



MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester



ENGLISH, AMERICAN STUDIES AND CREATIVE WRITING

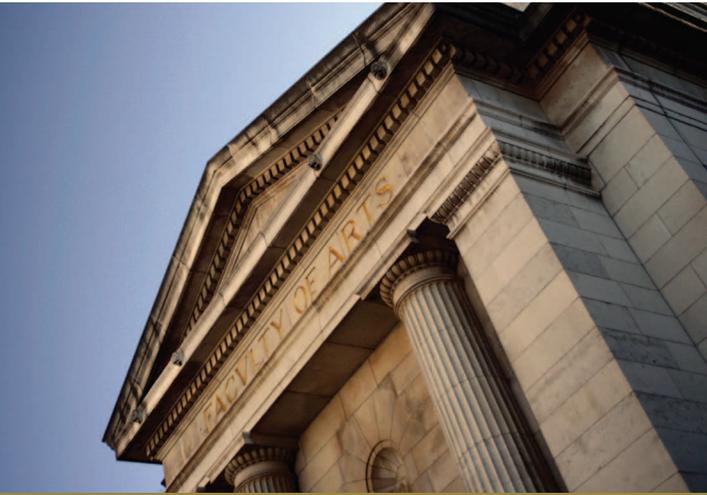
POSTGRADUATE BROCHURE 2013

SCHOOL OF ARTS, LANGUAGES AND CULTURES



THE FACTS

- English and American studies was ranked joint 2nd in the UK in this subject area in the latest Research Assessment Exercise
- One of the richest and most diverse research cultures for English, American Studies and Creative Writing in the country
- Pioneering teaching informed by the latest research
- Dedicated skills training tailored to your career needs
- £650 million investment in university facilities for research and study
- 4 million books in one of the UK's best-resourced university libraries
- Nationally acclaimed University Careers Service with postgraduate support
- Exciting and diverse environment in one of the best student cities in the world



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"The University of Manchester provides an enjoyable, dynamic and exciting working environment, full of enthusiastic people, and with a positive attitude towards research and postgraduate study."

Annette Allen,
postgraduate student 2012



OUR UNIVERSITY

Making things happen

At Manchester, we are proud of both our academic excellence and a pervasive 'can-do' attitude of staff and students that turns enthusiasm into achievement and ground-breaking theory into cutting-edge practice. With research that is internationally renowned across a huge range of disciplines, we work with partners across the world to effect real change in commerce and society.



Our University has leapt 38 places in the influential Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) survey in the past seven years, from 78th to 40th in the world, and sixth in Europe, confirming us as a progressive and world-class teaching and research centre. We are also ranked third in the UK for 'research power', and research in more academic areas than any other UK university.

Learn more about us:

www.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus

Unrivalled investment

We've recently invested £650 million in facilities and resources for our academic community – with more still to come. Our newest development is the Alan Gilbert Learning Commons, in which we invested £24 million to create a multitude of innovative, technology-rich facilities dedicated to student-led learning across all disciplines.

Find out more:

www.manchester.ac.uk/library/learningcommons

Multidisciplinary collaboration

As the biggest university in the UK, we are proud of the advantages our size brings: a fantastic breadth and depth of knowledge, the cross-pollination of skills and disciplines, and the buzz of a large, diverse academic community. We habitually collaborate and share knowledge, expertise and resources, both across the University and with our numerous external partners in industry, business, the arts and the public and not-for-profit sectors.

This is particularly valuable for our postgraduates, whose specialist areas of study at the cutting edge of research often transcend traditional discipline boundaries, and who benefit considerably from our connections with external partners across the globe.

Find out more:

www.manchester.ac.uk/research

Fuelling ambition

At Manchester, you will study programmes packed with the latest research findings, meet leading global experts from academia and industry, use cutting-edge equipment in modern facilities, and polish skills that postgraduate employers from all fields want.

Whether you're a committed researcher wanting to further the human quest for knowledge, a career-focused professional seeking a specialist qualification, or a burning enthusiast for higher learning and understanding, a postgraduate degree at The University of Manchester will help you to realise your ambitions.

Find out more

Access online or order a copy of our 2013 prospectus:
www.manchester.ac.uk/pg/prospectus



ENGLISH, AMERICAN STUDIES AND CREATIVE WRITING AT MANCHESTER

Our English, American Studies and Creative Writing (EAC) discipline offers postgraduate students a combination of specialized teaching and supervision from experts in their fields, world-class research resources and a stimulating intellectual environment.



EAC at Manchester has one of the richest and most diverse research cultures in the country. The discipline was rated joint second in the UK in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise, an achievement that reflects our commitment to excellence in traditional research strengths, as well as our expansion into new areas. We are especially keen that our postgraduates should benefit from the unique experience we offer.

Key research strengths

We host international quality research and teaching across both the chronological and theoretical range of the discipline, with particular strengths in:

- Gender, sexuality and culture
- Critical and cultural theory
- Old and Middle English
- Irish studies
- American studies
- 20th-century writing
- Creative writing
- Postcolonial literature and theory
- The long 18th century
- Romantic and Victorian literature
- Renaissance studies
- Contemporary writing

What can you study?

The following MAs are offered:

MA in American Studies (with pathways in either **Literature and Culture**, or **History**)

MA in Creative Writing

MA in Gender, Sexuality and Culture

MA in Literatures and Cultures 1200-1700

MA in Postcolonial Literatures and Cultures

MA in Contemporary Literature and Culture

MA in Post-1900 Literatures, Theories and Cultures

MA in Victorian Times

MA in Medieval Studies

Library resources

The University Library is the UK's biggest campus library; it is an internationally renowned scholarly resource with an enormous variety of rare books and manuscript holdings.

You benefit not only from the possibility of exploiting unexplored collections, but also from the library's subscription to more than 7,000 electronic resources, accessible from dedicated postgraduate study rooms located in the library itself and in the subject area.

ENGLISH, AMERICAN STUDIES AND CREATIVE WRITING AT MANCHESTER

Career prospects

On completion, many of our postgraduates continue their research to develop career in academia; however, career paths overall are extremely varied.

The Creative Writing MA produces published novelists, while other English and American Studies postgraduates go on to careers in law, publishing, teaching, librarianship, retailing, the media and a range of other fields.

The University Careers Service provides services and runs events especially designed for postgraduates.

Entry requirements

MA: Our usual entrance requirement is an Upper Second class Honours degree, or its equivalent, either in English and American literature and culture, or in a subject closely allied to these. We are very happy, however, to entertain applications from candidates with alternative qualifications.

Applicants to the MA in Creative Writing are required to submit between 2,000 to 3,000 words of creative writing (eg a short story or chapter of a novel, if it is prose, or an equivalent amount of poetry) with your application form.

Funding

For information on funding, see the section later in this brochure on the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures.



STAFF RESEARCH INTERESTS

Dr David Alderson

19th century writing; gender and sexuality in 19th and 20th century writing.

Dr Naomi Baker

17th century life-writings; Puritans and Puritanism; gender studies.

Dr Anke Bernau

Medieval gender and sexuality; British foundation myths; representations of the medieval in contemporary cinema.

Dr Howard Booth

Late 19th and 20th century literature; male homosexuality and writing to 1967; post-colonial writing.

Dr David Brown

Slavery, race and whiteness in North America; the American South; American Civil War (especially in an Atlantic context).

Dr Daniela Caselli

Modernism; Samuel Beckett; Djuna Barnes; critical theory; comparative literature.

Dr Jerome De Groot

Royalism 1630-1670; gender, sexuality and identity; manuscript culture.

Professor Laura Doan

Women and modernity; lesbian studies; history of sexuality; women and war.

Professor Patricia Duncker

Experimental, literary fiction; intellectual contemporary writing.

Dr Noelle Gallagher

British literature 1660-1798; historiography, satire, the early novel.

Dr Hal Gladfelder

History and theory of the novel; 18th century British literature and culture; the history of authorship; the history of sexuality and gender.

Vona Goarke

Irish poetry; Irish poets; US poets and poetry.

Dr Liam Harte

Modern Irish fiction and autobiography; the literature of the Irish Diaspora (especially that of the Irish in Britain).

Dr Malcolm Hicks

Victorian prose and poetry; post-war drama.

MJ Hyland

Prose fiction; creative writing.

Dr Peter Knight

Contemporary American fiction; conspiracy theories; intersections of culture and economics.

Dr David Matthews

English politics and its relations to ideas of nationhood in the 13th and 14th century; post-medieval reception of the Middle Ages; popular manifestations of pseudo-medievalism.

John McAuliffe

Poetry; creative writing.

Dr Ian McGuire

Relationship between literature and economic history in 19th and 20th century America; American realism and naturalism; creative writing.



Dr Kaye Mitchell

Late 20th century/contemporary literature, culture or theory; gender and/or sexuality.

Professor Gale Owen-Crocker

Old and Middle English language and literature; archaeology; art history; dress of the Anglo Saxon period.

Dr Monica Pearl

Cultural representations of AIDS and illness generally; 20th century American Literature; Hollywood and independent cinema; life writing, letters and memoirs; African-American literature; discourses of gender and queer theory.

Professor Jacqueline Pearson

Renaissance drama; Restoration drama; women writers 1600-1830; literary fantasy and feminism.

Dr Eithne Quinn

African-American cultural history; black film studies; cultural studies; hip-hop culture; entertainment industries.

Dr Alan Rawes

Lord Byron; Romantic Constructions of Britishness; poetic form in the Romantic period; Romantic (auto) biography.

Mr Geoff Ryman

Prose fiction; creative writing.

Dr Michael Sanders

Literature and culture of the early Victorian period; Chartist poetry; working-class literature and culture.

Dr Ian Scott

American cinema; history and politics of California.

Dr Robert Spencer

Modernism; critical and cultural theory; postcolonialism.

Professor Jackie Stacey

Feminist cultural theory; film and media studies; cosmopolitan cultures.

Professor Jeremy Tambling

Critical theory; 19th century literature and culture and modernity; opera and film; Dante and comparative literature.

Dr Anastasia Valassopoulos

Postcolonial theory and writing; popular culture in the Middle East; Arab women's writing.

Dr Natalie Zacek

Social and cultural history; race, slavery and abolition; gender and sexuality.

TAUGHT COURSES

MA course structure

To achieve an MA, you must gain a total of 180 credits. This will normally be obtained by successfully completing four course units, each worth 30 credits, plus a 60-credit dissertation. Students taking the MA in Creative Writing have a different set of requirements – see below for details.

Full-time MA students must take four course units over semesters one and two and complete a dissertation of 15,000 words between the end of semester two and early September. All MA students (except those on the Creative Writing MA) must also complete a non-credit bearing Research Training Unit. On some MA courses, you are also required to take a 'core' course unit.

Part-time students take their course units and the Research Training Unit over years one and two, and write the dissertation between the end of semester two and early September of their second year.

Contact hours for each course unit normally constitute 22 to 30 hours, comprising tutorial or seminar work, with supplementary library visits, private discussion of assessed work, video showings, or other contact opportunities as appropriate to the specific course unit.

MA in English and American Studies

On this degree, you will:

- Put together your own course portfolio from an extensive list of options from across the subject area
- Undertake your own research project, with expert supervision, in the form of a dissertation
- Take the Subject Area Research Training Unit, a requirement leading to the successful completion of your dissertation

MA course units are generally taught in seminar or tutorial groups of eight to 12 people (though groups may be slightly larger or smaller). Throughout, you are encouraged to take responsibility for your own learning, though you are also encouraged to seek guidance and advice from tutors, when necessary.

For English course units (except those from the MA in Creative Writing), assessment is usually by means of one piece of written work of 6,000 words (or equivalent). However, the means of assessment is tailored to the specific needs of each course unit and may be replaced by a portfolio of work, a project, or other means as agreed by the teacher and students and by the School.



MA in American Studies (Literature and Culture; History)

On this interdisciplinary MA, you will:

- Undertake an in-depth exploration of American culture, past and present
- Develop the critical tools to unpack crucial and complex relationships between culture and power, culture and history, and culture and identity in the US.

As the first university in the UK to have a chair in American Studies, Manchester has built up an excellent range of library resources. The subject area also has its own film library, equipped with brand new audio-visual facilities for postgraduate use and a growing collection of films specialising in American politics and African-American film. American Studies also runs a dedicated research seminar series, Critical MASS, in which postgraduates actively participate.

This MA provides a strong foundation for those of you who wish to proceed to doctoral study.

The international prominence and transnational scope of American culture continues to inject vitality into this field of enquiry, leading to the recent launch in the UK of new peer-reviewed journals (Comparative American Studies; US Studies Online: The British Association of American Studies Postgraduate Journal) and learned societies (International American Studies Association).

MA in Creative Writing

This is a one-year full-time degree course with four tutors and up to 20 students. The course consists of two strands, novel-writing and poetry, both of which focus on practice. The courses provide regular deadlines and a committed, supportive readership among fellow students and tutors.

A separate brochure is available for the study of Creative Writing for postgraduates – it also appears on this disc.

TAUGHT COURSES

MA in Literature and Culture 1200-1700

This degree reflects the (inter)disciplinary and (inter) period interests of a number of staff in English and American Studies, and has an international reputation in a number of the most important themes that are currently stimulating scholarly debate.

The course includes:

- Material in English from the seventh to the 17th centuries, with the ability to specialise in chosen areas
- A choice between working on interdisciplinary Anglo-Saxon Studies, on Middle English or Early Modern texts, or working on a selection of thematically related course units from across the full scope and date range of the course
- Thorough training in the skills needed to pursue postgraduate research (research design and planning), which are transferable to many modern project-based jobs, making the MA an excellent qualification in its own right, as well as a vital first step to research for the PhD

MA in Gender, Sexuality and Culture

This highly interdisciplinary degree:

- Introduces new approaches to gender studies and sexuality studies as a theoretical, social, cultural, political and historical field of investigation
- Challenges current understandings of gender and sexuality by interrogating cultural identities, such as queer, heterosexual, homosexual, gay, straight, bisexual, transgender
- Examines cultural production and cultural theory in relation to other power systems, such as race, ethnicity and class
- Offers training in research methods

A separate brochure is available for the study of Gender, Sexuality and Culture for postgraduates – it also appears on this disc.



MA in Postcolonial Literatures and Cultures

This MA course is designed to develop your potential in the growing field of postcolonial studies. Graduates will have the opportunity to critically evaluate, from a postcolonial perspective, a wide range of cultural, political, social and historical movements.

An indicative list of course units on offer includes: Radicalism, Dissent and the English Novel 1890-1960; Postcolonial Narratives; The American Body; Black Cultural Studies in Post-Civil Rights America; Contemporary Irish and Scottish Fiction; Is America Postcolonial?; The Future of Modernism.

You can also choose one option from those offered on other MA courses.

MA in Contemporary Literature and Culture

This exciting new postgraduate degree is based at the prestigious Centre for New Writing.

You will be able to:

- Take full advantage of the Centre's resources, expertise and impressive events programme
- Gain access to prominent writers both on the staff and appearing at the Centre's Literature Live public events (recent visitors include John Banville, Will Self, Rose Tremain, Galway Kinnell and Michele Roberts)
- Mix with the Centre's MA Creative Writing cohort, allowing a unique and productive dialogue between the creative and the critical
- Learn from experts in contemporary literature and culture across the English and American Studies subject area, including MJ Hyland, Geoff Ryman, Vona Groarke, Kaye Mitchell, Patricia Duncker, Ian McGuire and John McAuliffe
- Attend the exclusive masterclasses offered by the Professor of Creative Writing (previously Martin Amis and Colm Toibin, presently Jeanette Winterson)

TAUGHT COURSES

MA in Victorian Times

This degree offers you an opportunity to study interdisciplinary approaches to the Victorian period.

Embracing theories and perspectives from English Literature, History, Art History, Museology, Music, Drama, and Religions and Theology, the course invites you to explore the concept of 'the Victorian' and to engage with key contemporary debates concerning culture, philosophy and society.

- You will undertake a dedicated core course unit taught by members of staff from several departments in the Humanities Faculty
- You may select optional course units from courses across the School of Arts, Histories and Cultures

MA in Post-1900 Literatures, Theories and Cultures

This degree course focuses on the great diversity of post-1900 writing, encouraging you to engage with literary criticism and cultural theory and put them to work in relation to literary texts, while also exploring the interconnections between literature, history and ideology.

The course includes:

- A wide choice of post-1900 course units, which give you the opportunity both to extend your knowledge across a number of key areas and to work and develop a specific field of interest, on which you can focus your dissertation
- The SAGE programme, which assists the transition to postgraduate learning
- The Subject Area Research Training Unit, a requirement leading to the successful completion of your dissertation



MA in Medieval Studies

This interdisciplinary degree involves History, Art History, English Literature, Religions and Theology, and European Languages, focusing on the medieval period in Europe (c. AD 350-1550). The study of Late Antiquity and the Medieval Period is an area of excellence at Manchester, well capable of providing expert supervision across a wide range of subject areas and periods.

The course combines exploration of current debates in medieval studies with opportunities for training in the requisite technical and interpretive skills for working on medieval sources. It includes:

- The History of the Book core course unit
- Research Skills package
- Palaeography or Language course unit
- Two optional course units
- Thesis

SCHOOL OF ARTS, LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

The newly formed School of Arts, Languages and Cultures is the largest grouping of arts, languages and humanities scholars in the UK. It is home to some 6500 students, of which about 1000 are postgraduates, and around 350 academic staff working at the forefront of seventeen disciplines:

- Archaeology
- Art History and Visual Studies
- Classics and Ancient History
- Drama
- East Asian Studies
- English and American Studies
- French Studies
- German Studies
- Linguistics and English Language
- History
- Italian Studies
- Middle Eastern Studies
- Music
- Religions and Theology
- Russian and East European Studies
- Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies
- Translation and Intercultural Studies

The School is also home to the University Language Centre.

The School's interests are in the fields of human cultures, beliefs, institutions and languages (from the most widely spoken global languages to those which are endangered). Its work embraces the material, visual, linguistic, textual, social and performative dimensions of human society past and present, and as such fosters a rich interdisciplinary culture led by world-renowned scholars with a diversity of expertise, from analysts to creative artists, from formal linguists to cultural critics, from historians to cultural theorists. The units which make up the School have an outstanding research profile as demonstrated by the fact that two of those units were ranked top in their subject area in the UK, following the results of the government's Research Assessment Exercise in 2008, and a further two were ranked in the top 3. Overall, more than 50% of our research was rated 'world leading' or 'internationally excellent'. Our commitment to research enriches our teaching, by bringing renowned international speakers to the School and sustaining a culture of research seminars, workshops and conferences. It also ensures that our curriculum is continually refreshed.

Our programmes are designed to teach people how to think, and our students tell us they find them challenging and rewarding, as well as good preparation for careers or further study. The student experience combines the advantages of belonging to a specific subject community with the extensive choice that a large and diverse School can offer. We use a wide range of teaching methods, both traditional and innovative. These include lectures, small-group seminars, and tutorials as well as various on-line activities which draw on the latest technology.



We strive to integrate work-related skills and experience into our degree programmes, and we encourage our students to think about and develop their career interests, aims and abilities, through both academic and extra-curricular activities. Our awardwinning Careers Service will work in partnership with you throughout your degree to improve your employability and prepare for the competitive jobs market.

Research and teaching in the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures are supported by rich resources within the University. These include the John Rylands University Library, with its unique Special Collections housed in the refurbished Deansgate building; the University Language Centre, with its own language multi-media resource library; the Race Relations Archive; the Manchester Museum; the Whitworth Art Gallery, as well as other distinguished Manchester archives and museums. Other cultural assets at the University of Manchester include the Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama, Jodrell Bank Observatory, and, new for 2012, the Alan Gilbert Learning Commons.

We maintain a network of partners in research training that involves a wide range of major cultural institutions across the North West. The University and the city also offer superb facilities for almost any academic or recreational interests you might wish to pursue. High profile festivals are a major part of Manchester's cultural life, and the School is involved in many of these, including the Manchester Literature Festival, Manchester Histories Festival and Manchester International Festival.

The School has a strong interdisciplinary orientation and houses the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in the Arts and Languages (CIDRAL).

Conclusion

The new School of Arts, Languages and Cultures is determined to become a global beacon for the study of Arts and Languages. Our objective is to create a top quality educational environment within which all our students will thrive. We have a strong commitment to social responsibility and public engagement. We want our graduates not only to be highly sought after by employers but also ready to play a constructive role as citizens in wider society. Through our research we seek to create and develop knowledge that makes a difference in the world; through our teaching we want to inspire our students to achieve their full human potential.

POSTGRADUATE SKILLS AND RESEARCH TRAINING

At the heart of all our programmes stands a commitment to helping students develop the skills they need to thrive at postgraduate level and beyond.

MA students are encouraged to participate fully in the School's research community, enhancing their own skills through encounter with more experienced

practitioners. Students' employability is nurtured through our innovative work placement scheme, which is available to all MA students in the School.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Students from the UK or Europe can apply to the School for postgraduate studentships to support MA or doctoral study, as part of the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Block Grants scheme. AHRC studentships for UK students cover the tuition fee and provide a maintenance grant. Studentships for EU students usually cover fees only. Because of our strong track record of successful AHRC-funded students, the rigour of our research training and breadth of our resources, Manchester has been awarded among the highest number of studentships under the AHRC's Block Grant scheme of any UK university. If you intend to apply for an AHRC award, you should consult the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures website and contact the School early in the academic year in which you intend to apply.

Some students – mainly those in economic and social history and certain kinds of cultural history – may instead apply to the Economic and Social Research Council.

In addition to MA studentships funded by the AHRC, the Faculty of Humanities and School of Arts, Languages and Cultures offer a number of bursaries for postgraduate study. These include Overseas Research Student Awards (ORS) for research students from outside the EU. In all cases, the awards are highly competitive. Further information on AHRC, Faculty and School awards is available on our website.

You are urged to enquire and to apply to your chosen degree programme as early as possible and certainly no later than 15 February. Candidates not intending to apply to the AHRC, ESRC, ORS, or other internal studentship schemes may apply up until 31 August.



SCHOOL CONTACT DETAILS

For further information about the courses,
or about qualifications, please contact:

Postgraduate Admissions
School of Arts, Languages and Cultures
Mansfield Cooper Building
The University of Manchester
Oxford Road
Manchester
M13 9PL
United Kingdom

tel +44 (0)161 306 1259

email masalc@manchester.ac.uk

For the most up-to-date course information,
please visit our website:

www.manchester.ac.uk/alc



FIND OUT MORE ONLINE

Our University website holds a wealth of information on the many varied aspects of postgraduate student life. Here are some of the most popular topics – use the links for full details.

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Accommodation – Discover your potential new home:

www.manchester.ac.uk/accommodation

Admissions and applications – Everything you need to apply to Manchester:

www.manchester.ac.uk/pgapplication

Alan Gilbert Learning Commons – Our brand-new, ultra-modern student learning environment:

www.manchester.ac.uk/library/learningcommons

Careers – Many major recruiters target our postgraduates; find out why:

www.manchester.ac.uk/careers

Childcare – Support for students who are also parents:

www.manchester.ac.uk/childcare

Disability support – For any additional support needs you may have:

www.manchester.ac.uk/dso

Funding and finance – Fees, scholarships, bursaries and more:

www.manchester.ac.uk/pg/fees

www.manchester.ac.uk/pg/funding

International students – Discover what we offer our multinational community:

www.manchester.ac.uk/international

IT services – Online learning, computer access, IT support and more:

www.manchester.ac.uk/itservices

Library – One of the UK's largest and best-resourced university libraries:

www.manchester.ac.uk/library

Manchester – Britain's 'original modern' city is right on your doorstep:

www.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/manchester

Maps – Visualise our campus, city and University accommodation:

www.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/travel/maps

Prospectus – Access online or order a copy of our 2013 prospectus:

www.manchester.ac.uk/pg/prospectus

Sport – Clubs, leagues, classes, facilities and more:

www.manchester.ac.uk/sport

Support – Dedicated academic, personal, financial and admin assistance:

<http://my.manchester.ac.uk/guest>

Students' Union – Societies, events, peer support, campaigns and more:

www.manchesterstudentsunion.com

Videos – See and hear more about our University:

www.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/video

www.youtube.com/user/universitymanchester

Disclaimer

This brochure is prepared well in advance of the academic year to which it relates. Details of courses may consequently vary with staff changes. We therefore reserve the right to make such alterations to courses as are necessary. If we make you an offer of a place, it is essential that you are aware of the current terms on which your offer is based. If you are in any doubt, please feel free to ask us for confirmation of the precise position for the year in question, before you accept our offer.

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Royal Charter Number RC000797
DW859 09.12

