

MANCHESTER  
1824

The University of Manchester

# A GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND SUPPORTERS





# WELCOME TO MANCHESTER

**T**he University of Manchester is a modern and dynamic institution with some of the best facilities in the world, - a place where 25 Nobel Prize winners have worked or studied.

At Manchester there are opportunities to study in a destinations from Australia to Argentina, Canada to the Czech Republic, Singapore to Sweden - including many of the world's other leading Universities. Manchester offers hundreds of exceptional professional development opportunities, and a first-class careers service - we are the most targeted University in the graduate market.\*

At Manchester we value the vital role you as parents, relatives and carers play at all stages in the applicant journey, from supporting young learners when choosing a university and course right through to leaving home and settling into university. We hope this guide will tell you what your son or daughter can expect should they choose to study at Manchester as well as information to help and support them on their journey.

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Head of UK Student Recruitment

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\*Source: The Graduate Market in 2019, High Fliers Research.

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# THE APPLICANT JOURNEY



At present your son or daughter is on what we call 'the applicant journey', an exciting journey during which they will choose a course, apply to university, complete their exams and then settle in to a new environment.

This timeline summarises the application process and includes all of the key dates and times during the applicant journey for you and your son or daughter to be aware of.

## WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

### RESEARCH COURSES AND UNIVERSITIES

- Attend UCAS exhibitions & university open days.
- Speak to teachers and discuss predicted grades - make realistic choices.
- Decide on the five universities to apply to.
- Explore subject choices and careers paths by attending university Discover Days.
- Webinars - we offer a series of webinars covering; accommodation, finance and student life.

### COMPLETE THE UCAS APPLICATION FORM

- Gather together qualifications achieved to date and currently undertaking.
- Write personal statement.
- Teachers to write student academic reference to support students application.
- Submit application form to UCAS.
- Sit any additional entry admissions tests if appropriate (E.g. UCAT/BMAT for Medicine/Dentistry – research course choices to find out more about selection tests).

### WAIT FOR DECISIONS

- Offers/declines/invitations to interviews start to arrive – check UCAS Track.
- Attend interview and university visit days to help you make an informed choice on which university to attend.
- UCAS Extra opens in February for students who have declined all their offers or not received any offers.
- Apply for accommodation – we guarantee accommodation to all new full-time undergraduates (criteria applies).

### APPLY FOR FINANCE

- UK applications to Student Finance England [www.gov.uk/student-finance/new-fulltime-students](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance/new-fulltime-students).

### ACCEPT / DECLINE OFFERS

- Inform UCAS of firm/first choice and insurance/ second choice.

### RESULTS DAY

#### If:

- Firm choice grades met – wait for confirmation of place from UCAS/the university.
- Firm choice grades not met – check with firm choice university; if not accepted, contact insurance choice.

Firm/Insurance choice grades not met or no offers held – enter Clearing

- Contact universities with vacancies.

Firm choice grades met and exceeded – students may be eligible for Adjustment

- Contact universities with vacancies available through adjustment to ask about options available.

## WHEN DO I NEED TO DO IT?

Year 12 and beginning of Year 13.

Summer of Year 12 and beginning of Year 13.

The UCAS application cycle opens 1st September.

15 October deadline for applications to Oxford or Cambridge and courses in Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science.

15 January deadline for on time UK/EU applicants to be guaranteed equal consideration. Students are recommended to apply before this deadline.

Receive confirmation of university decisions from UCAS.

September onwards (depending on when UCAS form submitted). Please note that the length of time varies across all institutions.

Apply for accommodation as soon as an offer is received.

Opens February – to ensure funding is received in time for course dates apply by end of May.

End of April/May – students will be informed by UCAS of actual final deadline.

Mid August.

On and after results day.

If a student chooses Adjustment, they have five calendar days to find an alternative place.

# WHY GO TO UNIVERSITY?

**G**oing to university is a life changing experience that can boost confidence and independence. Other benefits include:

## BOOST EMPLOYABILITY AND EARNINGS

There tends to be a 'graduate premium' effect on income, a 2017 report from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) saw annual earnings for graduates are higher than for non-graduates and reach a peak at a later age with an average annual earnings of £35,000. In contrast, the gross annual wage for those educated to A level standard is around £22,000. Graduates also tend to be less exposed to unemployment.

## STUDY A PARTICULAR SUBJECT IN MORE DEPTH

An applicant may already enjoy a particular subject at school, or they may want to branch out and learn about a new subject area.

## FUTURE CAREER

To become a doctor, town planner, teacher, lawyer or chemical engineer you are required to have a degree in these disciplines. An applicant may also be interested in one of the many jobs that are only open to people with degrees. By attending university students gain higher level qualifications and develop new skills and interests that are highly sought after by graduate employers.

## UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE

Higher education is not just about studying, it also provides access to opportunities that enable students to expand their horizons, make new friends, and meet people from a variety of countries and backgrounds. Students may also have the opportunity to study abroad, spend a year in industry, join a society through the Student's Union and play for university sports team.

# RESEARCHING OPTIONS

With thousands of courses available in the UK at hundreds of institutions, choosing just one is a daunting task. Students should keep an open mind, and review their options thoroughly.

Students can find a lot of information on the UCAS website or university websites. Students should speak to staff and students at UCAS exhibitions and university open days to ensure that they have an idea of what their student and course experience would be like.



## CHOOSING A COURSE

Choosing a course is a big decision, so knowing as much as possible about the subject students are interested in is important. Below is a set of the questions that might help when thinking about which course to choose:

- What grades are required?
- Does the university have a good reputation for that course?
- How is the course taught?
- What modules are available?
- How much contact time is there?
- How much independent/private study is expected?
- What teaching and learning facilities, and student support services are available to students?
- Can you study abroad, gain work experience or an internship whilst studying the course?
- What careers can the course lead to – what are the top graduate careers for graduate of the course?
- Does the course have professional accreditation? Is this important for the chosen career pathway?
- Is the university based in a town or a city?

# APPLYING TO UNIVERSITY

## HOW TO APPLY

All applications are made online via the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). Full details on the application process and deadlines are available on the UCAS website ([www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)).

There is a section for parents on the UCAS website with information on the application process: [www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/ucas-undergraduate-parents-and-guardians](http://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/ucas-undergraduate-parents-and-guardians)

## AFTER APPLYING

After students apply for undergraduate study at Manchester, UCAS forwards their application form to us, and it is considered by the academic school to which they have applied. We will send the student an acknowledgment that we have received their application, and they can track their progress and reply to any offers via UCAS Track.

## ASSESSING STUDENT APPLICATIONS

Good examination results are a main factor in assessing undergraduate applications. We also use other sources of information to ensure we admit students with the most outstanding potential.

## These might include:

- already achieved grades
- predicted grades
- evidence of knowledge and commitment in their personal statement
- teacher references
- aptitude tests
- performance at interview
- exceptional circumstances or personal barriers to learning that they may have faced

Manchester courses are very popular, and the number of well-qualified applicants exceeds the places we have. We consider all applications fairly and in line with our procedures, decisions are made on the basis of a student's overall application against the set of entry criteria.

Find out more about the selection process for each of our courses on our website or in UCAS profiles: [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) / [www.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.manchester.ac.uk)

## CONTEXTUAL OFFERS

The University wants to ensure that all applicants with the potential to succeed here have equal opportunities through our selection process. UK applicants under the age of 21 who meet the criteria for geodemographic and education indicators or anyone who has been looked after or in care for more than three months, will be considered for a contextual offer – usually one grade lower than the standard. This will be determined on receipt of an application so students don't need to do anything. Check eligibility via the tool at:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/contextualdata](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/contextualdata)



## RECEIVING AN OFFER

Students can stay up to date with an offer of a place on an undergraduate course and any conditions through UCAS. Students will be able to view these details on UCAS Track.

If they satisfy the academic entry requirements of their chosen course, we may make them an unconditional offer. If they have not yet taken some of their exams, their offer is likely to be conditional on their achievement of a specified level of performance in their examinations.

## REPLYING TO OFFERS

When a student has received decisions for all their choices, UCAS will contact them to ask them to reply to their offers. Please be aware that there are deadlines for replying.

Visit: [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

## RECEIVING RESULTS AND REQUESTING RE-MARKS

In most cases, the awarding body (for GCE A-levels, International Baccalaureate etc.) notifies us of a student's exam results.

If the conditions of an offer are met, students will be notified by UCAS and our academic school will confirm their place. They can check the status of their application via UCAS Track.

If results are slightly below our offer, they may still be awarded a place on their original choice of course, or we may offer a place on an alternative course. However, as many of our programmes are extremely popular, there is limited flexibility in considering lower grades.

If a student is appealing against their exam results, please be aware that we follow UCAS guidance, which identifies 31 August as the cut-off point for meeting the conditions of their offer. If they are waiting for a re-mark, they should inform the academic school at which they are holding an offer to let them know about their circumstances. Our full admissions policy can be found at:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/assessing-ug-application](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/assessing-ug-application)

# STUDYING AT UNIVERSITY

**A**t university, the way students learn may be different from at school or college. How they are taught will largely depend on their course, level of study and their academic staff.

A stronger emphasis is placed on teaching students to apply information. This might mean being asked to answer questions where there's no right or wrong answer, but scope for opinion and debate. They will be encouraged to read widely, to question and analyse what they have read, and to discuss openly their own ideas in seminars and tutorials.

The main teaching and learning methods include lectures, seminars and tutorials, laboratory and practical learning, and independent study.

## LECTURES

A lecture is normally a presentation or demonstration designed to give students an overview of a topic. Generally the lecturer will address the audience and students would not normally ask questions in the middle of the lecture, though there is often an opportunity for students to do so at the end.

## SEMINARS AND TUTORIALS

Compared with a lecture, a seminar or tutorial involves much smaller groups of students. Similarly, the session is often led by an academic tutor or guest speaker and can involve a presentation, but the format is normally much more informal and promotes open discussion around specific topics or theories.

## INDEPENDENT STUDY

Students will be expected to take responsibility for their own learning and they will need to manage their time effectively to fit this around their academic timetable and any other activities that they are involved in.

## STELLIFY

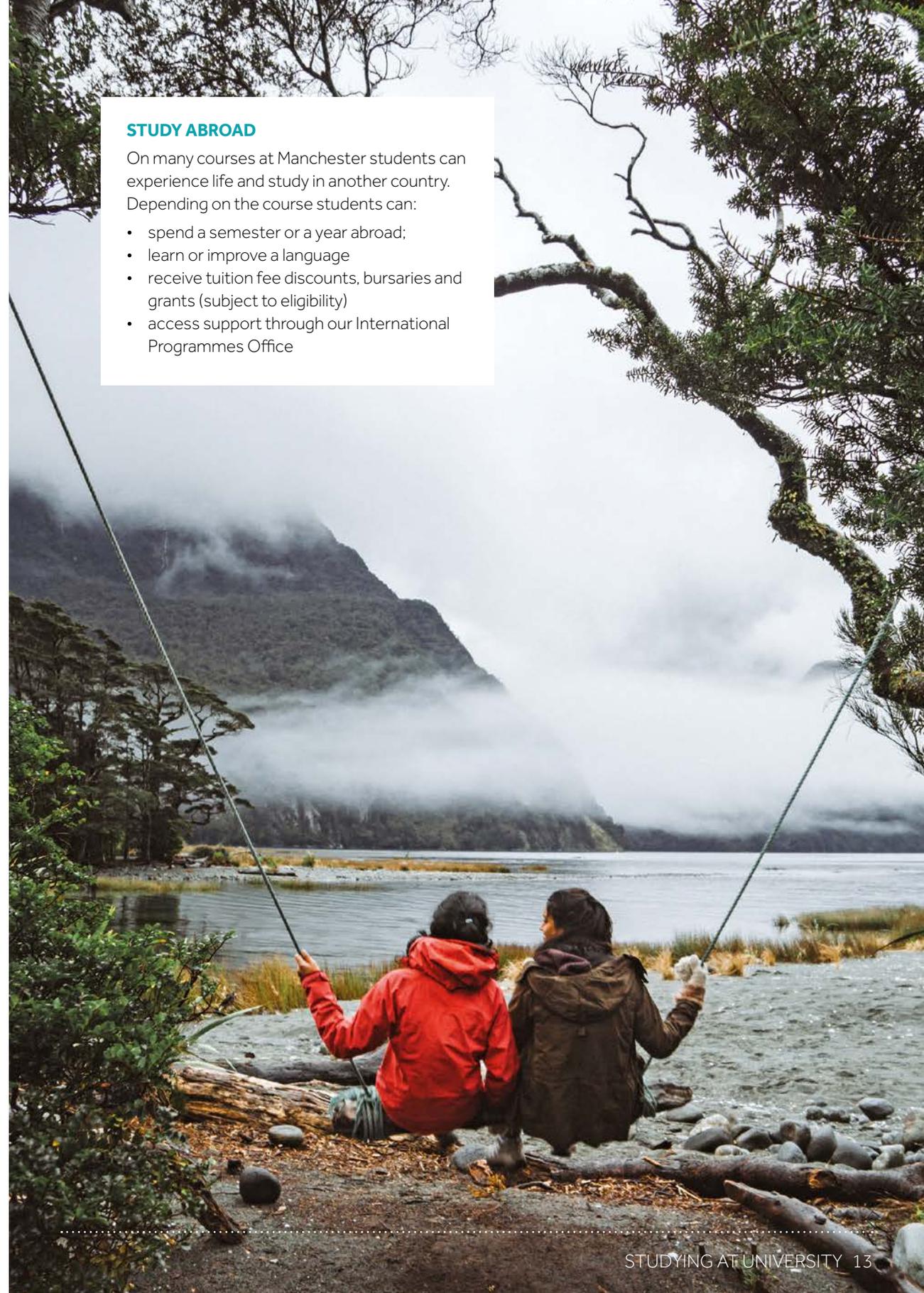
At Manchester you'll find a whole host of transformational academic and extra curricular activities to help you stand out from the crowd and make your mark on the world. We call this process Stellify: to change, or be changed, into a star. This programme challenges you to go beyond your programme, understand the issues that face our global and local communities, encouraging you to take action, make a difference and develop the distinctive attributes of a Manchester graduate.

[www.manchester.ac.uk/stellify](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/stellify)

## STUDY ABROAD

On many courses at Manchester students can experience life and study in another country. Depending on the course students can:

- spend a semester or a year abroad;
- learn or improve a language
- receive tuition fee discounts, bursaries and grants (subject to eligibility)
- access support through our International Programmes Office



# SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS

**W**e offer a range of services that help support our students both academically and personally:

## STUDENT SUPPORT AND ADVICE TEAM

Students can access information, advice and guidance, or simply find a quiet haven to check emails and squeeze in some extra study time in the Atrium. Located on the first floor of University Place, students can book appointments or attend drop-in sessions with the Student Support Adviser and the Student Money Adviser as well as other specialist advisers to chat to them about careers, volunteering, managing money, international programmes, and support and well-being.

## PEER ASSISTED STUDY SESSIONS (PASS)

PASS sessions are led by volunteer students studying the same subject, who act as facilitators. Students have the opportunity to consolidate and build on their existing knowledge through discussion with other students in an informal and supportive environment, where they can compare notes, analyse, criticise, ask questions and talk through ideas.

## ACADEMIC ADVISERS

All students are assigned an academic adviser; a member of academic staff there to give advice about any academic issues throughout the duration of their course. They can help talk through the transition from school or college to university, and help students get to grips with studying and learning more independently.

They'll also be able to help them develop their academic writing or research, or any other skills that are specific to their degree programme.

## PEER MENTORING

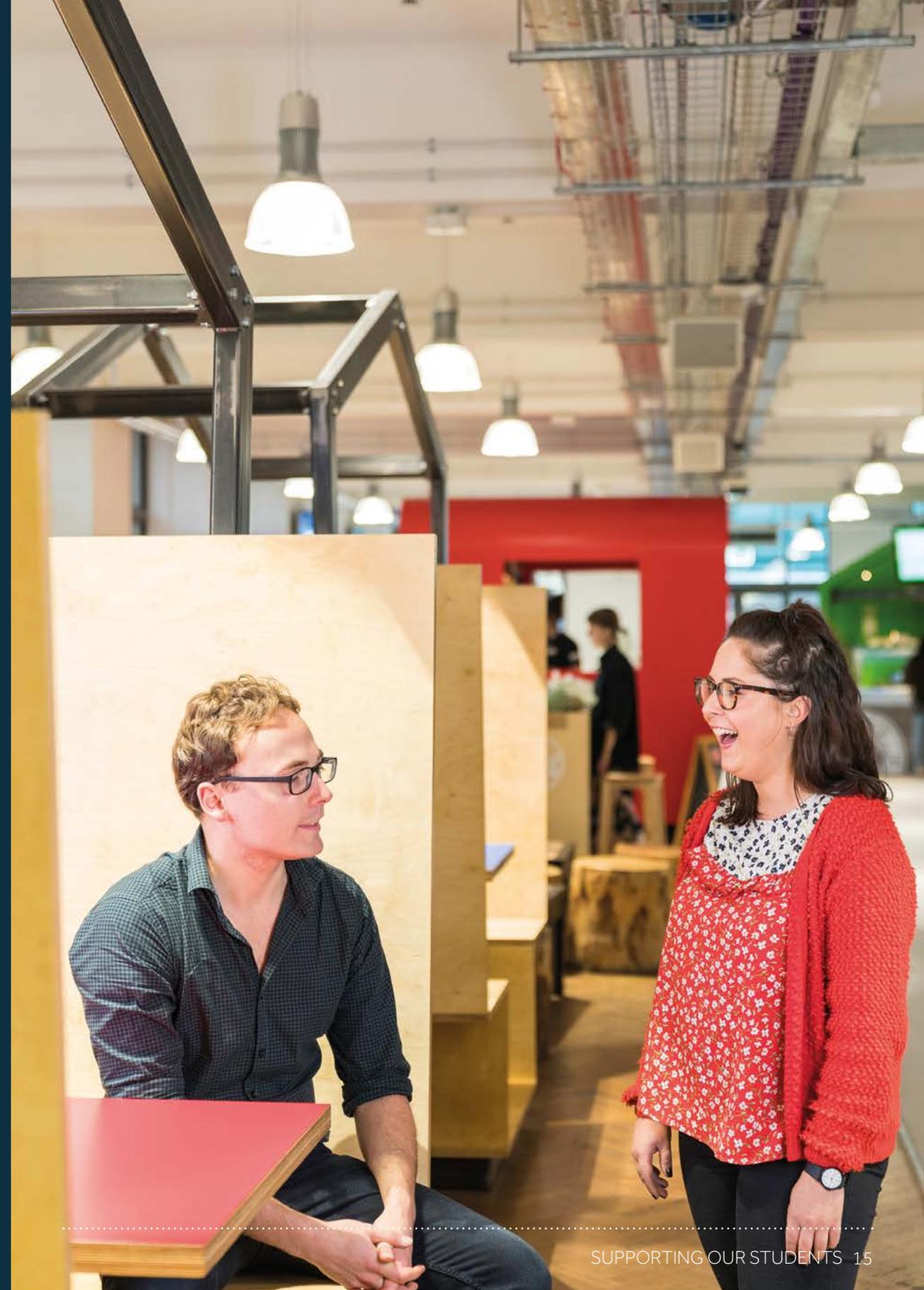
Peer mentors are higher-year students on the same degree course who will help your son or daughter find their feet when they arrive here and adjust to student life. As peer mentors are already students at Manchester, they should be able to help with any non-academic matters.

Peer mentors will often organise activities and workshops to support students with a specific issue. They'll also set up social events to help everyone get to know each other a little better and to introduce students to Manchester as a city.

### Other services we offer include:

- Disability Advisory and Support Service (DASS)
- Counselling Service
- Students' Union Advice Service, which is independent from the University
- ResLife teams based in our University managed accommodation
- Nightline – an anonymous telephone helpline run by students for students
- Religious support – multi-faith spaces, chaplaincy centre, student societies etc.

Further information for student support and wellbeing at: <http://www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/>



# OUR FACILITIES

Our excellence in teaching is underpinned by a range of world-class academic facilities

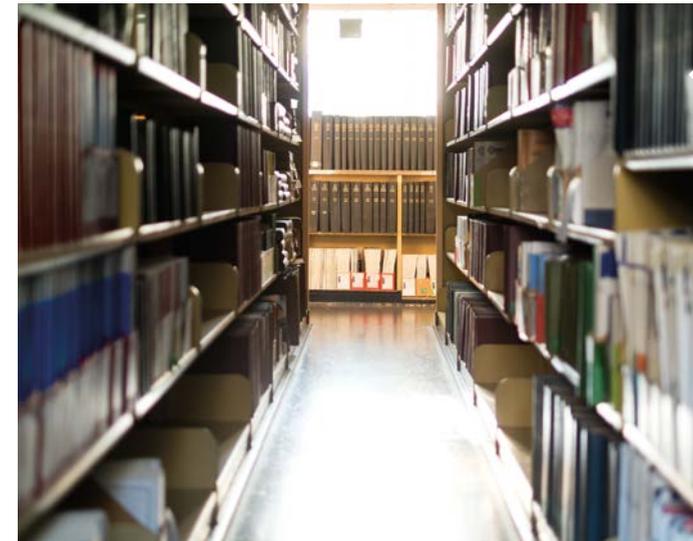
## THE ALAN GILBERT LEARNING COMMONS

This iconic £24 million building was designed with partners across the University, including students themselves. The modern space is open 24/7 and offers a flexible, ultra-modern and stimulating space in which to learn and relax. Cutting-edge IT facilities, a range of flexible learning spaces and a host of student-centred services are all available within its walls.



## MANCHESTER ENGINEERING CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT (MECD)

MECD will offer the university a new opportunity to inspire future generations under one roof - it is the single largest home for engineering of any UK university, and is due to open in 2021.



## LIBRARIES

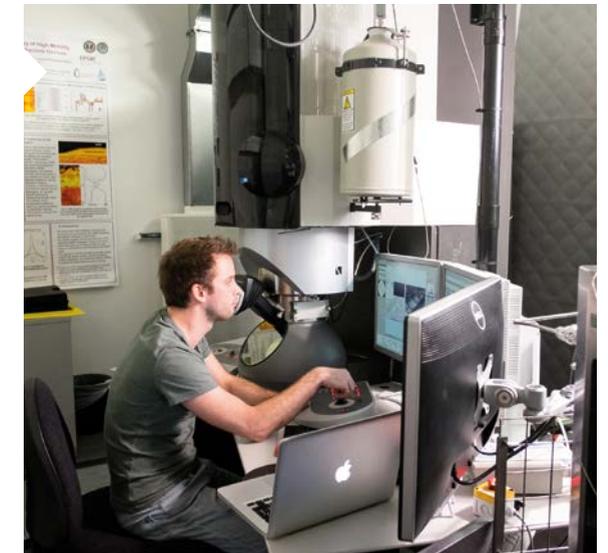
With continuous investment in an academic library that is one of the biggest in the UK, and extensive cross-campus IT facilities, we ensure that a wealth of resources are available to help students study successfully.

The University of Manchester Library is one of five national research libraries in the country our library holds more than 4 million printed books and manuscripts and 750,000 electronic items. In addition there are site libraries spread across campus.

## IT AND COMPUTING FACILITIES

There are nearly 4,000 computers on campus, many within individual academic Schools and halls of residence. All of our halls of residence offer Internet access and there is also extensive free Wi-Fi across campus. We provide an advanced e-learning environment called Blackboard that gives students online access to course materials, interactive learning activities, self-assessment exercises and assignment submission, as well as the opportunity to have discussions with teaching staff and other students.

With access to resources 24/7 - including via mobile devices - Blackboard complements face-to-face teaching and is a hugely popular and flexible tool for busy students.



## SPORT

Manchester is a city with a worldwide sporting reputation, and your son or daughter will find plenty of ways to get involved here at the University. For more information on sport at The University of Manchester you can visit [www.manchester.ac.uk/sport](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/sport)

# CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY

We are committed to ensuring that employability and wider support is embedded into our teaching and ethos. These are some of the key questions that you can ask.

- What support is available to students in terms of researching careers and applying for jobs?
- How many of the University's graduates find work or go onto further study after completing their degrees?
- What kinds of jobs do graduates go on to?

We are the most targeted university by the nation's top 100 employers\*, and have been named University of the Year for graduate employment\*\*.

With almost 4,000 recruiters advertising jobs, exhibiting at fairs and presenting on our campus, this support demonstrates our reputation for outstanding and highly employable graduates.

Careers support can be vital in opening the door to a range of opportunities and potential jobs. That's why we give you countless opportunities to make the most of Manchester as an undergraduate student, to boost your employability and set yourself up for success throughout your life.

\* Source: The Graduate Market in 2019, High Fliers Research.

\*\* Source: The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2020



In terms of the support that Manchester provides, we are very proud of our highly regarded university careers service. Three-quarters of students rated the service either "excellent" or "good".

Students who study at Manchester are offered exciting opportunities to meet recruiters and enhance their employability. We have long-standing relationships with leading multinational recruiters, who participate in many of our careers events and workshops to develop those all-important skills, such as leadership, team-working and demonstrating initiative.

Our careers service offers students the option to meet with specialist careers consultants for professional advice, skills training and guidance to help them plan their career. We advertise internships, part-time jobs and volunteering opportunities. This will help your son or daughter to enhance their employability through gaining valuable work experience.

Students also have the opportunity to be mentored by the best in their field. Our award-winning mentoring programme, Manchester Gold, provides access to more than 900 mentoring opportunities, with representatives from companies including Goldman Sachs, Rolls-Royce, HSBC, PricewaterhouseCoopers and IBM. Our graduate network is one of the largest career mentoring programmes in the UK, connecting students with alumni and a network of more than 2,500 across a variety of industries.

# ACCOMMODATION



We offer a variety of living environments all close and accessible to campus, which range from city centre premises at the heart of our teaching campus, leafy tranquil Victoria Park, to vibrant suburban Fallowfield.

So whatever accommodation is preferred, it is likely you will find it in Manchester.

#### Accommodation includes:

- fully catered halls (meals provided) or self-catered halls (providing your own meals)
- single-sex and mixed-sex options
- en-suite accommodation or shared-bathroom facilities
- traditional halls or modern residences

For more information visit:

[www.accommodation.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.accommodation.manchester.ac.uk)

#### OUR ACCOMMODATION GUARANTEE

We guarantee a place in University accommodation to:

- a new first year undergraduate student coming to live here alone (even if already living in Manchester)
- an international (non EU), in any year of study

If they fall outside of these conditions the Accommodation Office is likely to be able to assist them in finding a room, and if not, our staff will advise them of the other available options.

#### SUPPORT AND SECURITY IN UNIVERSITY ACCOMMODATION

Unique to university-owned halls, each residence has a ResLife team. On-call in each residence, they provide welfare support and guidance whenever required.

Most halls of residence have swipe-card access systems, and each accommodation area has an extensive CCTV network and 24-hour security.

#### AFTER THE FIRST YEAR

After their first year of study, students are welcome to re-apply for University accommodation.

Many students prefer to look for accommodation with friends in the private sector in their second year and beyond, and we work with the housing bureau Manchester Student Homes which supports our students in finding good quality properties to rent.

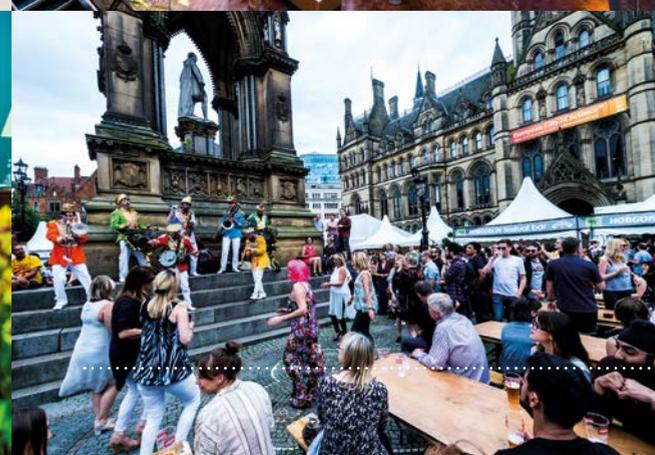


# THE CITY OF MANCHESTER

**W**ith its huge variety of activities and attractions including museums and galleries, music and entertainment venues, sporting events, not to mention being known as the shopping capital of the North West, Manchester has something to offer everyone, and will never leave your son or daughter short of things to do. It has been voted the best city to live in, and one of the world's best cities for international students.\*

Manchester is also a very accessible city. Should your son or daughter need a break from their studies, there are plenty of green areas to explore in and outside the city. With an international airport nearby, excellent road and rail links with the rest of the UK, Manchester is one of the most accessible cities in the country and the perfect base for exploring the rest of the UK and beyond.

\*Global Liveability Survey 2019 - Economist Intelligence Unit



# SAFETY AND SECURITY IN MANCHESTER

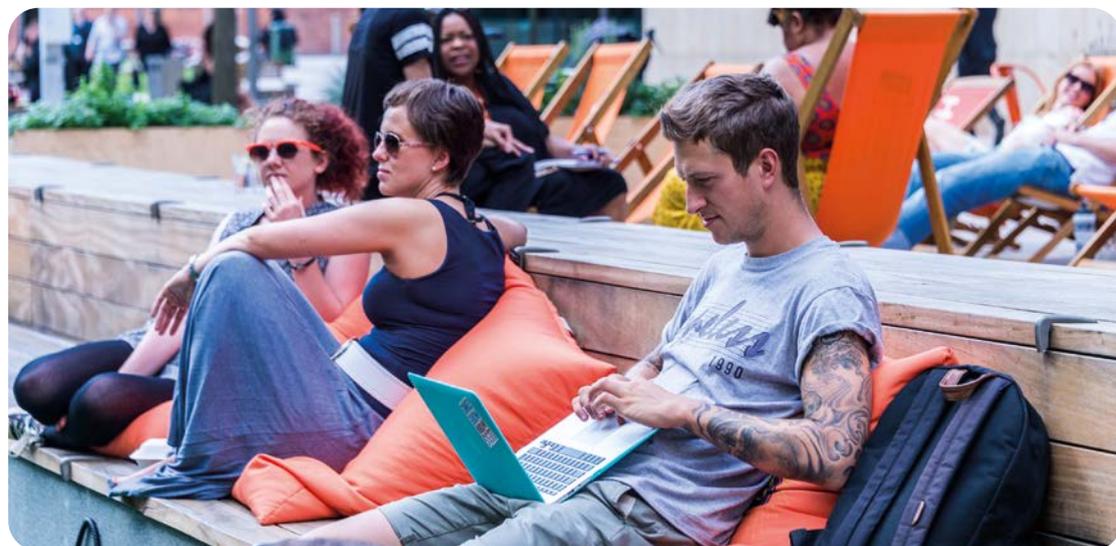
**A**t Manchester, we take the safety of our students very seriously. That's why we've invested in security technology and training our staff to provide practical safety advice and support, as well as maintaining excellent relationships with local police. We have invested more than £800,000 in CCTV systems covering our teaching campus and halls of residence. Students living in halls also have possession insurance automatically included in the cost of their room.

## STUDENT SAFETY ZONE

Police and Manchester City Council have come together with Manchester's three universities to unveil safe zones for students.

The zones, which have been created with the support of businesses around the Oxford Road corridor, mean that students feeling unsafe will be able to visit those premises involved in the scheme, and can wait around for the problem to pass, call a taxi to take them home, or get help from the business or the police.

Like most cities, we do experience crime. However, the levels here are no higher than in other major cities across Britain and the world. With our advice and support, students can live sensibly and safely, enjoying all the benefits of city living to the full.



# MONEY AND FINANCE

**P**arents and supporters of students may be concerned about the cost of attending university. However, it is important to understand that UK students don't have to find the money for university fees up front - and many students may also be entitled to grants and bursaries from the government and/or the university - we've invested in one of the most generous financial support packages in the UK. Approximately a third of all our undergraduate UK students will receive bursaries of up to £2,000 per year.

## TUITION FEES

For information on the tuition fees at The University of Manchester for home undergraduate students please visit <https://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/student-finance>

For further information on support available from the UK government, visit <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance>

## STUDENT FINANCE – HOW TO APPLY

All applications are made online. Students in England apply via Student Finance England (SFE) at: [www.gov.uk/student-finance](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance). You can help by ensuring they apply early for finance once they've applied to university to ensure its in place when they start.

Students do not need to have confirmed a place at university to apply for their funding. They should use their first choice of course and university and this can be changed online at a later date if required.

## COST OF LIVING

Living in one of the UK's major cities needn't be expensive. Manchester is an affordable and cosmopolitan city, home to more than 90,000 students who are often living on a limited budget. Therefore shops and businesses offer some really great deals.

Below is a breakdown of estimated living costs (based on 19/20 figures) for one academic year.

Costs	Undergraduate year (40 weeks)	Weekly costs (based on 40 weeks)
Accommodation (self-catered)*	£5,195	£129.88
Meals (excluding meals out)	£1,525	£38
Clothes	£400	
Transport (includes local transport and travelling home/visiting friends)	£460	Weekly bus pass from £8
Other (eg books, equipment, mobile phone bill, socialising, laundry, photocopying and printing)	£2,000	£50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£9,580</b>	

\* The University of Manchester self-catered accommodation can range in price for the year. For further information, please visit: <https://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/experience/accommodation/>

# THE MANCHESTER WELCOME

At Manchester, we want to make sure our students feel as prepared as possible to succeed at university.

All new students will be sent a personalised guide once they have met the conditions of their offer giving information about our welcome programme. The welcome programme features a range of events for every single student joining us. The 10-day programme is intended to provide a balance of need to know information about living and studying in Manchester, with nice to do events intended to support students' transition into new social circumstances. We provide students with a seamless programme of welcome activities, which is complemented by an academic school induction.

As part of the welcome programme, we encourage all students to ask questions at any time. There will be several help desks open during the welcome period, where students can get advice and information. Helpdesks are located in some University accommodation, the Students' Union and foyers of University buildings.

The desks are staffed by our student ambassadors who are available to answer any questions students may have. University staff wear 'Ask me badges' so that students can easily identify staff members who will be able to assist them.



# JARGON BUSTER

**Academic** - a university teacher, may be a professor, doctor, lecturer or postgraduate researcher/student

**Admissions Tutors** - a member of the university staff (often an Academic member of staff) who is responsible for deciding who is offered a place at the university.

**Alumni** - people who have graduated (i.e. completed a course and gained a qualification) from a university are described as alumni. Being an alumnus can give past students ongoing access to Careers Services. Most universities have active alumni associations that enable past students to keep in touch with each other and the university.

**BA, BAEd, BEng, BSc** - these refer to Bachelor Honours degrees in various areas: Bachelor of Arts (BA), Bachelor of Education (BAEd), Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) and Bachelor of Science (BSc).

**Blackboard** - is the electronic system used at Manchester. It provides information to students regarding their degree programme, such as lecture notes, notices about exams and timetables.

**Bursary** - a non-repayable grant of money awarded to a student on application who fulfils specific criteria. Bursaries are often paid directly from the University.

**Clearing** - this is the system operated by UCAS to enable students to find places on courses that still have vacancies after the publication of exam results. Although it is often for those who have not made the grades required by their chosen universities, it can also allow last minute applications to new institutions for those who obtain better results than they had expected. For further information on the process visit [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

**Conditional Offer** - this is an offer made by the university which is dependent on students reaching certain grades.

**Confirmation** - an admissions process of confirming a university place once all results are received by the university.

**Contextual Offer** - this is an offer made by the University, which is usually one grade below the standard, and is subject to eligibility criteria.

**Deferred entry** - a student can apply for a university place but request that they start it the following year, thus deferring entry. Students who wish to take a GAP year do this to ensure they have a place at university for when they complete their year out.

**Entry Requirements** - grade levels set by the University for entry onto a course.

**Faculty/Academic School** - similar subjects at universities or colleges are often grouped together under one Faculty or Academic School. At Manchester we have three Faculties; the Faculty of Biology, Medicine & Health, Faculty of Science & Engineering and the Faculty of Humanities; within each Faculty are Academic Schools.

**Graduate** - a graduate is a person who has been awarded a degree from a university or college. Whilst students are studying for a degree they will be known as an undergraduate. After the award of a degree they become a graduate. If they undertake further study after their degree (e.g. Master's degree or PhD) they will be known as a postgraduate student.

**Grant** - a non-repayable payment made to students when they meet certain conditions.

**Halls of Residence** - is student accommodation provided by the university.

**Integrated Masters** - is an advanced undergraduate degree that enables students to gain specialised knowledge and training over four years of study.

**Maintenance Loan** - repayable money intended to support living costs.

**Offers** - offers are made to students who apply for a place at university. They are made by the admissions team and are often dependent on students achieving certain grades in their exams.

**Postgraduate** - a degree taken after an entry level, undergraduate degree.

**Scholarship** - scholarships are grants (non-repayable) of money made to a student. They are a little like a bursary, but scholarships are usually based on academic merit and excellence as opposed to financial need. Many more universities are offering scholarships as well as bursaries.

**Semester** - some universities divide the student year into 3 terms, some divide it into 2 semesters. A semester is half a study year.

**Student Loans** - these are loans from the government to help students pay their living and study costs whilst they are at university.

**Students' Union** - each university will have a Students' Union (which will probably be part of the National Union of Students). The Union will represent the interests of students and works in their interest about a whole range of issues. The Union can also provide the focal point of student activities. All students are entitled to an NUS card which provides many discounts for students.

**Tuition Fees** - tuition fees cover the cost of your study and may vary depending on what and where you study. Students can apply for a "tuition fee loan" to cover the amount they will be charged. This is then paid directly to the university. The "tuition fee loan" is paid back after the student has graduated and is earning over a certain amount.

**UCAS** - pronounced Yew-Cass. The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service for the UK. Students apply for full-time undergraduate courses through UCAS.

**UCAS Extra** - if a student uses all their five choices on their UCAS application and they don't manage to secure an offer, they have a second chance to apply for a place, using UCAS Extra. The service starts mid-March and runs until the end of June. UCAS writes to let student know if they are eligible to use Extra.

**Unconditional Offer** - this is an offer made by the university which is not dependent on students reaching certain targets. This is often used when a student has already taken their exams and achieved the required grades.

**Undergraduate** - someone studying either full or part time for a first degree including Bachelor of Arts (BA), Bachelor of Science (BSc), LLB (Law) etc.

**Welcome Week** - the first week of the academic year and usually includes an induction programme from the university and social activities from the Students' Union (formerly known as fresher's week).

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