Distinctive

Weddings at The University of Manchester
Wonderful Memories

“The day was perfect in every way and you really did do us proud. The room looked amazing and the staff worked so, so hard to make sure everything went smoothly. We have had nothing but compliments from our friends and families.

We are still on a high... We have the wonderful memories of a perfect day in a perfect setting. We cannot quite believe that the amazing photo under the clock is us.”

Suzanne & Geoff
Stunning
Congratulations on your engagement and forthcoming wedding. We would be delighted to host your special day, and make it as memorable as possible.

Our team is part of the Hospitality Services' team based at the University of Manchester, and have built a reputation for exceptional hospitality, exquisite food and attention to detail – all brought together to create a memorable occasion that your special day truly deserves. We pride ourselves on being able to deliver bespoke weddings in some of the University's most historic and iconic venues on the campus, including Christie's Bistro, Whitworth Hall, Whitworth Council Chamber and Manchester Museum.

Each of our venues has a distinctively different ambiance, but all stay true to our ethos, featuring delicious locally sourced food served by friendly and attentive staff. These impressive venues make wonderful spaces for wedding ceremonies and receptions, through to a brilliant evening party. You'll be supported throughout your wedding planning by our dedicated coordinators, and looked after by our experienced Hospitality and Events team to ensure that your wedding day is perfect in every way.
All of our venues are located around the Old Quadrangle, on the main campus of the University of Manchester. The beautiful buildings around the Old Quadrangle date from 1873 and were designed by Alfred Waterhouse and his son Paul Waterhouse who also designed Manchester Town Hall. The first to be built was the John Owens building, with the other buildings added over the next thirty years. Today the Museum occupies one side of the Quadrangle adjacent to Whitworth Hall, which is the main hall used to this day for Graduation ceremonies and key ceremonial events. The remaining buildings are home to University staff including the offices of the President and Vice Chancellor.
Service is paramount to us, attention to detail and personal touches are second nature – it’s what we’ve built our reputation on. Our dedicated and experienced Hospitality and Events team are on hand every step of the way, ensuring peace of mind with each detail, so that your day is everything you ever dreamed of.

This is no more apparent than our passion for food and drink – we know it’s an integral part of the day. Our team of chefs, fronted by our Head Chef Dave Broderick, are devoted to sourcing the finest fresh local produce to create a menu where the emphasis is all about the quality and great taste – as well as providing something a little different. Our menus offer excellent variety for a range of themes and occasions, and are backed up by our extensive wine and drinks lists, providing the perfect dining experience.
Our historic and iconic venues are perfect whether your wedding is a big celebration or something that’s small and intimate. We are licensed for civil ceremonies so you can get married and celebrate with us all under one roof should you wish. Have a look through the following pages for further detail on what we think makes each of our spaces truly unique.
Christie’s Bistro

Christie’s Bistro is a wonderfully atmospheric space – an intimate, yet striking venue which is perfect for your wedding celebrations. Described as a ‘hidden gem’, the impressive room is versatile and flexible, being able to accommodate the smallest of weddings, through to a large party with all your family and friends. The space retains much of its historical past, giving it an authentic feel, not only of the University, but also the city of Manchester. It’s a truly unrivalled space within the city centre.

Civil Ceremony
(Maximum numbers)

Wedding Breakfast
(Maximum numbers)

Evening Reception
(Maximum numbers)

Drinks Reception
(Maximum numbers)

120
160
250
300

Built in 1890 as the new Study of Education, the Christie Library was a gift from the former law professor, historian and bibliophile Richard Copley Christie. For much of the twentieth century it housed the University’s principle science library. One hundred years later, and after the building of The University Library, the Christie Science Library was converted into a Bistro, steeped in the institution’s history and character, with portraits of previous Vice-Chancellors gracing the walls and endless rows of original books and documents.
Whitworth Hall

Whitworth Hall is indisputably the University’s most stunning venue. The Hall is situated at the heart of The Old Quadrangle, and is an iconic building within the city centre. Grade II listed, it provides a magnificent space steeped in history and grandeur – accommodating up to 360 people for a wedding breakfast. The Hall provides a stunning backdrop to your ‘I do’ moment, with a range of possibilities for your ceremony celebration.

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<th>Evening Reception</th>
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Whitworth Hall was designed by Paul Waterhouse and named after Mancunian industrialist, Sir Joseph Whitworth, who bequeathed much of his fortune to fund public developments in Manchester. The Hall is Grade II listed and today forms the backdrop of the University’s Graduation Ceremonies and key Ceremonial events throughout the University year.
One of the most important moments of your special day needs a memorable setting, and the Council Chamber provides just that. It is a room steeped in atmosphere and witness to many important University decisions of the past and present. It provides a fabulous backdrop for an intimate ceremony for up to 100 guests, or a more secluded private room for an intimate wedding breakfast.

The Whitworth Council Chamber was originally conceived of as a grand venue for meetings within John Owen’s College, and then the University’s Council. Today it plays host to meetings of the University’s Senate and Board of Governors meetings, as well as for other key ceremonial events throughout the academic calendar.
A unique Grade II listed building built in 1885, Manchester Museum offers something completely different. The 4.5 million items within their collection including dinosaurs, mummies and even live animals help to create a range of distinctive rooms and galleries.

Manchester Museum is the UK’s leading university museum and is one of the University’s cultural institutions on campus. Our team provide all the catering and hospitality for the Museum, bringing our signature style to this very unique venue.

The Museum has recently received £4.2 million from the Heritage Lottery fund as part of an overall £13 million redevelopment to transform and further enhance the Museum. From 2021 the Museum will be home to two new galleries dedicated to South Asia and Chinese Culture, built in conjunction with the British Museum, the first of its kind outside of London.
Hold your ceremony underneath Stan, the T.rex skeleton or dine amongst the dinosaurs and fossils for your wedding breakfast. Stan is one of only two full T.rex skeletons in the UK and he would love to be a guest at your wedding! The gallery is fully licensed to hold wedding ceremonies for up to 100 guests.

Fossils Gallery

The Fossils gallery takes visitors on a tour of life on Earth over the past 4 billion years, as well as Stan the T.rex, it is home to many other pre-historic objects including Percy the Plesiosaur, mammoth teeth from the last Ice Age and a massive 300 million year old tree stump fossil.

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Redeveloped in 2011, the Living Worlds gallery is home to a huge variety of stuffed animals (including a polar bear and tiger), as well as skeletons such as a baby sperm whale suspended from the ceiling, and Old Billy the oldest horse in the world, all of which are beautifully displayed throughout the gallery. This distinctive and unique setting can host a drinks reception, wedding breakfast or even your wedding ceremony.

Living Worlds

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The Grade II listed building was originally designed by the architect Alfred Waterhouse who also designed Manchester’s Town Hall and The Natural History Museum in London. The Living Worlds explores the connections between all living things, including us, and shows how we can all shape the future by the choices we make.

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Memorable
Accommodation

The University has two accommodation offers on campus – perfect for all your friends and family to stay close to your chosen wedding venue.

Chancellors Hotel

Chancellors Hotel offers 70 en-suite, AA 3 star rated bedrooms. Fully-refurbished in 2017, the hotel offers both single and double occupancy rooms, alongside a limited number of premium doubles and twins. The hotel is a Grade II listed Victorian mansion located in South Manchester surrounded by five acres of beautiful landscaped gardens and onsite parking, in a relaxed, scenic and picturesque setting.

Crowne Plaza - Oxford Road

Opened in September 2018 as part of the redevelopment of the University’s Business School, the 212 bedroom Crowne Plaza provides 4-star accommodation at the heart of the University campus and within walking distance of our historic venues. The hotel is conveniently located just off Oxford Road with public transport links to the city centre and mainline train stations close by. With it being one of the tallest buildings on campus, it also provides stunning views over the campus and city centre.
Elegant

Photography Credits

The amazing photography throughout this brochure is courtesy of wedding photographers Neil Redfern, Eighth Avenue Photography, Christian Allen Photography, James Tracey, Mike Allen, Mike Parkett and Jessica Lane Photography. Please contact our wedding coordinators for their details. We are very grateful for their contribution.

Find us

All our venues are situated on the main University of Manchester campus, located in some of the most iconic buildings in Manchester. Situated just 15 minutes from Manchester city centre, all venues are easily accessible by car, bus and rail. Sat Nav Postcode: M13 9PL

1 Christie’s Bistro
2 Whitworth Hall
3 Council Chamber
4 Manchester Museum

Parking
A Aquatics Centre Car Park
B Booth Street Car Park + Disabled