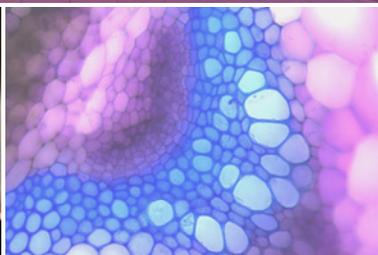


MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester



Faculty of Life Sciences

Guide To Your Interview Day
2013 Entry

www.manchester.ac.uk/lifesciences

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contact details

All mail should be addressed to the relevant person via our Admissions Team.

The Admissions Office
Faculty of Life Sciences
G683 Stopford Building
Oxford Road
Manchester, M13 9PT
Tel: +44 (0)161 275 5032
Fax: +44 (0)161 275 5456
Email: ug.lifesciences@manchester.ac.uk

Alternative Formats

If you require this brochure in alternative formats please contact The Admissions office using the contact details above.

Disclaimer

Our brochure and this guide are prepared in advance of the academic year to which they relate. Consequently, details of degree programmes and the interview day may vary with staff changes and exceptional circumstances. The University therefore reserves the right to make such alterations to programmes as are found to be necessary. If the University makes an offer of a place, it is essential that you are aware of the current terms on which the offer is based. If you are in any doubt, please feel free to ask for confirmation of the precise position for the year in question, before you accept the offer.

introduction

Welcome from The Chief Admissions Officer

Welcome to the Faculty of Life Sciences and congratulations on being selected for interview!

The interview day is a chance for us to find out more about you, and you about us. We want to know what has inspired you to apply for a life sciences programme at Manchester, and whether you have the qualities that will enable you to make the most of your time here. Equally, we want you to find out as much as you can about your chosen programme of study and life at this University, so you can decide if this is the right place for you.

Although we like to conduct a formal interview with all suitable applicants, we endeavour to make the interview process as relaxed as possible. Our student ambassadors will be your main hosts for the day, and one will show you and a small group of other applicants around the campus. You will have the opportunity to talk to staff and a range of current students, and to view several parts of the Faculty and some of the many other facilities at our University, including the Students' Union and some of our sporting and leisure facilities.

I very much hope you will enjoy visiting us and look forward to seeing you during your interview day. If you have any questions or concerns about the day that are not addressed in this booklet, please contact the staff in our Admissions Office who will be glad to help (see page 2).

Dr Peter Brown



the basics

Confirm your attendance

If you have not already confirmed your attendance please confirm online at the link provided in your invitation letter.

Arrival and registration

You should register between 11.30 and 12.00.

Depending on the date of your interview you will either register at:

- The Whitworth Hall
- The Stopford Building
- The Michael Smith Building

Please see your timetable insert for details.

What should I wear?

The day will involve a tour of the campus so you should wear suitable clothing and shoes for walking outdoors (i.e. flat shoes and waterproof clothing or umbrella) as well as ensuring you feel comfortable. We will be assessing your interest and motivation, not your dress sense!

What should I bring?

You don't need to bring anything - although this booklet may be helpful!

Who can I bring with me?

You can bring ONE parent or guest. We offer a programme for parents and guests as indicated in the timetable but we have limited numbers of places due to venue restrictions.

What should I do if I can't attend on the interview day I have been given?

Please contact the Admissions Office immediately (see page 2).



viewing accommodation

We understand that deciding where to live for your first year is an important decision and that there are specific halls you may wish to view. As the University has over 30 separate halls of residence spread over three areas it is not possible for us to arrange tours to specific halls as part of the interview day.

There is comprehensive information on all of our halls, including videos, on the accommodation office website:

www.accommodation.manchester.ac.uk

Optional accommodation visit

If you wish to see a student hall on the day of your visit please book separately for an accommodation visit:

www.manchester.ac.uk/undergraduate/opensdays/other-visits/form

These visits take place before the start of the main interview day and will show you the largest of our three accommodation areas, the Fallowfield Campus. You have the opportunity to see inside at least one bedroom.

If there is a specific hall or area you wish to view we suggest you attend the Open House event in March.

Open House (March 2013)

The Accommodation Office hosts an Open House event in March 2013 when all the University's undergraduate halls of residence are open to prospective students and their guests. Full details are available at:

www.accommodation.manchester.ac.uk/open-house



directions by car

NB these directions will take you to Oxford Road. If you are registering at the Michael Smith Building on Dover Street please see further instructions on your individual timetable.

By Road For Oxford Road:

Sat Nav: Oxford Rd postcode M13 9PL

From the M62 (Eastbound), M602

Leave the M62 at J12 and join the M602. At the end of the M602, join Regent Road (A57) and continue along and join the A57M (Mancunian Way). Leave at the second exit signposted A34 Congleton (hair-pin bend) and keep left, following signs for The University of Manchester. Turn left onto the A34 (dual carriageway) and get in the right-hand lane. Turn right at the first set of traffic lights into Grosvenor Street. Get into the right hand lane and go straight over at the lights and then turn left at the next set of traffic lights onto Oxford Road (B5117).

From the M62 (Westbound), M60

Leave the M62 at J18 and join the M60 ring road. Leave the M60 at J22 and turn right at the traffic lights onto Oldham Road (A62). Continue along until the end and turn left to join Great Ancoats Street (A665). Follow signs for The University of Manchester and join the Mancunian Way (A57M). Leave at the second exit onto Higher Cambridge Street. Turn left at the next set of traffic lights onto Booth Street West and then turn right onto Oxford Road (B5117).

From the M6/M56

Leave the M6 at J19 and turn right onto the A556. Follow signs for Manchester Airport and join the M56. Stay on the M56 until it joins Princess Park Way (A5103). Continue

for a further four miles (6km) before turning right at Royal Brewery into Moss Lane East (B5219). Continue to the T-junction and turn left onto Oxford Road (B5117). Proceed down Oxford Road and the University campus is straight ahead.

From the M67

At the end of the motorway, join Hyde Road (A57). Continue along for approx 3 miles (4.5km), following signs for the City Centre. Upon reaching a major roundabout (the O2 Apollo Theatre is on the left) take the second exit, Brunswick Street (signposted The University of Manchester). Continue along and go straight through the next set of traffic lights. At the end of the road you will see the Whitworth Hall directly in front of you.

Parking

Please note that parking near the university is extremely limited.

The nearest multi-storey car park is at the Aquatics Centre, which is noted on the campus map on the back of your timetable.

Sat Nav: Aquatics Centre Car Park M13 9SS

We cannot guarantee there will be spaces there on the day so please consider using one of the many car parks in the city centre, and either walk down Oxford Road or get one of the many buses.

public transport

By Taxi

There are taxi ranks at each of the main railway stations - fare to the University ranges from £5.00-£10.00. The fare from Manchester Airport is approximately £20.00. Ask the driver for the University of Manchester Whitworth Hall, Stopford Building or Michael Smith Building.

By Bus

From Piccadilly Gardens Bus Station

14, 16, 41, 42, 43, 43a, 44, 45a, 48, 111, 140, 142, 157, 250.

From Manchester Airport

43a, 45a.

Ask the driver for the University of Manchester Students' Union.

By Train

From Piccadilly Station

Either walk down Station Approach and on to Piccadilly Road which leads into Piccadilly Gardens, or get the Metrolink tram to the Piccadilly Gardens stop and then follow the bus information as above. Alternatively, the 147 bus service goes directly to the University from the station. You'll find the 147 bus top outside Piccadilly Station on Fairfield Street underneath the bridge.

From Victoria Station

Either take the Metrolink tram (southbound) to Piccadilly Gardens, or walk along Corporation Street and then turn left onto Market Street. Keep walking until you get to Piccadilly Gardens, and then follow the bus information above.

From Oxford Road Station

Go down the station approach to Oxford Road and turn right. The University is a ten-minute walk. Alternatively, many of the buses listed above stop outside the Palace Hotel on the opposite side of the road.

By Air

From the Airport

The University is approximately 30 minutes drive from Manchester International Airport. Alternatively, there is a frequent train service to Piccadilly and Oxford Road train stations. Local buses also run to the Oxford Road and Sackville Street areas of the campus. Most major airlines fly to and from Manchester.

For more information on public transport in Greater Manchester and to see University Maps, please visit:

www.manchester.ac.uk/maps

www.tfgm.com

www.metrolink.co.uk

www.manchesterairport.co.uk

campus tour

A student ambassador will take you on a tour of the faculty and the campus which will usually include:

- Faculty of Life Sciences' Buildings
- John Rylands University Library
- The Manchester Museum
- Students' Union
- Sports Facilities

Your tour will take approximately 1.5 - 2 hours and we recommend that you dress appropriately for walking outdoors.

During the tour you will go to the Stopford Building for:

- Your interview (see page 9)
- Lunch
- A practical demonstration in our laboratories

Optometry Tours

If you have applied for Optometry you will not have a practical demonstration in the Stopford laboratories, instead you will visit the Optometry facilities in the Carys Bannister Building as part of your tour.

Ask the ambassadors

Your ambassador will be a current student at the Faculty of Life Sciences so this is a great chance to ask questions about studying and living in Manchester such as:

- What do they enjoy about their course?
- Does the University cater for your favourite sports or activities?
- What do they enjoy or dislike about living in Manchester?
- Are the library and computing facilities adequate for the course and number of students?
- What are their experiences of living in halls?

We aim to put you in a group with an ambassador who is doing the same or a similar course to the one you have applied for.

Lunch

We will provide a free lunch- sandwiches, crisps, fruit, and water - during your tour. If you are vegetarian or have any food allergies please let us know when you confirm your place online and we will do our best to accommodate your dietary requirements.

the interview

The interview is an opportunity for us to find out about what has motivated you to apply for your degree and for you to find out more about the faculty and your chosen course.

How long is the interview?

Approximately 20 minutes.

Questions we may ask

The interviewer is likely to ask questions related to your personal statement so be prepared to discuss topics you have mentioned in your statement such as:

- Why you are interested in this particular degree course
- Any interests or experiences related to your degree course e.g. outside reading or work experience
- Your non-academic interests and achievements.

Don't be surprised if your interviewer suggests another of our courses that may suit your interests more - after all, we offer over 20 different degree courses in the life sciences - some of which you may not have considered. You can change onto most of our other Life Science degree courses at the end of your first year.

Questions you could ask

You can use this opportunity to interview your interviewer! You might, for example, ask:

- What field courses or vocational training are available?
- Will you have a member of staff who will get to know you and be able to offer advice (personal advisor), and can you change them if you wish?
- How much of the degree is assessed by examination and how much by coursework?
- What is the ratio of lectures to tutorials and practicals?

If you have special circumstances

You will have an opportunity to discuss any special circumstances (e.g. illness, family circumstance or problems with school facilities etc) which may affect your chances of attaining your predicted grades. Such circumstances may be taken into account in the formulation of a conditional offer, but are more likely to have an effect at later stages of the admissions process.

the offer

Some interviewers choose to make an offer at the end of the interview and some make the offer later on. You should not worry if you are not given a verbal offer straight away, this doesn't necessarily mean you will not be offered a place. See 'After the Interview Day' on page 11.

Variable offer

The Faculty of Life Sciences has a variable offer system. We may give you an offer based on a range of factors including: your predicted grades, the subjects you have taken, your personal statement and your performance at interview. In general, the higher your predicted grades the higher the grades required in our offer will be.

Why do some people receive higher offers than others?

If you have higher predicted grades we give you a higher offer because we want you to perform to the best of your ability.

There is a big difference between studying at university compared to school or college. If you are not fully 'switched on' and engaged with your study you will struggle to make the transition to degree level study.

In addition, graduate employers consider A 'Level (and equivalent) results as well as degree results when assessing applications for jobs.

This is why we do not think it is in your interest to give you an offer based on lower grades than you are capable of achieving.

Please see our website for the most up to date and detailed entry requirements.

www.manchester.ac.uk/undergraduate/



after the interview day

When do I find out if I am to be offered a place?

If we wish to make you an offer we will inform UCAS within two weeks of your interview day. You can check the status of your application on the UCAS website.

www.ucas.co.uk/students/track

What do I do when I have my offers?

Once you have received all your offers on the UCAS website you should indicate on the website which are your first and insurance choices.

Can I defer entry for a year?

You can, if you wish, defer your first year. If you choose to do this we would normally expect to see you undertaking some voluntary or paid work, preferably related to your chosen degree programme - not just holidays! A number of organisations exist to facilitate a “beneficial” year out and are worth contacting. If you are considering taking a year out to enhance your CV and earn money, you should think about our 4 year industrial/professional experience programmes as an alternative.

What happens if I fall ill or if some serious circumstance impacts on my studies?

Please let us know by email, letter or telephone (see page 2). Provided you let us know before the last day of your last examination we will give you our advice and will be able to take the circumstances into consideration when we assess your results in the summer.



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