

Welcome Drama Freshers!

Congratulations on securing a place at the University of Manchester! We are part of the Peer Mentoring programme here at the University, which has been designed to help aid you in making a smooth transition into uni life.

When you arrive at university you will be assigned to a Peer Mentor (a 2nd or 3rd year student) -we are here to answer your questions, help you find things, and generally support you whilst you sort your life out in a brand new city. We'll be in touch with you throughout the year to check on your progress and help you through some of the more stressful times at uni.

We've put together this pre-arrival guide to hopefully make your transition to Manchester easier, and give you some information about the University, the course, and the city.

We've set up a Facebook group for you to join, and we'll answer any pre-uni questions you have there.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in September!

Join the Drama Freshers 15/16 Facebook group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/496057870570869/>

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THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GET HERE...

Registration

-Firstly, sign up to the University's central computing facilities by following the link below:

https://iam.manchester.ac.uk/initial_login/overview

There will be onscreen instructions for completing the sign-up process.

-Secondly, go to the My Manchester Student Portal (<https://login.manchester.ac.uk/cas/login>) to register as a student.

- Login by entering your central username and password.
- Go to the 'My Services' port and click the 'Student System' link.
- Under the 'Self Service' heading, click on 'Student System'.
- Click on the 'Register' button, which is halfway down the page, beneath the 'Academic and Financial Registration' box.

You will need to complete all ten steps to be fully registered.

The 'Crucial Guide' is very helpful if you are still unsure what to do, and contains lots of other helpful information. It can be found at:

<http://www.studentnet.manchester.ac.uk/crucial-guide/>

Finance

For any financial help concerning student loans, all the information you need is on the following website:

<http://direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/UniversityAndHigherEducation/StudentFinance/index.htm>

Check whether you are eligible for further funding from the University. For example, those doing Access to HE courses in Manchester are

eligible to apply for a substantial scholarship. Visit <http://manchester.ac.uk/undergraduate/studentfinance/> for more information.

We also recommend that you open a student bank account. These accounts are specifically tailored to student's banking needs.

Remember to look around to see which bank has the best deals for you. For instance, NatWest offers an interest-free overdraft and, as an added bonus, provide a 16-25 Railcard which gives you up to a third off rail travel.

Don't spend your entire loan in the first week. Your first loan installment will only just cover your first halls installment, and you won't have a lot of money left over for your first semester.

Campus Maps

Campus maps can be downloaded from the following link: <http://www.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/travel>.

These can be very useful during your exam period. There are also maps on display at strategic points on Oxford Road- keep an eye out for them, especially in your first few weeks.

IF YOU ARE MOVING INTO HALLS...

No one wants to spend their first week sorting out their housing, so be sure to prepare properly. Have a look at <http://www.accomadation.manchester.ac.uk/> for more information about the accommodation that the University provides, as well as alternate forms of student housing.

To get you started, we've put together a guide of things you may want to think about:

Some of the things you will need:

- In your room you will generally have a wardrobe, shelves, bed, desk, bin, and computer chair.
- Most halls provide a microwave, kettle, fridge/freezer and cooker. They also usually provide an iron, ironing board, and Hoover.
- You will need both bedding and towels, although reasonable quality bedding packs can be bought from your hall. Mattress protectors are provided for the majority of beds.
- You will need coat hangers, as these are not provided, and a clock.
- Some halls provide lamps, but not all- check your residence guide*.

For the kitchen (if you are in self-catered halls) you will need:

- Cutlery (including a sharp knife) and crockery (plates, bowls, mugs, glasses, etc.)
- Pans (at least two), oven trays and possibly a casserole dish
- Chopping boards (be nice to your vegetarian friends and have a separate one for meat), microwaveable food containers, sieve, measuring jug, tea towels
- Cooking utensils such as spatulas, mashers, and cheese graters
- Toasters are provided in some halls but not others

If you want to find out exactly what your chosen halls provide, check the 2015-2016 *Residence Guide online at:

<http://www.accommodation.manchester.ac.uk/before-you-arrive>

All of these items can be bought upon your arrival in Manchester- make sure you talk to your housemates first about what they have brought or are going to buy (as much fun as a kitchen with seven cheese graters and no forks is!) There are numerous supermarkets with these things cheaply available.

Insurance

It is important that once you get here, you make sure to protect yourself and your property. In the event of theft, accident, or damage you must make sure you don't lose both your property and your money. Do some research about student insurance, which is often cheaper and can offer better coverage than other providers.

Hornet (Hall of Residence Network)

Internet will obviously play an important role in your university life, for academic purposes as well as social. Halls have free internet access through an Ethernet cable, which will be provided. Most have free Wi-Fi in common areas, though the signal isn't always dependable.

Information on HORNET can be found on their website, <http://hornet.manchester.ac.uk> Also, in Welcome Week, there will be HORNET representatives for each hall to help you if you have any problems.

THE UNIVERSITY...

The University offers...



The University of Manchester Library-

Located just off Oxford Road, the library is one of the best-resourced academic libraries in the country.

- The library is split into sections by floor number and colour. Many of the books needed for this course will be in B4 (fourth floor, blue section). You just go up the main staircase (next to the checkout area) until your legs threaten to fall off.
- You cannot enter the library without your student card, so make sure you always have it on you.
- The library charges high fees on overdue books, though the fee pay limit is £10, so if you rack up more than that you don't have to pay extra! You can renew online or by phone, so don't get stuck paying fees.

Alan Gilbert Learning Commons- Right next to Whitworth Hall; the Commons is open 24/7. It offers a variety of individual and group study spaces, as well as computers, scanning and printing facilities.

Careers Service- Most people don't realise the value of the Careers Service until their second or third year, but it is extremely useful. They can help you with planning your future career, or even just finding a part-time job. They are located in University Place (the big tin can looking building on Oxford Road), first floor.

Computer Clusters- Many uni buildings have computer clusters. You have access to all of them- you simply log in with the username and password you use to log in to the student portal. You can also use them for printing. In order to pay for printing, you add credit to your student card in the 'E-payments' section under 'My Library' in your student portal.

The Student Union- Located on Oxford Road, the union is a great place to chill out. It holds a café that runs great deals, a bar and many function rooms. During Welcome Week the SU plans lots of activities and events, the main ones being the Student Fair and the Launch and Touchdown Party nights. For more information, go to <http://www.umsu.manchester.ac.uk/>.

Manchester Academy- The Academy is an amazing music venue that



has hosted some massive names such as Ian Brown, Pink Floyd, Owl City, David Bowie, The Cure, Nirvana, Blur, The Ramones, Lady Gaga, Marilyn Manson, Katy Perry, and many others. It also hosts student productions, such as the historically awful (but entertaining) medics' panto. To view a list of

what's on or get tickets, go to <http://www.manchesteracademy.net/>.

Other Opportunities from the University

Study Abroad- You have a chance to spend a semester studying abroad, but you can only apply in the first semester of first year. Have a look on the following link:

<http://www.manchester.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/studyabroad/>

Manchester Leadership Programme- Made up of both a course module and up to sixty hours of volunteering, the programme focuses on the importance of leadership in promoting social, economic and environmental sustainability. You have the ability to achieve Leadership Awards, based on the number of hours you have volunteered, which appear on your transcript. www.mlp.manchester.ac.uk

Student Action- A student run volunteer organization hoping to bridge the gap between students and the local community.

<http://www.umsu.manchester.ac.uk/action>

Become a Student Ambassador- This position involves a combination of paid and voluntary work designed to get more people from underrepresented or disadvantaged minority groups into Higher Education.

<http://www.umass.manchester.ac.uk/studentlife/unisexperience/>

THE COURSE...

The Building

Whether you are straight Drama or Joint Honours, you will spend the majority of the next three years of your life in the **Martin Harris Centre**. Luckily, it's a great place to be – here's what you can find...



Basement

- **Lenagan Library**-The library doesn't have a very extensive book catalogue, but it is useful for catching up on film screenings as it has the DVDs screened on all courses and booths for you to view them in. Some can be taken out overnight (but don't return late or there's a hefty fine!).

Ground Floor


- **John Thaw Studio Theatre**- You will probably already be acquainted with the John Thaw Theatre from Open Days/Interviews- it is just past the cafe and toilets opposite the **Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall**.
- **Box Office**- Selling tickets to all shows in the Martin Harris, the Box Office is open 14:00 - 16:00, Monday to Friday.
- **Administration Office**- The Administration Office is through the doors to the left of the Concert Hall and is where Reception and David Hartley are based- he will help you with all things administrative!
- **G16**- G16 is a large room used for seminars/rehearsals/workshops by the ground floor staircase.



First Floor

- **F20-** F20 is used for workshops, rehearsals and seminars.
- **Green Room-** To find the **Green Room**, turn right at the door before F20 and follow the corridor round (past the **Editing Suite** on your right).
- **Undergraduate Computer Cluster-** The Computer Cluster is on the other side of the building. Do not be afraid to use it- it is for Music AND Drama students! Take the stairs just past the Admin Office.

Second Floor

- **John Casken Lecture Theatre-** If you climb the main stairs to the top, the stairs will end at the John Casken Lecture Theatre. Many Drama and Screen Studies lectures take place here. It can also be accessed from the Third Floor.
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- **Lecturers' offices-** If you want to discuss something, have an issue or fancy a chat, take the door to the right of the John Casken and follow the corridor around!
 - **SL01-** At the far end of the corridor of lecturers' offices, SL01 is a handy rehearsal room often used for practical courses or rehearsals.

Third Floor

- **SU14/SU15-** SU14 and SU15 are used for seminars and can be found up the stairs past the Admin office.

Your Courses in First Year

At Manchester we have three degree programmes:

- **BA(hons) Drama**
- **BA(hons) Drama and Screen Studies**
- **BA(hons) Drama and English Literature** (Joint Honours)

Each year you study a total of 120 credits of course units which normally breaks down as six courses worth 20 credits each: three courses in semester one and three in semester two. In your first year most of these courses are compulsory and you will be enrolled onto them before you arrive. However you can choose to change some of your courses to a '**Free Choice**' course depending on your degree programme (see below for information on **Free Choice**). The courses that you may change depend on which degree programme you have a place on – the department will be in touch with you about this soon, and you should make sure that, during Welcome Week, you are enrolled on all the right courses! The six courses that the Drama department run in the first year are:

Semester One

- DRAM10001 Theatre and Performance 1: Texts
- DRAM10101 Performance Practices 1
- DRAM10031 The Art of Film

Semester Two

- DRAM10002 Theatre and Performance 2: Concepts
- DRAM10102 Performance Practices 2
- DRAM10062 TV & New Media Studies

Drama and Drama/Screen students will take almost all of these courses! Joint Honours (Drama and English) students, of course, take just some of these courses – since they also study courses in the English department. These include ENGL10021 Reading Literature in Semester one, and at least

one of ENGL10062 Theory and Text and ENGL10072 Literature and History in the second semester.

To get more information on the structure of your degree and what changes you are allowed to make, it's best to speak to your administrator **David Hartley** who looks after all course enrolments. You can contact David on drama.administrator@manchester.ac.uk or go and see him at the Martin Harris Centre Reception. He's very friendly and always happy to help!

Second and Third Year Courses

When you get to level two and level three there are a lot more courses to choose from and fewer compulsory courses. Your first year will introduce you to key ideas and set you up for the courses for the rest of your degree. The modules on offer each year vary depending on developments in the degree programme and staff teaching areas, but you can get a good sense of the courses on offer by checking the department website

For Joint Honours **BA(hons) Drama and English Literature** students, your only rule is that you have to take at least 40 credits in Drama every year and at least 40 credits in English every year. How you balance out the rest of your study is entirely up to you.

Free Choice Module

In first year all Drama, Drama & Screen, and Drama & English students are allowed to take a 'free choice' module in second semester. This allows you to expand your repertoire beyond Drama and gain new knowledge and insight into a different subject.

You are able to take a 20 credit module from within the HUMANITIES faculty only. Subjects include Archaeology, Art History, Music, Languages, English, Social Anthropology, Philosophy, Religions and Theology, History and many more.

The full list of modules will be available to view on your My Manchester page as soon as you get registered. It would be worth having a look before you come to Manchester so you are familiar with what options there are available.

You must check the following things when choosing a module:

- It must be within the Humanities department
- It must be worth 20 credits
- It must be a Level 1 module
- It must NOT clash with your timetabled drama modules
- It must be available as a free choice module. This information should be listed clearly on My Manchester site.

How to decode course codes-'SOAN10382' is a free choice module within the discipline of Social Anthropology. The first four letters of the course code apply to the subject, followed by the '1', which means it is a first year course (modules for second and third year with begin with a 2 and 3 respectively). The final number of the course code represents the semester in which the module is available-1 or 2.

If you want to take a free choice module you have to sign up almost straight away, preferably during Welcome Week or the first week of teaching. If you need help or advice with this, ask David Hartley in the Martin Harris Centre Reception or ask your Peer Mentor or your Academic Advisor.

Academics

Our department has some amazing lecturers! You won't necessarily be taught by all of them in your first year, but here is a list of current staff and their research interests. One of these academics will be your academic advisor – your first port of call for all questions about your degree, and getting the most out of it. You will meet your academic advisor in Welcome Week. If you want to know more about the academics' research, you can

check out their profiles on the uni website, and they are always happy to chat about it! All staff are very happy to offer academic and pastoral support and advice to students during their weekly office hours, over email (or by dropping in!). Staff are all approachable and happy to make time to really help you with your essays and your degree work.

Prof Steve Bottoms (Head of Subject)

Steve specialises in contemporary theatre, postwar American drama, and has done some fascinating performance experiments. He's particularly interested in water, and teaches on Theatre and Performance 1.

Steve.Bottoms@manchester.ac.uk

Dr Rachel Clements (Undergraduate Programmes Director)

Rachel writes about contemporary British and European theatre. She's interested in playwrights, dramaturgy, and the relationships between theatre and politics. She teaches on Theatre and Performance 1: Texts.

Rachel.clements@manchester.ac.uk

Dr Hayley Bradley

You are most likely to meet Hayley in semester one as she teaches on Theatre and Performance 1: Texts; she also teaches Performance Practices II. She has a wide range of knowledge regarding Edwardian/Victorian theatre, highlighted by her 3rd year course 'Monsters and Murderers on the 19th Century Stage'.

Hayley.Bradley@manchester.ac.uk

Dr David Butler

David runs the first semester course 'The Art of Film'. He specialises in film music, film noir and film adaptation, and is currently thinking about representations of the Lake District on screen.

David.G.Butler@manchester.ac.uk

Dr David Calder

David teaches on Theatre and Performance II: Concepts. He works on Street Theatre (especially in France), and is interested in performance in post-industrial spaces.

David.calder@manchester.ac.uk

Dr Felicia Chan

Felicia specialises in film, analyzing how filmmakers depict and represent cultural history and how we write the history of film. She's particularly interested in marginalized or 'forgotten' texts and practices..

Felicia.Chan@manchester.ac.uk

Dr Kate Dorney

Kate will be joining the department in the second semester of 2015-16, following 10 years as the Theatre Curator for the V&A Museum, where she has looked after the museum's collections and archives, curated lots of amazing exhibitions, and done a wide range of research on theatre and film history. (Email tbc in December)

Dr Rajinder Dudrah

Rajinder writes about Bollywood cinema, Black British representation, popular music, diasporic and transnational media, television studies, and cultural theory. He teaches on Television and New Media.

Rajinder.dudrah@manchester.ac.uk

Prof Maggie Gale is currently on research leave, writing a book called 'Citizenship, The Law and Performance Cultures in England 1900-1930'. She is the editor of a number of books and book series, and writes a lot about the history of women in theatre.

Maggie.gale@manchester.ac.uk

Dr Jenny Hughes

Jenny teaches Theatre and Performance II: Concepts in the second semester. She is primarily interested in applied theatre, including theatre and performance in times of terror and war, and the relationship between performance and protest.

Jenny.Hughes@manchester.ac.uk

Dr Alison Jeffers

Ali teaches Performance Practices I. She's also in charge of undergrad admissions, so you have probably met her already! Ali's research interests

include applied theatre practice with specific focus on marginalised groups, particularly refugees.

Alison.Jeffers@manchester.ac.uk

Dr Vicky Lowe

Vicky teaches on Television and New Media. She writes about both theatre and screen, and is particularly interested in intermediality and adaptation.

Vicky.lowe@manchester.ac.uk

Dr Simon Parry

Simon teaches Theatre and Performance II: Concepts. He works on the relationships between theatre and education, and performance and science. He also works a lot in the area of Arts Management, as he is interested in approaches to arts evaluation and public engagement.

Simon.Parry@student.manchester.ac.uk

Dr Johannes Sjoberg

Johannes is interested in ethnographical filmmaking and documentary forms. He teaches a lot of the screen practice units in the department, and is interested in screen practice-as-research.

Other important people/contacts

David Hartley

David is the administrator for Drama – you will be getting a few emails from him even before you arrive at Manchester! He's a vital part of the department and you need to make sure you read every email from him – not only does he send you important information about your degree (meetings, deadlines, and messages from staff) but he also sends out a weekly newsletter full of great opportunities (auditions, ticket deals, all sorts!). You can find him in the main Martin Harris Centre office or via email from 9.30-5.30 every day.

Drama.administrator@manchester.ac.uk

SOCIETIES...

The best way to sign up to new societies and learn more is at the Freshers' Fair, which takes place in the Manchester Academy during Welcome Week. Here you can meet members of the societies (usually the committee members) and ask any questions you might have, whilst getting an array of free gifts and seeing who can blag the most slices of free Dominos! Societies are a great way to make new friends or learn a new skill, and they also help with things like organisation and time management. There is also the opportunity to become a member of the societies' committee and oversee the running of the society for a year, which looks great on CV's!

There are over 300 to choose from, but here is a list of some popular choices amongst Drama students:

The Drama Society

The Drama Society is a large organisation that works primarily to cater to students' creative needs. They put on around eleven plays across the academic year, which are entirely student produced. So whether you are an aspiring actor, director, producer or stage manager they have exciting opportunities for you!

Membership is generally about £8 a year and the members of the committee will be at the Welcome Week Fair to sign you up and answer any questions you may have. Membership includes:

- Opportunities to be take part in the Autumn Showcase, MIFTAS, Fresher's Plays
- Socials/Trips
- Discounts to plays
- Weekly emails and updates of external opportunities

University of Manchester Musical Theatre Society

A relatively new society at the University that is growing fast! They put on a variety of traditional and new musicals each year and provide a common ground for Drama and Music students to socialise! Recent productions include 'Sweeney Todd', 'Company' and 'Titanic the Musical' (not featuring DiCaprio or Winslet). Auditions are held for each respective production, although everyone is welcome to join and help out in all manner of ways including front of house, direction, stage management, make-up etc. There

are also some brilliant socials and fundraisers, which introduce you to the other crazy students at the University who are not studying Drama! So get your jazz hands ready! www.ummts.co.uk

The Dance Society

Manchester's Dance Society is one of the most popular and successful at the University. The society teaches a large variety of styles for all abilities, such as contemporary, street, Latin, ballet and many more. They also compete in Nationwide Competitions against other universities, and last year won three 1st places! The Society was also the winner of The University of Manchester Best Performance and Music Society Award 2010-11! Everyone is welcome to join and all you need to do is turn up to the classes you are interested in and boogie on down!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Dance-Society-The-University-of-Manchester/198477156871431>

Fuse TV/ Radio

Fuse TV is the University's very own TV and Radio station! Fuse aims to bring together creative minds as well as students who are interested in the technical side of production, and is a great way to gain experience and make some contacts, especially if you are interested in a career in film or TV production. The society look for camera operators, sound technicians, web designers, directors, producers, editors, actors and writers from across the University to make great films, documentaries, news shows, chat shows and anything else you could wish for! But don't worry; they train you in all aspects if you're a camera virgin. In the past Fuse have produced shows such as 'Come Dine with Me', 'Jailbreak Live', 'The William Hanson Show' and more. If you want to get involved get in touch!

www.youtube.com/fusetvmanchester

www.facebook.com/fusetvmanchester

The Pole Fitness Society

The Pole Fitness Society is taught by a qualified instructor and they provide an encouraging, supportive, non-judgmental and safe environment to learn some sexy new moves whilst getting fit! Anyone can get involved, even if you've never touched or seen a pole! No previous experience of dance or

fitness is needed. Again, just turn up to a session, or get in touch online!
www.facebook.com/groups/manchesterpolefitness/

The Motion Picture Society

The Motion Picture Society is for those interested in watching, discussing or making films. They offer screenings, tutorials/discussions on anything from pre- to post-production, guest speakers, film festivals, film related opportunities, trivia contests and popcorn.

<http://manchesterstudentsunion.com/groups/motion-picture-society>

THE CITY...

Oxford Road

You'll get to know Manchester's main drag pretty quickly, so we're not going to give you a full rundown. However, as a student you will invariably be two things: poor and hungry. So, here are some top tips of the best budget eats on the Oxford road.

£

Veggie Café- Now situated in the Contact Theatre, you can get tea and a nice slab of cake for £1.50. But, if you want something a bit more substantial (or healthier), they do a range of veggie dishes such as soup, quiche and salad. They are a favourite of students and staff from across the university!

Gemini Café - The greasy spoon of the Oxford Road, located next to the row of banks opposite the Manchester Royal Infirmary. Big portions here for cheap prices. Jacket potato and a filling take your fancy? Hot drinks also good, they do a very good mocha!

Spar- Spar is next to Blackwells, underneath the bridge that says 'The University of Manchester' on. Here you can get cheap meal deals or a snack like a chocolate bar or some crisps. They also have fresh fruit.

££

Sainsburys- The £3.30 meal deal is a firm favourite with students. But here you can also do it on the cheap – grab yourself a roll from the bakery

and a pack of Salami to make a sandwich for half the price – who’s laughing now?

Subway- For the perfect hang over cure, or an anytime treat. If you’re confused by all the choice, the Italian BMT is always popular.



The Students’ Union Bikos Café- Here you can grab yourself a quick hot snack, be it a panini, toasted sandwich or soup. It’s great for teas and coffees too. Get yourself a loyalty card and you get your 10th cup free!

The Union Bar- Large portions and reasonable prices. Pizza, nachos and burgers and vegetarian options are on

the menu.

£££



Aardvark- Located next to the chaplaincy and opposite Blackwell’s, this is a place where you can get delicious deli food – there is also a salad counter, some delicious

soups, and freshly filled baguettes and flatbreads. Food here is on the slightly more expensive side, although a filled flatbread will only set you back £2.95. If you fancy some really nice quality and tasty food, you should check out this place. **Kukoos** -Continue past Uni along the Oxford road and you’ll reach this Student mecca serving a variety of kebabs and Mediterranean street food. At £5 for a lunch meal it’s a bit more pricey but worth the money.

Costa/Starbucks- You may well be familiar with these and you can’t miss them. They do great coffee, but not so ideal if you’re on a budget. To eat-in it will cost around £7 for a sandwich and a coffee.

Off Oxford Road



The Northern Quarter

The Northern Quarter is just off Piccadilly Gardens and is home to lots of quirky and independent bars, cafes and shops. Affleck’s Palace, for example, is an indoor market with lots of vintage and alternative shops and boutiques all bundled together in an old department store. You can find out a bit more about all that the Northern Quarter has to offer and where everything is situated at

<http://northernquartermanchester.com/>

Spinningfields- Although maybe not the place to be shopping on a student budget, Spinningfields does have a large collection of shops, including All Saints, DKNY and Kurt Geiger. There are also a number of restaurants including Nandos, Giraffe and Pret.

Deansgate- Deansgate is home to a number of bars, including Revolution, Sakura and Baa Bar which are all on Deansgate locks – you’ll probably get to know the locks during Welcome Week. The John Rylands library is also situated in Deansgate, as well as The Museum of Science and Industry and The Castlefield Gallery should you want a more educational day out. There are a number of free shuttle buses to Deansgate from various places around the city centre.

The Trafford Centre- The Trafford Centre is the second largest shopping centre in the UK and has over 280 shops and restaurants. There is an express bus (the X50) to the Trafford Centre from Manchester Piccadilly train station, as well as many other bus and tram services from different areas of Manchester which run regularly.



Chinatown- Manchester’s Chinatown, the second largest Chinatown in the UK, is in the city centre about a 5 minute walk from Piccadilly Gardens. It is full of traditional Chinese restaurants and shops, and the arch entrance from Portland Street is somewhat of a tourist attraction. It is also a great place to visit during the Chinese New Year

celebrations.

Theatres, Concert Halls and Galleries

As you’re doing a drama course, it is more than likely you just **MIGHT** have an interest in theatre! It is important to work theatre into your schedule and budget as it is rewarding and worthwhile, and you can cite the performances in your essays. Lots of the venues in Manchester have great student/young person ticket deals which you should try to make the most of!



Contact Theatre- At the Contact you'll find dance, poetry slams, stand-up comedy, one-man shows, drag acts, exhibits, festivals, theatrical productions, and tons of new work by young artists. The Contact has a lot of great, cheap theatre. Get a Contact card to get two tickets for £5. Keep an eye out for student

deals like free workshops and talks.

Prices: £5-£10

The Royal Exchange- The Royal Exchange is housed in the former Cotton Exchange, and holds both a small, intimate studio space and the largest theatre in the round in Britain, hosting both popular, established productions and smaller, alternative ones. It's got a permanent in the round theatre and a studio space. Every Friday, up to 50 under 26s can get the best available seats either free or for just £5.

Available from the Box Office from 12 noon, max two seats per booking. The theatre also has cheap day tickets from 10am.

Prices: £5- £35

HOME – HOME opened its doors in 2015 (although it brings together the old Library Theatre and the Cornerhouse Cinema/ gallery) and has two theatres, five cinema screens and three galleries. As well as the work in the venue, they've been producing exciting site-specific performance. And the pizzas in the restaurant are great!



Prices: £5 for some shows and cinema tickets with valid student ID

The Lowry- Located in Salford Quays, it's just a tram ride away from the City Centre. At the Lowry you'll find drama, opera, ballet, dance, musicals, children's shows, popular music, jazz, folk, physical theatre and comedy.

Prices: £5-£45

The Zion Arts Centre- Though the Zion does have a working theatre space with productions that are worth checking out, the great thing about

it is the training opportunities you will find. They offer adult master classes in everything from puppetry to West African drumming, free monthly workshops, vocational training and work placements, mentoring, and various other opportunities that change each month. If you have new writing you want to get put up, the Zion offers a discount on rehearsal rooms as long as you put the show up in their theatre.

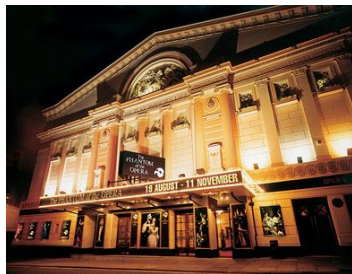
Prices: Varied, some free

The Palace- The 'Grand Old Lady' of Oxford Street, the Palace is a giant, Victorian style theatre that typically houses large productions and touring plays, ballets, opera, and musicals. A visit to the Palace is a return to the grand opulence of theatre, red velvet seats and all.

Prices: £15-£75

Bridgewater Hall- The Bridgewater Hall is Manchester's international concert venue. In addition to its own classical programme, it hosts over 250 performances throughout the year, including rock, pop, jazz, world music, soul, big band, opera, chamber music, and special events such as West End revues.

Prices: £10-£60



Opera House- One of Manchester's largest theatre venues, the Opera House hosts touring musicals, ballets, and concerts. This, along with the Palace, is the best place to see big-name musicals touring from Broadway or the West End.

Prices: £12-£45

MEN Arena- The largest indoor arena in the EU, the MEN Arena hosts live music and tours, sports, and comedy events. The Arena offers 360° seating-you can get rear view seats for cheaper.

Prices: Varied

Islington Mill Studios- Islington Mill is a former cotton spinning mill in Salford, very close to Manchester's city centre. Home to over 50 artists' studios, a gallery space, a B&B and a club space, it's one of the few

creative spaces in Salford, and has evolved over eleven years to become the cultural haven that it is now.

Prices: £5-£10

Manchester Digital Laboratory - A 1000 sq. ft. former shop in the Northern Quarter – open when there’s an event happening. It’s a space you can get together with like-minded individuals and work on your urban gardening, crochet, hacking, programming, media arts, filmmaking, animating, or any other kind of artistic project without worrying that you’re in a library, coffee shop, pub or other unsuitable venue. Tons of great creative workshops available.

Whitworth Art Gallery - Part of the University, and reopened this year with a beautiful extension, this free gallery has some brilliant collections and exhibitions. Just down the road.

Manchester Museum - Also part of the University, and just a minute’s walk from the Martin Harris Centre. It’s home to dinosaurs, mummies, a Vivarium, and all sorts of exhibitions about the natural world, archaeology and world cultures.

Manchester Art Gallery – On the way into town, the gallery has all sorts of exhibitions as well as a great permanent collection of paintings and artworks. You might also want to check out their Gallery of Costume, which is in Platt Hall (in Rusholme’s Platt Field Park).

Nightlife

Living in Manchester you’re never short of options when it comes to nightlife and clubs. While you might find yourself hitting up the big club chains like Tiger Tiger and Oceana during Freshers’, rest assured there are a lot more interesting choices out there! Factory, Joshua Brooks and the Deaf Institute are firm favourites with students with nights like Juicy and Gold Teeth selling out quickly.



Elsewhere, the Northern Quarter is a great spot for alternative nights. Make sure you get on Itchy Feet whenever it's in town; it's not to be missed!

Of course, Manchester is a huge metropolis and crime is not unheard of so whatever you're doing make sure you stay safe. Stick with friends when you're out and about at night and keep your wits and belongings about you; and although the Magic Bus runs all night, there are hundreds of taxi companies running if you feel a bit uneasy or unsure about going on it (just make sure they're licensed!). Don't let this put you off the nightlife though – keeping alert and vigilant is just a reality of living in any big city. Find more safety tips here:

<http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/preparing-to-go/staying-safe-and-secure/top-tips-to-stay-safe/>

Streetcars (not from Corrie!) have a partnership with the uni so if you haven't got any cash to get home, ring one of their taxi's and they'll pick you up in exchange for your student card. Then, you go collect your student card from the Students Union the next day in exchange for cash! Simple!

So, in short – don't worry about being bored. Manchester's got you covered.

Student Deals

Using your student card

You can use your student card in loads of places to get discounts. Here are just a few:

- **McDonalds** – get a free cheeseburger/McFlurry when you buy a meal
- **Topshop/Topman** – 10% discount
- **New Look** – 10% discount
- **Fat face**- 10% discount

You can get discounts from loads of restaurants and shops so always ask! You can buy an NUS Extra card for £12, which will get discounts in even more places.

BE CAREFUL – BEWARE OF SCAMS. Many people may try and sell you cards promising deals but many are scams! Your student card and, if you want, NUS Extra should get you by!

Travel

It is worth investing in a UNIRIDER Bus pass if you are going to make the most of the city, particularly if you are going to be living in Fallowfield* which is the furthest campus from the Uni.

*Service numbers from the city centre to Fallowfield via Uni are: 42, 43, 45, 142, 143, 145

The pass costs around £204 for the year (at the time of print) and while you can buy weekly passes for £12.50 it works out much cheaper if you make one big investment at the start of the year. As you will probably be getting at least eight buses a week (a single journey is £1) it is clear how worthwhile having the pass is!

The 147 bus is free between University and Sackville St. if you show your student card. Useful if you have any lectures on North Campus or live in City Accommodation!

- **MAKE SURE** you've got a railcard for when you're going home- you can save 33%!

USEFUL CONTACTS...

1. METROPOLITAN POLICE (non-emergency number): **0300 123 1212**
2. UNIVERSITY COUNSELLING SERVICE: **0161 275 2864**
3. ACCOMODATION OFFICE: **0161 275 2888**
4. STUDENT FINANCE ENGLAND: **0845 300 50 90**
5. STREET CARS (minicab service): **0161 228 7878** (TAXI DEAL)
6. BLACK CABS: **0161 232 3333**
7. NIGHTLINE: Number on the back of your library card
8. JOHN RYLANDS (MAIN LIBRARY): **0161 275 3751**
9. JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY RENEWAL SERVICE: **0161 275 3718**
10. MARTIN HARRIS CENTRE RECEPTION: **0161 306 1787**