

SOCIAL JUSTICE CHALLENGE

Key messages for staff at a glance

The Social Justice Challenge is the Ethical Grand Challenge for 2nd Year undergraduates

Students explore issues of social justice by completing an introduction to social justice and two themes

The Challenge is completed online in Blackboard and takes around an hour

The Challenge is part of Stellify and counts towards the Stellify Award

The Challenge enables students to consider social justice from a multidisciplinary perspective

The content of the Challenge has been developed by academics from all Faculties working with the Division of Teaching, Learning and Student Development

Student feedback on the Challenge is really positive

Social Justice Challenge FAQs

What is the Social Justice Challenge?

The Social Justice Challenge is the Ethical Grand Challenge (EGC) for 2nd Year students. It comprises an introduction and a number of themes including Higher Education, Mental Health, Race, Energy, Migration and Homelessness. Each theme is explored using a mix of film and short interactive activities, giving students access to expert views from across The University of Manchester and beyond.

Why is the University offering the Social Justice Challenge?

The University of Manchester is keen to offer a distinctive undergraduate experience and to help our graduates stand out in a very competitive graduate recruitment market. EGC supports this ambition by enabling students to consider issues of social justice from multidisciplinary perspectives and to explore what it might mean to build fairer communities in the city, the UK and across the globe.

Who developed the Social Justice Challenge?

The Social Justice Challenge has been developed by academics from all Faculties, the University of Manchester Students' Union and external contributors from not-for-profit organisations, working with the Division of Teaching, Learning and Student Development.

What will students gain from completing the Social Justice Challenge?

By completing the Social Justice Challenge students will:

- Develop knowledge and understanding of challenges facing society in the 21st century
- Enhance their employability skills
- Explore issues of social justice and be inspired to take action
- Contextualise their degree, placing it in the wider national and global context
- Engage their critical thinking skills

It also counts towards the Stellify Award.

How long does it take to do the Challenge?

The Social Justice Challenge takes around an hour to complete. Students can do the Social Justice Challenge in one go or can work through it at their own pace in a number of bite-sized chunks. Students must work through the introduction and two themes of their choice. To verify completion of each section, students must take a short multiple choice test. The Social Justice Challenge will be available for 2nd years until mid June.

How do students access the Social Justice Challenge?

Students can access the Social Justice Challenge via Blackboard. To access, they will need to scroll down to the My Communities section below their current list of courses in Blackboard and click on EGC: Social Justice Challenge. If a 2nd year student cannot see the course listed they should email egc@manchester.ac.uk using the subject line 'Social Justice Challenge access'.

Does the Social Justice Challenge count towards the Stellify Award?

Yes. Ethical Grand Challenges are an element of Stellify and completion of all 3 Challenges is part of the requirement for the Stellify Award. The award is a prestigious extra-curricular award for undergraduates who started their degree in or after the 2016-17 academic year.

What do students think of the Social Justice Challenge?

Student feedback on the Challenge is really positive:

"I really loved completing this and would highly recommend it to future 2nd years"

"I liked the fact that I could choose from topics which were very diverse"

"Engaging content, easy to understand regardless of your academic discipline"

How can staff help students engage with the Social Justice Challenge?

Staff can help by:

- Promoting the benefits of completing the Social Justice Challenge to all of your 2nd year students
- Making links to the content of the Social Justice Challenge if the subject matter is relevant to any of your teaching
- Making your students aware of opportunities through Stellify and the Stellify Award
- Encouraging students to visit the EGC website at manchester.ac.uk/EGC to find out more about all of the Ethical Grand Challenges
- Once students have completed the Social Justice Challenge, encourage them to think about how it can add value to their degree and employability

Any questions?

If you have any questions or suggestions about the Social Justice Challenge, or would like to be given access to the staff version of the Challenge, please email: egc@manchester.ac.uk