

PARENTS'
INFORMATION
GUIDE





CONTENTS

This guide will provide you with useful information about The University of Manchester and the City, funding for university and Higher Education in general.



Welcome	3
The City of Manchester	7
Facilities at the University	11
Welfare and Advice	15
Careers and Employment	19
Study Abroad	21
Money Matters	23
Contacts	26



WELCOME TO
THE UNIVERSITY
OF MANCHESTER



Our history

The University of Manchester can trace its roots back to the founding of the Manchester Mechanics Institute in 1824 - which later became UMIST - and Owens College in 1851 - later to become The Victoria University of Manchester, England's first civic university. In 2004 these two great institutions combined to create The University of Manchester, the largest single-site and most popular university in the UK.

At The University of Manchester we are very proud of our tradition of success in learning and research which stretches back over 180 years. The birth of the modern computer, splitting the atom, the founding principles of present-day economics, all have their roots here at The University of Manchester.





The University today

With a £650 million investment in the campus we have enhanced the already excellent teaching and research facilities, providing state of the art learning spaces for all our students. The University also has more than 5,800 academic and research staff, many of which are leader in their fields with international reputations. Together this means that students have stimulating learning environments and excellent standards of teaching.

One of the most important indicators for any leading British university is the UK Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). This is the Government's means of assessing the quality of research in UK universities and determines the allocation of funding. The RAE is carried out every 7 years, the last one being in 2008. From the tables below you can see that The University of Manchester is amongst the top in the UK, sitting alongside the 'Golden Triangle' of Oxford, Cambridge and London Institutions. The data can be analysed in a number of ways, but here are a few key facts for you.

- A research power ranking places this University in third place nationally, behind only Cambridge and Oxford;

- A ranking based on quality alone (grade point average), and which excludes very small specialist institutions, puts the University in sixth place behind Cambridge, Oxford, LSE, Imperial College and UCL;
- A ranking which looks at the overall volume of staff within 3* and 4* quality levels shows this University in third position, behind Cambridge and Oxford.

Quality Alone

Ranking	Institution
1	University of Cambridge
2	University of Oxford
3	London School of Economics
4	Imperial College London
5	University College London
6	The University of Manchester

Research Power (Quality and Volume)

Ranking	Institution
1	University of Oxford
2	University of Cambridge
3	The University of Manchester
4	University College London
5	University of Edinburgh
6	Imperial College London

Volume of 4* and 3* Research Activity

Ranking	Institution
1	University of Oxford
2	University of Cambridge
3	The University of Manchester
4	University College London
5	University of Edinburgh
6	Imperial College London

3* = Internationally Excellent



Manchester's 'Academic Corridor'

Our future

Our vision for the future is the creation of a 21st century university that will become an international academic powerhouse and the preferred destination for the best students, teachers, researchers and scholars in the world. There are few universities that can offer better prospects than Manchester. This is proven by the fact that employers recognise a degree from The University of Manchester as one of the best in the world, and have consistently rated our Careers Service as the best in the UK.

If your son or daughter chooses to study at The University of Manchester, they will be joining one of Britain's most exciting universities, with a rich heritage and an exciting agenda for the future, situated at the heart of one of Britain's most exciting student cities.

Greater Manchester is home to over 85,000 students who attend its four HE institutions. The University of Manchester stretches south from the Sackville Street Campus to the Oxford Road Campus where is it neighboured by The Royal Northern College of Music and the Manchester Metropolitan University, and just north of the city you will find the University of Salford. This means that Manchester is a very cosmopolitan community.

South of the city you will find numerous Halls of Residence as well as University sporting facilities, giving this area of Manchester a real student feel. The University's lively campus is buzzing with energy and offers everything that a student would need; lecture theatres, libraries, Students' Union, computing facilities, along with restaurants, café-bars and supermarkets.

The University has a mixture of traditional Victorian buildings and modern architecture, which reflects its expansion. Although it is situated in the heart of Manchester there is still a campus feel to the University, with quiet corners, landscaped lawns and secluded quadrangles for students to relax.

The campus is also home to some of the University's own visitor attractions, such as the Whitworth Art Gallery, the Contact Theatre and the Manchester Museum. There is also an impressive range of sports facilities, including the Manchester Aquatics Centre with an Olympic size swimming pool, the Armitage Sports Centre and Sugdon Sports Centre, all offering reduced prices for students.



THE CITY OF MANCHESTER A BRIEF GUIDE



There are countless reasons for your son/daughter to choose The University of Manchester: its reputation for research and innovation, learning and scholarly inquiry; its excellent, modern facilities; its large and cosmopolitan student population. But, best of all – at least as far as many of its undergraduate students are concerned – the University is in Manchester. And what a city it is.

Shop 'til you drop

Manchester's quirky yet stylish, streetwise yet avant-garde sense of fashion has earned it the richly deserved title of 'shopping capital of the North West'.

Packed with high-street brands, eccentric boutiques and designer labels, this shoppers' Mecca has something for everyone. Bargain hunters and fashion fanatics have high-street stores aplenty in Market Street and the Arndale Shopping Centre, Manchester's busiest shopping area.

In Exchange Square and King Street, designer names roll off the tongue, including Selfridges, Harvey Nichols, Reiss, Armani and Vivienne Westwood. A favourite amongst our students is the Northern Quarter – a hub of independent businesses, vintage clothing, retro furniture, record shops, cafés and bookstores. Finally, for those students who like their shopping needs met under one roof, the Trafford Centre is a gigantic shopping haven that boasts over 230 stores.





Watering holes

In the hustle and bustle of modern cities, it can be difficult to find a nice bar/café in which to relax after a hard day, but there is plenty of choice for our students. Deansgate Locks has a diverse range of bars, from the view-finding heights of classy Cloud 23 in Beetham Tower, to the more mainstream haunts of Revolution and Baa Bar. Around the corner on Deansgate, it is not uncommon in bars such as Panacea and The Living Room to be stood next to a TV soap star, or a footballer's wife. The Northern Quarter turns into an indie and alternative drinking area by night and around Oxford Road there is a real student feel to the city.

Eating out

With a diverse array of delectable delights on offer, Manchester is a gastronome's paradise, providing everything from high-class dining to top-notch takeaways. Hungry herbivores will find the vegetarian movement has many supporters in Manchester, with cafés such as Earth Café and restaurants such as Greens in Didsbury offering options for a tasty, meat-free dining experience.

Almost any international cuisine can be found in Manchester, if you know where to look. Chinatown supplies gastronomic delights from countries across the Far East, while specialist European venues offering everything from tapas to taramasalata are sprinkled across the city. Rest assured all individual tastes are catered for somewhere in the city, from Halal or Kosher, to gluten-free! Perhaps the most famous dining experience in the city is found in the neon lights and spicy aromas of the 'Curry Mile'. This stretch of road in Rusholme, close by to many student residences, hosts more curry houses per square

mile than anywhere else in the country – the perfect place for students to chill out with a korma after a hard day's study.

Sports scene

Home to Manchester United and Manchester City, Manchester has an excellent reputation for sport. For rugby fans, Sale Sharks are worth checking out and, for those more interested in Rugby League than Union, Salford is home to the Reds. Nearby Wigan, Bolton, Blackburn, Liverpool and Warrington also host strong football and rugby teams. Nice as it is to watch sport, it won't boost fitness levels. The Manchester Aquatics Centre is a great place for a cheap student swim or the Sugden Sports Centre on campus offers reduced gym memberships to students. At the other side of town, cyclists can visit the National Cycling Centre at the Manchester Velodrome. Home to the GB Cycling Team and Britain's primary indoor Olympic cycling track, members of the public may have a go at burning some rubber themselves.

Music matters

In Fallowfield – or 'studentville' – Robinskis, Queen of Hearts, and the Owens Park Bop can provide students with a great night out, while Trof, The Corner and The Chapel provide live music and renowned DJs.

Birthplace of the rave revolution, the 'Madchester' ethos is kept well and truly alive at Sankeys and The Warehouse Project; both converted warehouses that host national and international DJs and performers from all clubbing genres. On the other side of the Madchester coin, legendary groups such as The Smiths, Oasis and The Stone Roses trace their Indie roots back to the North



West. For this music many students head to South nightclub for some familiar tunes.

For big music names the University's Manchester Academy, the Apollo and the MEN Arena all host an array of gigs and concerts. As an alternative to gigs and clubs, there are plenty of ways to experience and appreciate alternative forms of music. The vivacity and vibrancy of Manchester's classical music scene is almost unparalleled. The gleaming glass of the Bridgewater Hall hosts a phenomenal concert series, where contemporary international superstars rub shoulders with the Manchester-based Hallé and BBC Philharmonic orchestras. For students who prefer Les Misérables to Mozart, a range of show-stopping musicals can be found at the Palace Theatre, while operatic notes hit a high at the Manchester Opera House in the city centre and Opera North, based at The Lowry. On slightly more familiar ground, the Royal Northern College of Music showcases a diverse range of music styles, while the University's Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama is home to the celebrated Danel Quartet, with a free lunchtime concert series.

Culture cultures

As if fantastic music, architecture and food and drink were not enough, the streets of Manchester are positively heaving with culture. Museums, galleries and theatres scattered throughout the city showcase the best of classic and contemporary artistry. Art galleries abound, including established favourites Manchester Art Gallery and the University's own Whitworth Art Gallery. Thespians will love the Royal Exchange and Contact Theatre, whose multifarious productions showcase the best of today's creative talent. Reduced student rates combined with phenomenal productions make for a seriously good night out. MOSI (the Museum of

Science and Industry), the Imperial War Museum North and the University's own Manchester Museum will delight any history buff, and ensure that you are clued up about the North West's industrial, scientific, military and social achievements. And for those students who wish to extend their knowledge further, a visit to the gothic marvel that is John Rylands Library on Deansgate is a must.

Above and beyond

There is so much to see, hear and experience in Manchester that it is impossible to run out of things to do. Sometimes it can all become a little too much and a healthy dose of open skies and fresh country air is required. A short train ride northwards takes you to the Lake District, while travelling east allows you to visit the Peak District, so you're never too far away from the countryside. Furthermore, Manchester is connected by train and bus to most major cities in the UK and getting around could not be easier. Less than an hour away from cultural centres Leeds and Liverpool, and a super-slick two hours and eight minutes from London Euston, it would not be hyperbole to dub Manchester the 'centre of everywhere'. So, while you son/daughter starts their next exciting journey of their education, you can be absolutely sure of one thing – Manchester is a truly phenomenal city with a University to match.

FACILITIES

AT THE UNIVERSITY





Accommodation

We may be the largest university of our kind in the UK, but students here don't get lost in the crowd. The University has a friendly and intimate atmosphere and the personal touch is vital to our success.

We have a wide range of advice and support services on the campus, and a greater choice of accommodation than any other university. There are 9,200 places available ranging from large, modern and informal residences, to more traditional halls with a collegiate atmosphere.

To ensure your son or daughter settles in to university life as a new undergraduate student, they are guaranteed an offer of a place in one of our Halls of Residence in their first year of study, as long as they have submitted an application form for accommodation by the end of August, and have met all the conditions of their academic offer by that time. For international students this guarantee extends through the duration of their studies. The majority of accommodation contracts run from September until June, including the Christmas and Easter vacations. This is a great advantage as your son or daughter will be able to leave their possessions in their room during the vacations, which some universities are not able to offer.

For up to date costs of our accommodation and detailed information on each Hall please visit www.manchester.ac.uk/accommodation

After their first year, the majority of students choose to move into private, rented accommodation close to the University with a group of friends. In order to assist students in finding suitable accommodation the universities in Manchester have established the Manchester Student Homes (MSH) service. All landlords advertising their property through this service must adhere to a strict code of conduct. MSH also provides support and advice for students should they experience any problems with their tenancy. Rent is usually paid directly to the landlord on a monthly basis, and students are responsible for paying their own utility bills.

Alternatively, there are a growing number of privately-owned complexes within the city providing "hall of residence" style, en-suite accommodation. Within the city there is ample private-sector accommodation available for all students and enough variety to meet all needs and preferences. For more information on private accommodation please visit

www.manchesterstudenthomes.com





Library and computing facilities

The John Rylands University Library of Manchester (JRULM) is the largest single-site university library in the UK with over 4 million books and publications. The JRULM boasts the most extensive range of electronic resources of any UK Higher Education library; including access to a vast range of online journals and periodicals, a computer cluster with 250 PCs, and facilities which allow borrowers to access the catalogue and borrower-services from any machine on the University's network. The Times Literary Supplement has said of the John Rylands Library that it, "ranks among the world's greatest research libraries, with holdings in many areas that few, if any, comparable institutions can match."

Students also have access to The Joule Library, with a collection dedicated specifically to the sciences, technology, engineering and languages. In addition, students can visit The Precinct Library, located in the University Precinct Centre, with a collection dedicated to management, business, accounting, economics and other social sciences.

Most discipline areas also offer their own library resources and computer clusters, often with specialist software. In addition, many Halls of Residence have networked computer facilities, and there are thousands of PCs available for use by students across the campus. Students bringing their own computer to the University can connect to the network and thereby research and write from the comfort of their bedroom.

All University of Manchester students are given an email address upon registration which allows the University to contact them easily. Access to the internet is free for all students from any networked machine at the University.



Students' Union

Manchester's Students' Union is one of the largest and most active in the country, representing over 30,000 students. The Union hosts three music venues including Manchester Academy, a high profile music venue that is managed by the Students' Union, a nightclub, bars, cafés, subsidised shop and an optician. Fourteen elected students form the Executive Committee of the Union, and manage its day-to-day operation, looking after students' needs, including academic, social and welfare issues. The Union also supports over 100 student societies - ranging from the serious to the frivolous, the political to the religious and from the fun to the fundraising - to provide not only social opportunities, but also valuable extra-curricular pursuits to enrich the university experience and, at the same time, students' CVs

Sports facilities

With two large indoor and two large outdoor sports centres, as well as access to other nearby pitches and sailing facilities, the University's sporting facilities are superb. Rugby, football, hockey, lacrosse, tennis and athletics teams make use of extensive sports grounds - including all-weather pitches - whilst squash, basketball, netball, badminton and many more are accommodated inside the Armitage Centre in Fallowfield and the Sugden Sports Centre on campus. Sports clubs are organised both centrally by the Athletics Union - one of the oldest and most prestigious in the country - and by discipline areas and Halls of Residence, so students can compete at all levels of ability.

Also located on the University campus is the Manchester Aquatics Centre, the site of the 2002 Commonwealth Games swimming and diving competitions, which boasts two Olympic-sized pools, a gym, regular fitness classes and sauna/steam-room/jacuzzi facilities. Because the University part-owns the centre, students can use this world-class facility at highly discounted prices.



WELFARE

AND ADVICE SERVICES



The University ensures that no student feels isolated or unsupported when they make the move to the University, or at any time during their studies. Faculties and Schools foster a community feeling, partly through tutorial programmes that allow small groups of students to work closely with their lecturers and their peers. Many discipline areas also have a student society to organise both social events and enrichment activities. Halls of Residence provide both pastoral support and, of course, a vibrant social atmosphere to compliment that offered by the clubs and societies of the Students' Union and Athletics Union. Academically, pastorally and socially there is always an avenue for the resolution of any problem that a student may encounter.

Personal tutors

Each student is allocated a Personal Tutor who will be an academic member of staff based within the academic school that the student is studying, and to whom any problems, either personal or academic, can be referred. Personal Tutors will offer advice and support, as well as be able to monitor students' attendance and work, so they can address any problems quickly.

Hall tutors

Whilst in Halls, your son or daughter will be allocated a Hall Tutor, with whom any personal or academic problems and issues can be talked through. The Hall Tutors are either members of staff, or postgraduate students, who live with the undergraduates in halls and provide pastoral care. Tutors and Residents Associations also organise social events for the residents throughout the year.





Student Guidance Service

This is a confidential service where students can discuss matters relating to their academic work or issues affecting academic performance. The advisors have extensive experience in academic issues, some of whom are academic members of staff.

The Students' Union Advice and Information Centre

The Students' Union Advice and Information Centre can offer practical and confidential advice and support on a variety of topics from dealing with landlords, personal and academic issues, student loans and finance problems, to safety and security. The Centre is staffed with professional advisors working alongside members of the Students' Union Executive Committee.

www.umsu.manchester.ac.uk

The Counselling Service

The Counselling Service provides confidential counselling for any student who has personal problems affecting their work or well-being. In addition to counselling, the service also runs specialist groups and workshops on specific problems such as exam stress.

Nightline

Nightline is a student-run listening and information telephone service. It is operated by students, for students. Those students who volunteer as advisers undergo a comprehensive training programme covering all the skills needed to work as a volunteer. It offers support for students every night during term time, from 8pm to 8am.

Religion and places of worship

There are two Chaplaincy centres for the major Christian Churches on campus. One provides Chaplains for the Anglican, Baptist, Methodist, and United Reformed churches and the other for Roman Catholics. The campus also has facilities for Jewish worship and an Islamic Prayer Centre. There are places of worship for students of other faiths in the locality of the University.

Health

Upon arrival in Manchester, all students should register with a GP close to their accommodation. Staff within University accommodation or the Student Health Service will be able to advise students of their nearest GP. The Student Health Service also offers advice on issues relating to University life, work and general medical advice. Medical staff based there can assist with emergency cases of sudden illness on campus, vaccinations, medical examinations, health promotion and general nursing procedures.



All students are advised to register with a dentist upon arrival, although emergency cases can be dealt with at the University's Dental Hospital, which is open to the general public.

Support for students with disabilities

The Disability Support Office co-ordinates support for students with additional support needs arising from a medical condition, disability or a specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia. Staff in the office aim to provide a friendly, relaxed service, and are happy to deal with any enquiries from students or parents. They carry out a wide range of activities to ensure that all students' support needs are met, including:

- A full assessment of their academic and IT requirements
- Assisting with applications for the Disabled Student Allowance (DSA)
- Liaising with other members of University staff in academic areas and central services
- Organising support workers
- Running a 'study skills room' containing a range of specialist equipment
- Delivering disability training to staff and students

Staff from the Disability Support Office are on hand at Open Days to discuss support needs with prospective students, or alternatively, applicants can make arrangements to meet and talk with them independently.

www.manchester.ac.uk/dso

Safety and security in Manchester

Manchester, in common with all other cities, does experience crime. However, the levels in Manchester are no worse than in other cities in Britain. Soon after moving into the Halls of Residence, students are advised by their Hall Tutor, and often by the University's Police Liaison Officer, of the simple precautions that they can take to protect themselves and their possessions whilst at the University.

Students are advised that student-safety is about being 'streetwise'. Simple measures such as avoiding obvious use of mobile phones and personal stereos, and avoiding walking home alone at night greatly decrease vulnerability to crime.

The University is committed to ensuring the safety of its students both on and off the campus. We have invested more than £800,000 in security, including a CCTV system covering the teaching campus and the Halls of Residence. All students living in Halls of Residence have possessions insurance automatically included in the cost of their room. Students living in private residences are strongly advised to ensure that the property has adequate locks and an alarm system. If students choose to bring a bicycle or car to the University, they should ensure it has adequate locks.

The University is in the very fortunate position of having its own Police Liaison Officer on site who can offer advice to students regarding safety and security issues. The University also publishes and distributes a number of booklets outlining student safety and security.

CAREERS

AND EMPLOYMENT

Need a job

Need a job
during your studies?



The Careers Service

In surveys of leading graduate employers, graduates of The University of Manchester are consistently rated amongst the most employable in the country and more employers come to recruit students here than at any other institution in the UK.

The University of Manchester Careers Service is one of the largest in the UK, and has consistently been voted the best University Careers Service in the UK by employers.

It boasts an innovative website complete with an online vacancy mailing service, and a comprehensive Careers Resource Centre with information on a wide range of local, national and international employers. It offers a range of activities for students including fairs, insight courses and accredited careers education modules.

The Careers Service has also pioneered an exciting initiative, The Manchester Leadership Programme, which helps students develop the skills and knowledge essential for leadership in the 21st Century. Students engage with business, community and academic leaders, as well as work closely with community groups through volunteering.

They also run a dedicated service which helps students to find part-time work during the course of their studies. Students are able to access the expert advisors and resources at the Careers Service throughout their time at Manchester and for three years after graduation.

www.manchester.ac.uk/careers

Employment in Manchester

The Greater Manchester area is home to a number of international corporations, companies and large

organisations, all of whom actively recruit graduates each year. In addition, there is an enormous variety of small and medium-sized companies looking for young and motivated graduates. The high number of graduates who remain in the city each year is testimony that good employment prospects exist in this lively, vibrant city.

Part-Time work

Many students now undertake a part-time job during their studies, and The University of Manchester is ideally placed to help students find local opportunities. The Careers Service advertises vacancies from hundreds of organisations in the Greater Manchester area, from retail, customer service and hospitality jobs to web design and translation work.

In addition the University itself recruits students for some roles, including Student Ambassadors and bar staff in the Students' Union. The Careers service offers students advice in writing CVs, applying for part-time jobs and going to interviews, and also advises them not to undertake too many hours so they can balance work with their studies. More information on support for part-time work is available at: www.manchester.ac.uk/careers/workexperience

Postgraduate study

The University has a long and impressive record of academic achievement and is internationally recognised for its postgraduate teaching and research. Excellent facilities and a world-wide reputation for high-quality research consistently make Manchester one of the most popular centres for postgraduate study in the UK. There are thousands of postgraduate students at the University, many of whom have continued from their undergraduate studies here.

STUDY ABROAD





At Manchester we encourage students to undertake a period of study at an overseas university. We have a dedicated Study Abroad Unit that helps students to research their options, prepare for their exchange and supports them during their period abroad. Where and when a student can study abroad depends on their degree programme. Some degree courses (especially those with a language element) include a compulsory year abroad, but many other degree courses allow students to opt into the exchange scheme for a semester, usually during the second year of study. Students are still entitled to their student loan whilst abroad and students who participate in the European Erasmus programme normally receive an Erasmus Grant to help cover the additional costs.

The University of Manchester offers exchange opportunities in a diverse range of countries at some of the most highly regarded universities including The University of California - Berkeley, the University of Melbourne, the University of Toronto, the University of Auckland, Uppsala University, the National University of Singapore, and Kyoto University. Partner universities are carefully selected and we work closely with them provide students with a rewarding, safe and enjoyable experience abroad.

For more information see:

www.manchester.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/studyabroad

Gap years / deferred entry

The majority of The University of Manchester's degree programmes are happy to accept applications from students wishing to defer their entry by one year, especially if they have particular plans for the year (ie to gain relevant work experience, or improve language skills etc). Students are advised to check with each programme area prior to making any application (or as soon as they have decided that this is what they wish to do), in order to assess the programme's particular view on this increasingly popular option.



MONEY MATTERS



For many people entering university, money can be a major factor to consider and Student Finance can appear very confusing.

This simple guide will help you know where to start.

Students who are full-time UK residents

There is help available for all Students who are UK residents to pay for their tuition fees and their maintenance (eg accommodation, food, books etc). In most cases this will take the form of loans and for some students, non-repayable grants or bursaries. How you apply depends on two things:

1) Subject

- For students following NHS healthcare courses eg Nursing or Midwifery funding comes partially from the NHS.

2) Location of 'home'

- For students domiciled in England: Student Finance England
- For students domiciled in Wales: Student Finance Wales
- For students domiciled in Northern Ireland: Student Finance Northern Ireland
- For students domiciled in Scotland: Students Awards Agency for Scotland

You can get information for what is available for you from the website below:

www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance

Universities also offer financial support for students in the form of Scholarships and bursaries.

The University of Manchester is committed to attracting and supporting the very best students. We want to make sure that those students who have the talent and ability have the opportunity to study here, regardless of their financial circumstances.

The up-to-date information on what your son or daughter might be entitled to can be found here:

www.manchester.ac.uk/undergraduate/funding/home/

Students who are from the EU

There is limited help for Students from the EU, for more details, go to:

www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance

Students who hold a degree-level qualification

Changes to university funding now means that students already holding a degree level qualification in most circumstances do not qualify for student funding or for home rates of tuition fees (as these costs are subsidised).

Students looking to return to Higher Education are advised to check out the personal eligibility criteria on **www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance** before enrolling on their course.



Budgeting

Most students arrive at university with little or no experience in managing money. It is important, therefore, that you work out a budget plan with your son or daughter as soon as possible, so that they are aware of how much money will be available to them from the beginning of their first semester.

Students should be realistic about how much debt they are likely to incur whilst studying, and about how much money they are likely to earn on graduation.

It is difficult to estimate starting salaries for graduates, as every source reports a different figure. There are a large number of highly paid graduate jobs available; however, there are also an increasing number of well qualified graduates competing for them.

Students must therefore remember that the spending decisions they make at university will have an impact on their finances for a number of years after graduation. Included in this section you will find some tips on student budgeting, and a basic breakdown of the costs your son or daughter will most likely incur whilst at university.



Budgeting tips

- When completing a budget plan, it's a good idea to include unexpected costs eg extra travel home, birthdays and end of term parties.
- Where possible, a part-time job can help provide much-needed cash, and new friends. Also, the graduate job market is becoming increasingly competitive, and most employers look more favourably on students with work experience, even if it is not related to the career, as it gives students 'transferable skills'.
- For those who regularly travel by train, a 16-25 Railcard saves a third off most rail fares.
- To reduce day-to-day costs of bus travel, it may be worth buying a Unirider, giving unlimited travel during term-time on Stagecoach and Magic Buses. These can be purchased online at www.stagecoachbus.com/manchester or from the Students' Union ticket office.
- It is not necessary to rush out and buy all the books on the reading list in the first week. Waiting will allow students to see which will be needed regularly and provide the opportunity to try to buy them second hand. Students from the year above often sell old course books, as do the second-hand sections of many bookshops, including Blackwells on the University campus. Bargains may also be found on websites such as Amazon Marketplace (www.amazon.co.uk).

Budget plan

Once your son or daughter's budget plan is complete don't worry if their income turns out to be less than their expenditure, they are not alone! Look at the plan and see if it will be possible to increase income (eg. by working part-time or during the holidays). The alternative is to reduce expenditure (eg. ask your son or daughter if they could reduce their mobile phone bills, or go out less for a couple of weeks until their income can catch up with their outgoings). Those who are fortunate enough to have more income than expenditure should try to be sensible with this extra money. Remember, the less money that is borrowed now, the sooner the debt will be cleared after graduating. This being the case, it might not be a bad idea to use some of this 'surplus' to pay some of the fees up front, or to put it in a savings account.

For up to date information on the cost of living expenses in Manchester, visit www.manchester.ac.uk/undergraduate/fees/costofliving

Further sources of information can also be found on the list of Useful Contact Numbers at the back of this booklet.



USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

The University of Manchester contacts

Main switchboard

tel 0161 275 2000

website

www.manchester.ac.uk

The Accommodation Office

tel 0161 275 2888

website www.manchester.ac.uk/accommodation
(Information regarding University accommodation, and for a copy of the accommodation brochure)

Manchester Student Homes

tel 0161 275 7680

email manchesterstudenthomes@manchester.ac.uk

website www.manchesterstudenthomes.co.uk
(Information, advice and listings regarding private accommodation)

Students' Union

tel 0161 275 2930

website www.umsu.manchester.ac.uk

General Admissions Enquiries

tel 0161 275 2077

email ug.admissions@manchester.ac.uk

(For subject specific information please call the main switchboard and speak to the academic department directly)



Student Services Centre

tel 0161 275 5000

website www.manchester.ac.uk/ssc

(For information regarding fees, council tax certificates, registration forms, financial awards, grants and loans)

Disability Support Office

tel 0161 275 7512

website www.manchester.ac.uk/disability

(A co-ordinator is available for individual appointments, and a series of fact sheets is available offering advice relating to a number of special needs issues)

International Office

tel 0161 275 2196

website www.manchester.ac.uk/international

(Offering practical advice and support to any overseas student prior to their arrival at Manchester and during their stay)

Directorate of Sport

tel 0161 275 6991

website www.manchester.ac.uk/sport

(For information regarding sport provision at the University, and details of established athletics facilities and clubs, and information regarding their bursary scheme)

Counselling Service

tel 0161 275 2864

Student Health Services

tel 0161 275 2858

Student Guidance Service

tel 0161 275 3033

Students' Union Advice Centre

tel 0161 275 2946

The Careers Service

tel 0161 275 2828

website www.careers.manchester.ac.uk

Manchester City Council

Visitor Information Centre

tel 0871 222 8223



USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Other contacts

UCAS

Universities and Colleges Admissions Service
Rosehill, New Barn Lane
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire GL52 3LZ

tel 01242 222 444 (for general enquiries) or
tel 0870 112 2211 (for applicants)

email enquiries@ucas.ac.uk

website www.ucas.ac.uk
(For application forms and information on the
applications process)

EGAS

Educational Grants Advisory Service
Family Welfare Association
501-505 Kingsland Road
London E8 4AU

tel 020 7254 6251

website www.family-action.org.uk
(An independent advice agency for people
looking for funding for FE / HE)

NUS

National Union of Students
2nd Floor, Centro 3
Mandela Street
London NW1 0DU

website www.nus.org.uk

Student Loans Company

SLC, 100 Bothwell Street,
Glasgow G2 7JD

tel 0845 026 2019

website www.slc.co.uk
(For information on how payment of loans are
made and special grants for living costs)

NHS Student Grants Unit

Hesketh House
200-220 Broadway
Fleetwood
Lancashire FY7 8SS

tel 0845 358 6655

website www.nhsstudentgrants.co.uk
(For information regarding grants and bursaries
for NHS funded courses ie degrees in nursing)

UKCISA

United Kingdom Council for International
Student Affairs
9-17 St Albans Place
Islington
London N1 0NX

tel 020 7107 9922

website www.ukcisa.org.uk
(Financial advice for international students
- can suggest sources of funding and help)

SKILL

National Bureau for Students with Disabilities
Chapter House
18-20 Crucifix Lane
London SE1 3JW

tel 020 7450 0620

email skill@skill.org.uk

website www.skill.org.uk



Other publications available from The University of Manchester

We hope that you have found this Parents' Information Guide helpful.

The University of Manchester produces a number of publications covering a range of subjects.

- The University of Manchester Undergraduate Prospectus
- The University of Manchester Postgraduate Prospectus
- Guide to Student Finance

To order any of the brochures listed above, please contact:

Student Marketing and Admissions

tel 0161 275 2077

Alternatively you can **email** your request to ug-admissions@manchester.ac.uk

Student Marketing and Admissions
The University of Manchester
Oxford Road
Manchester
M13 9PL

tel 0161 275 2077
email ug.admissions@manchester.ac.uk
www.manchester.ac.uk

Royal Charter Number RC000797
J2927 09.10

