justice and professional ethics. We will develop our commitment to active citizenship and community engagement through learning experiences in applied, real-world settings and through a range of accredited and non-accredited volunteering opportunities, locally and globally. In short, our graduates will be thoughtful, socially responsible, global professionals and citizens, equipped to make a difference in the world and handle complex ethical judgements.

Our teaching and learning enriches, and is enriched by, our location in the major city-region of Greater Manchester. As the largest campus university in the UK, The University of Manchester is of significant social, economic, cultural and environmental importance locally, nationally and internationally. Our teaching leads to innovation and knowledge exchange in many areas of professional practice, and our highly-skilled graduates contribute to the economic success and cultural diversity of the region. Innovation in teaching and learning is supported by our close relationship to the city-region, with applied learning taking place in hospitals, schools, businesses and charities, as well as in cultural, sporting and other settings.

Our outreach activities will expand access to research-intensive universities. We will continue to recruit the largest number of students from disadvantaged backgrounds within the Russell Group, with the broad diversity of social, cultural and national backgrounds enriching the learning of all our students.

4. Learning through research

Our research and teaching have an excellent reputation and our students will benefit from the interaction between the two. Our teaching is informed by our research at all levels but, more importantly, Manchester students learn in an environment where they are encouraged to develop and use research skills. These skills will enhance employability and equip students to respond well to opportunities and challenges in the working environment and beyond. We will maximise opportunities for students to formulate questions; develop intellectual courage; explore and critically evaluate knowledge and its construction; develop an understanding of evidence; synthesise and deal with incomplete information; and communicate outcomes effectively and appropriately.

5. Global awareness

We have an extensive global reach with well over 10,000 international students studying at The University of Manchester from all corners of the world. As a global university, within an international city, our on-campus students will benefit from a truly international experience, with undergraduate and postgraduate students coming from diverse cultures and nationalities.

We will provide students with access to courses and activities that address global questions, together with opportunities for studying, volunteering and working outside the UK. We will enable students to acquire language skills and learn about diverse cultures, in order to enhance their confidence to work and study overseas. We will ensure that off-campus students receive a leading and distinctive higher education experience, which mirrors that provided to our on-campus students, with appropriate and equivalent levels of support for distance-learning students during and after their studies. We will further enhance the scale and quality of our relationships with overseas alumni and donors, encouraging them to engage with our students and enhancing the opportunities for student mobility.

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