



City of Sanctuary

Application for Sanctuary Award

Name of organisation: The University of Manchester

Town/ city in the UK based: Manchester

Award applied for: University of Sanctuary

**Name and position within organisation of lead applicant: Stephanie Lee,
Head of Widening Participation**

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7544**

Date of application: July 2019

Please provide a summary of how your organisation engages with sanctuary seekers:

The University of Manchester engages with sanctuary seekers across its three core goals of 1) Research 2) Teaching and Learning 3) Social Responsibility. Staff and students across the institution are contributing to this work including our Academic Schools, our cultural institutions, our Student Support and HR services, our Students' Union and our widening participation and outreach activities.

Using the 3 principles of the sanctuary award, please reflect on how you have achieved these principles attaching evidence to support your answer.

Learn

- An awareness session on campus for staff and students was held on 29 November 2018 with 31 attendees. The session was delivered by a team of colleagues from the Manchester City of Sanctuary and included two refugees who shared their experience.
- University of Manchester staff and students have attended the Article 26 Conference in 2017 and 2018.
- During Refugee Week the University runs a number of outreach activities in partnership with the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre as well as supporting regional events such as those held by the Red Cross.
- UG and PG students cover issues relating to migration and sanctuary seekers within teaching modules and placements. For example, within the Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute, students can undertake professional experience placements which includes working with organisations such as Women Asylum Seekers Together (WAST)

Embed

- The University has been part of the Article 26 scholarship scheme for asylum seekers and refugees since 2014. This year the University has increased the number of UG scholarships available from one to five per year and the level of support provided has increased from a full tuition fee waiver plus a £600 per year bursary to a £5000 annual bursary and free accommodation in Halls of Residence.
- Having refugee status of being granted humanitarian protection is also an eligibility criteria for the Manchester Master's Bursary which offers £3,000 p.a. to students from a widening participation background. This has been introduced as a specific criteria for 2019 entry. <https://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/masters/funding/uk-eu-student-advice/masters-bursary/>
- The University also provides tuition fee concessions for sanctuary seekers for UG and PG study <https://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/student-finance/2019/uk/university-support/asylum-seeker-concessions/>
- Our Students' Union has a STAR (Student Action for Refugees) student group <https://manchesterstudentsunion.com/groups/student-action-for-refugees-star.> In April 2019 the STAR group organised an Open Day for refugees and asylum seekers on campus which had input from the University's widening participation team.
- Our University Library is providing reference access to asylum seekers and refugees who are attending English and maths classes with the local charity Cornerstone. The aim is to extend this access to other refugee and asylum groups and communities.
- Work experience placements are offered by different parts of the University to asylum seekers and refugees in the local community. One of our future priorities is to develop this work into a more coordinated programme and offer.
- The University's Sports Division has set up a football team and has invited refugees and asylum seekers from Fallowfield to play alongside University of staff

and students as a way of improving community integration. The impact of this project is being evaluation through by a University academic in the School of Arts Languages and Cultures.

- Organisations that support refugees and asylum seekers can register with our Student Volunteer Hub to receive student volunteers. During 2017/18 students registered to volunteer with the following organisations Caritas (37), Manchester Volunteer Advice Project (33), Refugee Action (5), British Red Cross (22), MRSN (6), The Association of Jewish Refugees (1), Boaz Trust (1). Only the Boaz Trust has registered volunteer hours, so a future priority will be improving the recording of hours so we can better monitor the contribution students are making in this area.
- [Manchester Free Legal Help](#) is a sister service to the University's Legal Advice Centre. It operates as a drop in clinic every Friday for Immigration law respectively.
- Our Manchester Museum is working to become a Museum of Sanctuary. Working closely with City of Sanctuary the Museum is already piloting and developing a bespoke volunteer training course for Sanctuary seekers. After completion of pilot project this will be embedded into the museums volunteer programme and open to all sanctuary seekers.
- The Whitworth Art Gallery's Whitworth Young Contemporaries are working with City of Sanctuary and other refugee support organisations to develop a programme a learning programme around their migration project which includes awareness raising events within the gallery.
- Manchester Museum, the Whitworth and Martin Harris centre continue to be lead partners in the Journeys Festival International programme working with Refugee artists to showcase their work through commissions.

Share

- University Researchers are highlighting the challenges faced by asylum seekers and refugees through their academic work. This can take many forms including through composing musical works which promote secular, critical thinking and which stand in opposition to religious persecution.
- One of the research groups within our Global Development Institute focuses on migration, refugees and asylum
<https://www.gdi.manchester.ac.uk/research/groups/migration-refugees-asylum/>
- Multilingual Manchester promotes awareness of language diversity in the city-region and beyond. Multilingual Manchester is currently undertaking research on English language provision in Manchester, including English conversation sessions, ESOL classes, and interpretation and translation services.
<http://mlm.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/experts-call-for-better-language-provision-to-help-non-english-speakers-into-work/>
- Examples of current research projects include:
 - Research looking at the home-making practices of migrant, refugee and asylum seeking [adult] women in Glasgow
 - Research to understand the role of social identity in well-being and adjustment in refugee [adult] populations
 - Research that involves training asylum seeker women to become peer researchers; to allow them to define and address the core issues that impact the lives of [adult] female asylum seekers in the UK, and to demonstrate the skills and strategies they use when they come together as a group

- Research that explores the drivers of health for middle-aged and older asylum seekers and refugees in the UK
- Research that looks at [adult] refugees and asylum seekers who are involved in a football program that is designed to provide them with a sense of community
- Research looking at the effect of CBT on child and adolescent refugees and asylum seekers
- [Research into the service user experiences of asylum seekers and refugees with regards to access to primary health care](#)
- A senior clinical lecturer within the School of Medical Education regularly runs half day workshops for GP trainers across Greater Manchester, and twice a year delivers a GP training scheme to members of the joint armed services; all of which aim to raise awareness, knowledge and skills for people who communicate with forced migrants. This involves talking about the role of the doctor as an advocate and how to challenge prejudice and attitudinal issues.

Please identify how sanctuary seekers have been involved in helping you achieve these principles

- We have held focus group meetings with sanctuary seekers and they have contributed to the Steering Group which oversaw the submission giving feedback on our current activities and future priorities.
- One of our current research projects 'Everyday Solidarity and Everyday Surveillance: Global Ethics and the Experience of Asylum in the United Kingdom' aims to foster productive conversations and dialogue between the participants, developing a bridge between universities and local communities of solidarity and sanctuary. The first workshop was held in June 2019.
- **Learn**
 - Refugees were involved in the delivery of the awareness training to staff and students.
 - Article 26 students studying at the University who are seeking asylum have attended the national Article 26 Conference to share ideas about how universities can improve their support for prospective students who are seeking sanctuary.
- **Embed**
 - We have received student input from the sanctuary seeker community in relation to our Article 26 scholarship criteria which has been reviewed for 2019 entry.
 - Access to the University library was as a result of responding to feedback at focus group sessions with asylum seekers and refugees.
- **Share**
 - Members from the refugee and asylum seeker communities are engaged in research taking place at the University which includes training asylum seeker women to become peer researchers and creating

How does your organisation intend to build on your achievements over the next 3 years in order that your award is renewed?

Learn

- Increase the partnership work with external organisations such as the Manchester City of Sanctuary
- Deliver at least 2 awareness sessions a year for University staff and students
- Undertake an audit of what activities are currently taking place across the University during Refugee Week and aim to increase these from 2020.
- Have a University of Sanctuary Stand at the University Community Festival.
- Create a cross-institutions of University of Sanctuary Champions/Supporters

Embed

- Develop dedicated webpages to share and promote activities that support sanctuary seekers both internally and externally. This will include staff/student training; outreach activities for schools, colleges; scholarships; a research blog.
- Establish effective governance for this work so that it is recognised across the institution and feeds into institutional priorities.
- Continue to engage with members of the asylum seekers and refugee community to inform and develop this work.

- Actively promote the University's Community Open Day to the refugee and asylum community.
- Monitor the number of student volunteer hours given to sanctuary seeker support organisations.
- Develop the work of one of our Medical Student Volunteer Societies who are working with TS4SE to help new arrivals navigate the NHS system.
- Embed the Museum's volunteer training course for Sanctuary seekers into its volunteer programme.
- Undertake a mapping exercise of the curriculum to identify courses where sanctuary issues are covered already and use as examples of best practice to embed this into other areas.

Share

- Work with other Greater Manchester HEIs to deliver collaborative activities.
- Use the University's position within the city region to campaign on issues that affect sanctuary seekers such as access to transport to attend support activities.
- Create a network that brings together academic researchers and local sanctuary movements to support future research projects, policy advocacy and the wider inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers in the intellectual life of the UK.
- Explore ways in which the University English Language Centre and staff/student volunteers can support with English language development. Develop Museum Conversation classes in discipline areas linked to the collection.
- Build on current outreach activity with schools and colleges and the promotion of Article 26 scholarships. Develop a flyer with other Greater Manchester HEIs about the support provided for prospective students, particularly scholarships and bursaries.
- Develop links with Schools of Sanctuary, particularly in Greater Manchester.
- Include student societies that are supporting people who are members of the Sanctuary community.
- Reach out to members of the alumni community who have experience of being a sanctuary seeker or who work/volunteer in this area.
- Host or contribute to future Article 26 Conferences.

CofS use only

Names of appraisal team:

Sanctuary seeker

Expert in the 'stream'

CofS member from local area

Date award achieved:

Date renewal due: