

Manchester Live: The University of Manchester (transcript)

0:00

I'm Rebecca Moran and I work as part of our student recruitment team at the University. And today I'm going to take you through the presentation that will show you lots of useful information about the University.

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Picking which university is right for you is a big decision and it can be quite daunting, especially as you're unable to visit the campus at the moment, but there's lots of useful information online, as well as the opportunity to get in touch with staff by our email. So do check out our course profile pages which have direct email addresses for all of our departments.

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Today we're going to look at our history, our reputation; what studying at Manchester is all about; and the experience you'll get as a student here, as well as our accommodation and the city itself.

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So starting with our history, the University of Manchester has a reputation for excellence built on a long history of pioneering research.

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Manchester was the world's first modern industrial city and this helped shape the modern world. The history of the University is entwined with the history of our city. And so the origins – the Manchester Mechanics Institution, which later became UMIST, and Owens College, which later became the Victoria University of Manchester - and then these two universities combined in 2004 to create the University of Manchester as it is

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Today. Some of the world's most influential thinkers have been associated with our University, and just a few of the achievements and breakthroughs that have happened are listed on this slide. So I'll just take you through a few of these. So firstly Tom Kilburn and Freddie Williams created the world's first digital stored program computer in Manchester in June 1948. They affectionately named it The Baby,

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Despite its large size, and Tom Kilburn also formed the computer science department here - one of the first in the UK and also became its first Professor. You have Christabel Pankhurst, who was the first woman to graduate from the University in law in 1906. But, as she was refused permission to train as a barrister, she campaigned for votes for women along with her mother Emmeline and her sister Sylvia.

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We've got Bernard Lovell who built the world's largest steerable radio telescope at Jodrell Bank in Cheshire, just outside Manchester, back in 1957. Although it is still an internationally renowned landmark in the world of astronomy today. And the last in the list are our most recent Nobel Prize winners, who received it by developing the world's thinnest material, graphene, with a national graphene centre and on our campus today.

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You can see there, kind of the Nobel Laureates that we've had, in the staff and students that have been involved with the university, with two of them currently working at the University today.

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The University of Manchester's current ranking places us among the world's best universities, which means that we are able to attract high-profile academic appointments, many of whom are leaders in their field.

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You can see how we rank in the league tables on this slide, but it's also important to check what each league table measures as they won't be like for like comparisons. So that's important if you're going to use league tables to base your decision on between different universities.

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At the moment, we're partway through a large capital investment program, and the university plans to invest 1 billion pounds over 10 years to create a world-class campus for our staff and students.

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Recent additions include Brunswick Park, which is pictured on this slide, and this provides a large green space for our students to relax in.

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We also have the new Alliance Manchester Business School, and also retail development of shops and cafes that have recently opened.

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Ongoing developments include the MECD Manchester Engineering campus, which will be the size of 11 football pitches on completion, with flexible teaching and learning spaces.

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So we are now going to look at what is like to study at the University of Manchester.

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We're a very popular institution and receive approximately 64,000 applications for 8,500 spaces.

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We have a very diverse student body with students coming from across the globe to study at the University from over 200 different countries.

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So it really is a great place to come and study at. Many of you may already know what subject you want to study at University and as you can see we offer a mixture of conditional courses as well as subjects. You may not have heard of before or had the chance to study.

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There are lots more we could add to this list as we have around 400 courses at undergraduate level alone. You can study almost any course at the University with the exception of veterinary science sports science and art and design programs.

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One thing to note is that the way you learn in University will probably be quite different from school or college. At University, there's a stronger emphasis on teaching students to apply information rather than just passing it on to them.

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And there are a variety of teaching methods employed at the University, and these will vary from course to course. So for humanities, you may be in large lectures, perhaps with over 200

students depending on your course, but these would be supported by smaller seminars and tutorials to discuss the ideas in more detail.

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For science and engineering-based subjects, more laboratory work would be undertaken by our students.

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And for healthcare subjects,

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This will take the form of problem-based learning and inquiry-based learning to give you a feel for the practical element of these subjects.

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At Manchester, we will give you individual learning support to help you take control of your learning and also to develop your confidence.

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On the slide, you can see a list of some of the support we offer at Manchester.

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For example, every undergraduate student is assigned an academic advisor - so a member of academic staff who is there to give advice about any academic issues, for example, the transition from school or college to University, or helping you decide which units or modules to take.

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We also have peer support in the form of peer mentoring which is a scheme whereby current students provide help and support to lower year students throughout their first year of University. This support is usually of a social or pastoral nature. Although mentors may provide some academic help to the students as well.

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It's great because this is a simple and informal way for you to receive extra help and advice about studying in Manchester from students who have recently been through this themselves. You'll also have 24/7 access to learning including online lecture notes and podcasts at registration.

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You'll be given a login for My Manchester, which is an online portal giving you access to all the essentials you will need as a student including your profile, your course details, exam timetables, as well as access to your University email and any documents that you might need.

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We also have something called the university college for interdisciplinary learning, and this provides students with the opportunity to broaden their educational horizons. So studying topics outside the boundaries of the degree program that you've chosen. So this will help enrich your learning experience and most courses will allow you to take a module in this.

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At Manchester you'll find an exciting range of opportunities, both within and outside your studies, for developing new and existing interests and boosting your career prospects and enjoying Manchester student life to the full.

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One example is work placements. So some of our courses will offer work placements, either inside the UK or sometimes abroad, as part of the degree program. So if you're interested in this type of experience, then look for courses that are titled 'with industrial placement' or 'industrial experience'.

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However, if your course doesn't offer this, all students can apply for extracurricular placements and internships outside of their studies to further enrich the student experience and increase employability. And the university itself does offer some paid summer internships as well, and our careers service can help you with securing those, and we'll chat more later about our careers service.

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Another area you might want to get involved with is studying abroad, and most of our integrated courses allow you to apply to participate in our study abroad program and spend time, which is normally a semester in your second year, at one of our partner institutions outside of the UK. If you want a period of study abroad built into your undergraduate degree, then you could do this if you were studying a language, for example, or choose a course that has a component that says 'with industrial study', for example.

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There are a small number of cases where degrees are structured or accredited by an external body. And this can make it so impossible for students to study abroad. Some examples we have are electrical engineering and pharmacy. So do check this out if you're interested in studying abroad.

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Okay, so we'll move now on to looking at our careers service and when you come to Manchester, you may have no real career plan in mind, or you might know exactly what you want to do.

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Either way, we'll give you everything you need to take control of your future and start your ideal career after graduation.

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All students are encouraged to use the career service from their first year at the University. For example, they can help with finding part-time work. As a bonus, you can continue to utilize the service up to two years after graduation. So if you wanted to take a break after your studies, you could do so and still come back and take advantage of our career service.

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On this slide, you can see a number of examples of services offered by the careers service such as mock interviews to help you prepare, large careers fairs for you to talk to prospective employers, and also mentoring schemes.

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The university strives to give our students the best career support possible, to give you the edge in the graduate market upon graduation. And over 94% of our graduates are in employment or further study six months after graduating. We're also the Times and Sunday Times university of the year for graduate employability. And that's something that we're really proud of at the University.

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All of this support means that the University of Manchester is the University that is most targeted by the largest number of top employers, and this slide shows a few examples of employers who work directly with our careers service, actively looking to recruit graduates from the University. It is important to note, though, that many of these companies advertise graduate vacancies for

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Any degree subject, putting an emphasis on the transferable skills you'll have gained during your studies, rather than the type of degree you chose to do.

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So moving on to our accommodation, which I know is a really important factor for our students. And the University of Manchester offers students more accommodation options than virtually any other higher education institution in the UK.

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Each hall has its his own character and you can discover more about them on our University accommodation website, which you can see on the slide there.

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We encourage all students to stay in the halls of residence for their first year, especially if you are moving away from home for the first time.

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We guarantee accommodation places to all new first years coming to Manchester alone, including those who live in the local area. And this is a guarantee that lots of universities are unable to offer.

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The guarantee of accommodation is extended to the duration of study for our international students.

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In addition to our University halls of residence, we also offer support through Manchester student homes, which is a free service for students run in conjunction with other Manchester-based universities. And it's handy for those who are looking to move into the private sector

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In your second or third years. It's a really good resource for you to be able to use. So back to our halls.

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We have approximately 8,000 different rooms at the university, across a choice of 19 different halls. And as I said, all with their own unique character, so they vary in size from quite small communities to those with much larger numbers of maybe over a thousand students.

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There is accommodation to suit all tastes and budgets. We have rooms with ensuite facilities, those we shared bathrooms, you can have self-catered - so you'll be provided with a kitchen area for you to use - or we have catered holes as well. But they'll also have a small kitchen area so you can prepare meals at the weekend.

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For accommodation in self-catered halls, rates start at around £100 pounds per week and catered halls from around £140 a week.

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Although prices will increase if you're choosing something with an en-suite facility. Across our accommodation, we have a variety of facilities to meet students' needs including student bars, sports facilities, launderettes, as well as residential life team, should you have any academic or personal problems whilst living in our student accommodation. And this is a team of postgraduate students and staff who are there to help you settle in, and they'll often organize social events throughout the year, and they live on site in all of our halls of residence.

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In terms of the location of our halls, so you can see here on the slide. We have the purple area and that's where the university teaching campus has been based and where our City Halls are.

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It's about a five to ten minute walk from this area into the city of Manchester itself.

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We then have Victoria Park, which is a nearby leafy suburb about a ten minute walk from the academic campus. And this is home to the University's more traditional tree lined Collegiate-style halls.

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Then finally we have Fallowfield, which is our largest accommodation site, about a mile or so away from the University. So about a 30 minute walk to campus.

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And many students will choose to live in and around that area when they move into private accommodation in their second and third year.

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You can see running through all of those accommodation sites, Oxford Road. And this is one of the busiest public transport routes in Europe, meaning the transport between the three accommodation sites and the University campus, and on to the city itself, is really simple and easy.

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Most students will buy a bus pass for the year or take advantage of the cycle routes that connect the sites to the university, and all of our halls are security patrolled 24 hours a day. So hopefully that's given you a flavour of where you could be living if you came to study at the University.

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So we're now going to look at the student experience and what you can get involved in as a student here at the University.

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We have approximately 40,000 students studying at the University, 27,500 at undergraduate level.

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But our student services make sure that you'll get all the support that you'll need while studying here.

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There are a number of specialized services available, some of which are listed on this slide, and all of this together means that no student should ever feel alone or unsupported as we've

got hundreds of trained support staff on campus and in our halls to assist with any problem you may have whilst at the University.

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Just to pick out a few of those: well-being at Manchester is really important and is underpinned by six ways to wellbeing. Actions, which we will encourage you to incorporate into your daily life to help you to feel good and function well while you're a student here. And these include things such as fitness classes, well-being rooms for reflection and mindfulness, but also opportunities to volunteer.

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We also have something called the big white wall, which is an anonymous and confidential online mental health and wellbeing resource.

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And you can go to the big white wall for help with a range of issues from anxiety or depression to relationship problems, lifestyle challenges, and the platform includes peer support through their online community. Resources to help you self-manage this, and advice and guided support programs on a range of common issues. And most of our students who use this service do report feeling better able to cope having

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Use this particular service.

21:00

We also have Nightline, which is a confidential listening and information service run for students by students. It provides general information also about bus timetables, information on the city. So may be great to use when you first arrived with us as well.

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The university also operates a free legal advice centre run by the School of Law, and this offers a reliable service to those with any legal or associated difficulties, but also provides a practical experience for University law students who are supervised by legal practitioners in providing that legal advice to students and also members of the public as well.

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Students' union welfare advisors can offer confidential advice and support as well, both personal and academic, and we also have a student safety zone where Greater Manchester police and Manchester City Council have come together with Manchester's three universities to unveil safe zones for students created with the support of businesses around the Oxford Road area.

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So it does mean that getting between our accommodation sites and the university and the city is safer for our students in that area.

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Okay, so we'll look now at sport at Manchester, and we do take sports really seriously as a university even though we don't offer it as a course, and the university itself has an extensive range of sport and fitness facilities right across campus that offer excellent quality, location and value for money. And no matter what level of support you're interested in, whether you were playing competitively or just for fun, or even just fancy watching sport,

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Then Manchester has you covered.

23:02

The Armitage Centre is located in Fallowfield, where we just saw our halls of residence are, and if you live in halls there your rent will include off-peak membership to the Armitage for semester one, with the option to upgrade to peak at a discounted rate. It also has floodlit international-standard artificial turf pitches as well. So a lot of our sport takes place there. We have the Sugden Centre, and this is right next to the university teaching campus, and this has a fitness

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Suite, sports hall, squash courts and also other multi-activity rooms. And then we've also got our Aquatics Centre next to the University campus again, and this has two 50 meters - so Olympic-sized - swimming pools.

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Because the university is so large is also ideal for those who are interested in less popular sports, and we've got over 40 sporting societies registered with our Athletics Union. So everything from badminton to caving, korfbal, rugby.

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There's really lots for you to choose from. And because of the University's location, clubs such as the hiking or mountaineering and canoeing societies can organize regular trips to the Peak District and the Lake District national parks here in the UK.

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If you are competing at a regional or international level in your sport, you could be eligible for support and funding through one of our sport Manchester scholarship schemes. Our aim is to help you balance a demanding training and competition schedule with the pressures of achieving a high quality degree at the same time. So if you think you're eligible for those, do check this out on the sport website where there will be information about which sports are eligible and the different levels of support.

25:01

The University of Manchester student union is one of the largest in the UK.

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It runs everything from open mic nights to drama festivals, and live music events across four different academies.

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It also administers a wealth of different societies. So we got dodgeball, pirate society, circus skills - lots to choose from. And if there isn't one that really interests you, you can set one up yourself, if you can find 15 like-minded individuals. So there's support there to help you do that. There's also a student radio and TV station and newspaper, all of which are run for students by students.

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The union also exists to represent the views and interests of our students to the university, and to ensure that the voices of our students are heard, both by the university and also locally, and nationally. So it's a great place to sort of get involved, and meet lots of people when you start University. We're going to look now at our social responsibility. And this is one of our goals at the university. And our students play an important role in making a difference in lots of ways.

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Social responsibility describes the way we are making a difference to the social and economic well-being of our communities through our teaching, our research and public events and activities. And as part of this, one of our signature programs is our Ethical Grand Challenges. And we provide every Manchester undergraduate with the opportunity to confront key ethical grand challenges through the completion of a common program each year of your undergraduate study.

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The program focuses on three themes that we believe will help prepare graduates for some of the most profound challenges of the 21st century. So these are sustainability, social justice and workplace ethics, and you'll get a chance to take part in your first challenge during your welcome week in your first year.

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We'll talk now about and Stellify, and this is the program at the University which enables you to do more and be more during your time at University with a select package of activities containing Manchester's most exciting student experiences. And also this offers you the chance to earn a prestigious University award.

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We want all of our students to take on fresh challenges, meet and work with a wide range of people and perspectives, and to contribute to local and global communities, and really gain new skills and hands-on experience through different activities. So examples of Stellify activities include our Manchester leadership award, which includes undertaking community volunteering and leadership experiences.

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It could be taking an optional course unit from our University College, which I mentioned earlier on in this presentation. Or taking part in a student volunteering opportunity, which will really give you that hands-on skills and experience whilst contributing to some local, national and global communities as well.

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So that's something that you may want to look at more when you arrive here, what you can do to be involved with Stellify and to make sure then you graduate with our Stellify award.

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And then finally, I'm going to talk briefly just about the city of Manchester itself.

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Manchester has a strong student community of over 96,000 students. So this is alongside the 40,000 studying at Manchester, there are also students studying at Salford University, Manchester Metropolitan, as well as the Royal Northern College of Music. And Manchester is a diversity with something to suit every taste, and the students make up a substantial portion of the city.

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They enjoy a variety of student-orientated shopping and entertainment venues offering discounted prices across the city.

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And with a population of over 550,000, and 2.7 million across greater Manchester, it is one of the largest cities in the UK outside of London. But despite its size, I feel it boasts a really friendly community atmosphere, and has a compact but easy to navigate city centre with everything within easy walking distance of each other.

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There's also a wide variety of different galleries, museums, theatres, orchestras to help you explore the city's cultural side, and it's also a very diverse city with over 200 languages spoken in Manchester. We also have the second largest Chinatown in the UK, as well as the Curry Mile in the heart of the student area. So I think Manchester really does have something to suit everyone, and it really is a great city to both the live in,

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But also to come and be a student at. So that brings me to the end of the presentation. Thanks for listening. And if you have any further questions, please email tours@manchester.ac.uk, or you can connect with the university by the means on the slide here. So thanks very much for joining us today.