

Bienvenue!

Welcome to the French Studies Department at the University of Manchester. This welcome pack has been put together for you by Ruby Schofield (Student Coordinator), Krystyna Drewenska and Megan Crean (Peer Mentors) for the Peer Mentoring scheme of 2015/2016 in the French Studies Department. The peer mentors are a group of students from 2nd and 4th Year whose aims are to make you all feel welcome in our department, and to help you with any problems that might arise in your first year of study here.

You will meet the Peer Mentors for 2015/2016 during your first week at Manchester and we will be available to help with course unit selection if you need it. We will also be organising some social events, so keep an eye out! We have a notice-board on the third floor of the South Wing of the Samuel Alexander building (Sam Alex for short) where you will find more information during the year, as well as our Manchester French Connections site, the French Studies Facebook page and our Facebook group for First Years (see below for details/links). The French Studies Department at the University of Manchester is large, with almost 20 academic staff and around 110 students per year, but you will hopefully soon discover that it is a friendly place and that everyone is really passionate about what they do!

In this Pre-Arrival Guide, there is lots of useful information for your first year here at the University of Manchester.

That's about it from us now. We hope you are all looking forward to joining us here at Manchester. In the meantime, check out news on our French Studies Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/UoMFRENCH>), and feel free to add yourselves to the new First Year French Facebook group for 2014/2015: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/889052851123670/>

See you all in September!

Ruby Schofield, Krystyna Drewenska and Megan Crean

Ruby.schofield@student.manchester.ac.uk

Krystyna.drewenska@student.manchester.ac.uk

Megcrean95@hotmail.co.uk

Welcome Week

Here are a few dos and don'ts to bear in mind during Welcome Week:

Things to do:

- If you are new to Manchester, take some time to explore your new home, find out where the cheapest supermarket is, hit the shops, or you could even visit the Manchester Museum (on campus, which has a vivarium), the City Art Gallery (in town) and the Whitworth Art Gallery (in Whitworth Park, off Oxford Road: re-opening after refurbishment in October 2014). All are free.
- Join in with all the Welcome Week activities, including the departmental welcome drink, as it is a great way to meet new people.
- Go to the Welcome Week and Sports Fairs as there are plenty of societies to sign up to, and plenty of free goody bags and vouchers for free Domino's Pizza!
- Attend all of the introductory talks - It may not be on your list of priorities when you are caught up in the Welcome Week fun, but it pays off in the long run!
- Make sure you know your bearings round the campus; it will be easier for coming to your first lectures and classes.
- And finally, make sure you sign up for membership of the Alliance Française!

Things not to do:

- Don't feel pressurised to do everything at once - you've got a whole degree ahead of you to do all the things on offer!
- Don't blow your entire loan in one week - you will start to regret this very quickly when you are living off Sainsbury's Basics pasta!
- Don't worry if it doesn't feel "normal" yet - it's all new and it will take time to adjust to being away from home etc...
- Don't spend all your time alone in your room on the phone (or on Facebook) if you feel homesick.
- Don't feel that the people you meet on your first day will be the people you have to stick with for your whole time in Manchester; but equally don't rule anyone out.

A Message from a Peer Mentor...

Bonjour! Je m'appelle Ruby et je serai une « Peer Mentor » pendant l'année 2015/2016. Je viens de Londres et j'étudie le français et le chinois à Manchester. Tu vas trouver qu'il y a tellement à faire pour les étudiants de français à Manchester, avec l'Alliance Française, le Cornerhouse et bien sûr l'université! Nous allons organiser des événements pendant « Welcome Week » et tout au long de l'année.

Area Guides

Many of you will be moving into Halls of Residence. These are in three main areas: Fallowfield, Victoria Park and City Campus. We've included some brief overviews of the areas to give you an idea of what to expect, although you will probably easily discover the best things on your own.

1. Fallowfield

Transport

If you're living in halls in Fallowfield, then you will likely need to use buses in order to get to and from Uni (it's about one hour's walk away). The most economical way to do this is to get a bus pass. There are three main bus companies that go between Fallowfield and the University:

Stagecoach/Magic Bus

A bus pass with them will usually allow you take any Stagecoach or Magic Bus throughout Manchester. Both are very frequent. There is normally a stand at the Welcome Week fair selling bus passes either for the year or for the term. Most students go for this option.

Finglands

A bus pass with them will only allow you to travel on their busses and they are less frequent, but if there happens to be a Finglands bus stop outside where you live this may be an easier option...

Shopping/Eating/Going out

None of these places are hard to find but we thought you'd like to know that they are there:

Supermarkets

- Fallowfield is home to the famous Fallowfield Sainsbury's: It is absolutely huge and is always full of students!
- There is also a Tesco Express
- Cheap fruit and vegetables can also be purchased on the 'Curry Mile' from the various mini-markets
- Every Wednesday there is a pop-up fruit and veg stall just outside the Owen's Park reception

Bars and Pubs

- 256: pub/bar
- The Ram and Shackle
- Font - £2 cocktails!
- Squirrels (next to oak house)- excellent pitchers of cocktails
- Wetherspoon's

Eating in Fallowfield

- There are loads of takeaways for when you just have to have that kebab
- Font and Trof do nice food throughout the day, including breakfasts and are good for taking the parents to!
- Nando's: enough said really...

Of other interest

- Platt Fields Park: very pretty place to go for a jog/stroll, maybe even feed the ducks...

2. Victoria Park

Transport

- Very easy walking distance to uni but if you're in north campus for anything or simply in a rush, buses come frequently on Oxford Road (opposite Lidl, the small Tesco) or Upper Brook Street (number 50 bus).

Supermarkets

- Tesco Express, Lidl and Londis are both on at the start of the 'Curry Mile' where Oxford Road becomes Wilmslow Road
- You can easily get on a bus and go to Fallowfield for Sainsbury's (get on any bus in that direction and get off outside the supermarket)
- There is an ASDA in Longsight which is within walking distance or you can get the 197 stagecoach bus from Oxford Road
- The Curry Mile has a lot of mini-markets where you can pick up fruit and vegetables, plus Worldwide Food Store is a pretty decent, large supermarket

Bars and Pubs

- Varsity and The Ford Madox Brown are next to Tesco and Lidl
- Various Shisha bars on the Curry Mile
- Easy to head into town on buses, plus taxis aren't too expensive this close to town
- Heading along Oxford Road there is Big Hands bar

Eating

- Subway and Cafè Nero
- The Curry Mile: many will do deals for students
- Heading towards uni on Oxford Road: McDonalds, another Subway, Costa Coffee, Domino's and Red Chilli Chinese restaurant

Of other interest

- Whitworth Park
- The Whitworth Art Gallery: Just been voted 'Best Museum of the Year 2015', so definitely worth a visit!
- The Victoria Baths. Original early 20th c. baths, Art Deco tiling. Free entry every first Sunday of the Month to observe the restoration.
- Very well located for the hospital, although we hope you will never need it...

3. City Campus

Transport

- You'll be able to walk to uni very easily and the 147 (The Oxford Road Link) links main campus and north campus.
- To get into town, you can easily get a bus very cheaply or walk (it only takes about fifteen minutes) if the mood takes you.

Supermarkets

- The nearest big supermarket is ASDA in Hulme or Sainsbury's in Fallowfield. It is within walking distance but for your first visit it might be worth getting on the number 85 bus from the bus stop across from Royal Northern College of Music, near the bridge - you'll know where to get off when you see ASDA.
- There are also several Sainsbury's, Tesco Express and Morrison's Locals dotted along Oxford Road.

Bars and Pubs

Following Oxford Road towards town there is:

- Revolution
- Font (£2 cocktails)
- Zoo
- The Footage
- Odder's Bar • ...and many more!

Eating

- Trof
- Various takeaways
- Kro Bar (opposite the student union)
- Contact Theatre Cafe
- Student Union Bar
- Red Chilli (Chinese restaurant)

Nightlife

Manchester has a night out to suit everyone - you will probably find your favourites on your own, but here are a few of the most popular places for first years:

- 5th Avenue: Indie music, cheap drinks, free entry before 10:30pm most nights. You will probably get a free bag from them at some point during Welcome Week with lots of vouchers for free entry/free drinks etc.
- AU social at Tiger Tiger: A rather amusing night involving fancy dress...
- Deansgate Locks: Various bars and clubs all with something different to offer
- Canal Street: "Gay Village"
- The Ritz: This is where they usually hold the Erasmus parties. It proves to be both a fun and "educational" night out...

Books for your courses

Don't panic about buying and reading your books before you arrive - you will be specifically told about anything that needs to be done before the semester starts or during Week 1.

The Department always informs Blackwell's about the books that are set, so they will usually be in stock. Of course you can always try to get them cheaper on Amazon etc... and look out for any second-years selling their books (Facebook, book sales...).

From experience, it is useful to attend lectures and classes and clarify what you will need before buying up the whole reading list in the first week. It can also be useful to get books out from the Library first to see if they suit you.

Manchester French Connections

This project started in November 2012 and is ongoing, involving students of French in all year groups at the University of Manchester and linking them to the wider French-speaking community in Manchester. We have run a variety of successful events in the past and have more exciting plans in store for 2015/2016! We look forward to next year's students bringing new ideas and you will find out more through the Peer Mentors during your first few weeks here at the university.

For more information, visit: <http://www.mfc.humanities.manchester.ac.uk>

Where to study

Don't forget about the LIBRARY!

As the internet is becoming a goldmine of resources for anything and everything, students tend to forget about what the library has to offer.

1. The Main Library, found behind the Learning Commons (which we will get on to later), is where you will find:

- A wealth of books on various topics to do with your course
- Computer clusters
- Printers and printer credit top-up points
- Study rooms
- Specialist programmes at your disposal
- Help desk for any questions

The Library is open from **8am-12 midnight** Monday to Friday and **9am-12 midnight** during the weekend.

The Library also offers many online resources:

- Library Search
 - You can search for books available in the library and the search will also tell you where you can find what you have searched for.
- Library Essentials
 - Found amongst the tabs on your 'My Manchester', you have access to various workshops. Anything from conquering your fear of speaking out in big groups to finding good strategies to revise, to write a good essay etc. Make sure you check it out!
- Library Study Spaces
 - Also found on the 'My Library' tab on your 'My Manchester' is where you can book group study rooms in the Library and in the Learning Commons

2. The Learning Commons (a.k.a. Ali G or the Alan Gilbert) is a fantastic building, open 24/7, which offers a more relaxed environment in which you can work.

3. Specific to us language students, we also have access to the **Language Centre** where again there is a computer cluster and there is also a mini library full of various books and DVD's for every language offered by the University. There is also a quiet study space and a café. A handy little gem when the Library and Learning Commons are crowded.

Studying French at the University of Manchester

At the beginning of the year you have 120 credits, which you then allocate to certain modules. For example, module A may be worth 20 credits, and so you would be left with 100 credits. This varies on whether you're doing single honours, joint honours, MML etc.

FREN10210 French Language and Life is a compulsory module for all students who are studying French to degree level. You must pass it (40% or above) in order to proceed on to the next year of study. Attendance must be 75% or above. LALC10030 Language, Culture and Society is another compulsory module, whilst students must choose between the Introduction to French linguistics and French Literature modules.

ILP- Independent Language Learning Portfolio:

Throughout the year you will be encouraged to do independent work to improve your French. All this work goes into a folder, which you are required to present to your teacher twice throughout the academic year. It can include any kind of work you like, depending on what you feel you need to improve on. For example, you can do grammar exercises and put them in your ILP, watch a French film or read a French book and write a review on it. It is not assessed but is a great way to improve your French language skills.

EBL (enquiry based learning):

This forms another 10% of the final French grade in the first year of a degree including French. It involves a presentation to the oral class in groups of two or three demonstrating phonetic sounds that have been researched by the students independently. This part of the assessment to make up the French grade allows students to work as a team and to also improve their understanding of French sounds that they have been studying.

Other assessments:

- One written examination at the end of Semester 2 1.5 hrs 40%
- Assessed Exercise 1
 - Translation into French in invigilated conditions 1 hr 10%
- Assessed Exercise 2
 - Free writing in French in invigilated conditions 1 hr 10%
- 1 x oral examination at the end of Semester 2 10 mins 10%
- 1 x aural comprehension examination at the end of Semester 2 1 hr 10%

Weekly homework tasks on Blackboard, comprising one grammar and one oral task each week. 90% of these activities must be completed within a given time to receive 5% each semester.

All these forms of examination test each individual aspect needed to be successful at French.

Other resources in Manchester

- **Alliance Française**

<http://www.alliancefrancaisemanchester.org/>

55 Portland Street, M1 (third floor)

- It regularly runs French events, e.g. Book Club, food tastings, film screenings and much more...
- There is also a library where you can borrow books, films and CDs
- There are also plenty of French magazines and newspapers that can be read there or borrowed
- Only £5 membership if booked before 31 October 2015.

- **Cornerhouse**

On Oxford Road screens French films quite often, and there is usually a French and Francophone Film Festival in the Autumn.

Year Abroad

As you probably already know, as language students we get to spend some time abroad (length of duration varies according to your course).

Please don't worry about your period of residence abroad now, but do give it some thought and begin to research your options. A great starting point is the School's Residence Abroad Blackboard site (you should already have access to this, but email residenceabroad@manchester.ac.uk if you don't).

Serious preparation for the period of Residence Abroad will begin in semester one of Year Two when briefing meetings covering each option are organised. You will receive support both prior to, and during, the period of Residence Abroad from the School's full-time Residence Abroad Coordinator, and the Residence Abroad Tutors for French. There are pastoral visits while abroad too.

That is it for now. We hope this guide has given you an idea of what you have to look forward to in Manchester and we look forward to meeting you all in Welcome Week! There will be events planned for you to help with orientation and there will also be an opportunity for you to meet all of the staff from the French department.

If you have any further questions, don't hesitate to contact us on the email address provided on the first page, or the facebook page.

Bonne Chance!