

Manchester Live: Why Manchester? (automated transcript)

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This is why Manchester, so why you should choose us as a university to study your course. My name is Charlotte Guest, I'm a Student Recruitment and Widening Participation Intern here at the University of Manchester. I studied both my Undergraduate and Postgraduate degree here, so I have lots of experience of what student life is like at Manchester University. I just wanted to let you know that obviously we don't want to ignore the impact of Covid-19 on teaching resources this year and a lot of learning has moved online, or remote, as well as a lot of services, but I want to let you know about the things that we could offer before the pandemic, and hopefully in the 2021/22 Academic Year. So to start, I'm going to talk a little bit about these four areas, so the first one I'm going to talk about is the University itself. I'm then going to move on to Teaching and Learning at the University of Manchester. Then, what you can expect from your student experience here, and finally Manchester, the city itself.

So we're going to start with the university. I want to tell you a little bit about the history of the University of Manchester because it helps you understand our ethos. The University of Manchester is home to leaders of ground-breaking research and social and political movements, so it helps to know about people like Christabel Pankhurst and Ernest Rutherford. Christabel Pankhurst was the first woman to graduate in Law and she actually graduated from the University of Manchester. She was a Co-founder of the Women's Social and Political Union, which was a leading Suffragette movement. On the right here, we also have Ernest Rutherford who was at the University of Manchester. He used the labs here and he's a Nobel Prize winner for famously 'splitting the atom'. We move on to Tom Kilburn and Freddie Williams who built the world's first stored-program computer at the University and it was affectionately referred to as 'baby'. And then we have Bernard Lovell, who built the world's largest steerable radio telescope in

1957, and that is still at Jodrell Bank today. He was a professor at the University of Manchester. Next, we're going to move on to some notable alumni from the University. So I think it's really important to know about our alumni because we have an incredible alumni global community, all over the world. So, one of the most notable alumni is Arthur Lewis. He's Britain's first black professor and we actually have a building named after him at the University of Manchester. There's Alan Turing who you all may know. He is the father of artificial intelligence and he was a reader here at the University. He's also famous for breaking the Nazi Enigma codes during World War II. We have Irene Khan who is the Former Secretary General of Amnesty International and she obtained a Law degree from the University of Manchester. And then finally, some of you may have heard of Brian Cox. He is a current Professor of Particle Physics and Astronomy at the University, and he's a TV presenter famous for his 'Wonders of the Universe' series. We also have Chrissie Wellington who is the Four-time Ironman Triathlon World Champion, and I'm sure many of you will know Benedict Cumberbatch. He obtained his degree in Drama. He's won many nominations including Baftas and Oscars and he's famous for his role in BBC's 'Sherlock' as well as films such as 'The Imitation Game' and his role as 'Dr. Strange' in the Marvel films. So I'm going to discuss a few of the rankings of the University. These are according to the 2020 Academic Ranking of World Universities. We're ranked 33rd in the world, 8th in Europe, and 6th in the UK. Now, this is according to the UK Research Excellence Framework, which is one of the best indicators for universities because the UK Research Excellence framework is used by the government to allocate funding and to judge the quality of research produced by universities. So we actually have a very high ranking and 83% of our research

is judged to be 'world leading' or 'internationally excellent'. How are research benefits you - there's three ways that the research can benefit you. So the first one is our courses are research-led, so students are taught by world leaders in their field and staff incorporate the latest thinking and discoveries into their courses. During my time at University, I was reading journals and papers that were written by the very lecturers that were teaching me, which was fantastic. We also have strong industry links, which ensure our courses are at the edge of industrial needs as well as academic knowledge. And, because of our high UK Research Excellence Framework ranking, this brings a lot of additional funding which is invested in facilities that benefit the students. If we move on to a bit more about investment. The extra funding as a result of our high ranking in the UK Research Excellence Framework means that our campus has state-of-the-art facilities. We invest heavily in technology and equipment to continually modernise the campus, and we're undertaking the largest capital investment programme of any UK university. So we're planning to spend 1 billion pounds over the next 10 years on the campus. Our most recent addition to the campus is the Alliance Manchester Business School, so if you're studying any business related courses you'd be studying there which is a state-of-the-art facility. We're also currently in the process of building the Engineering campus which is pictured on this slide. So I'm going to move on to Teaching and Learning at the University. This is just a little bit about our courses, some statistics for you. So we have over 400 undergraduate courses; we have 8500 places; and we receive over 60,000 applications a year. These are just a selection of the courses that we offer here. We do offer most things except Veterinary Science, Sports Science, Art and Design courses, and some specific Healthcare courses, such as Physiotherapy. But other than that, we have a tonne of courses on offer. So there are some important things to think about when you are picking your course at University. Course structures will vary depending on the Faculty and the subject. You need to look at how much contact time you're going to be spending at University. With Humanities subjects, it may be sort of 9 to 15 hours a week; with science-based subjects, and medic or dentist courses, then they'll be a lot more contact time. You also need to look at how the course is assessed, so is it primarily exams, assignments, lab reports, or group work. You also have the way that the course is taught. So with Humanities courses you tend to have large lecture theatres of roughly 200 people and then you will be split off into smaller group seminars with a seminar leader or a PhD student. It's important to think about how you want to be taught. If you are a medic, a dentist, or a nurse, you'll be taking part in more problem-based learning, which involves a group of students together - working on a real life scenario or case - they need to draw the skills out that help them to give potential solutions to that problem. And obviously when you have science-based subjects, you're going to be doing more lab and experiment-based work. You also need to think about whether studying abroad is something that you would be interested in, and whether you wanted to take an additional language alongside your course. You need to think about the work experience that you may be able to do as well. I've also got something here about the core modules and optional modules. With university courses some are far more flexible than others; Humanities tend to be more flexible. So you can take optional courses outside of the main course. So for example in Social Sciences, you may be able to take Philosophy and take some Sociology courses as well. You need to think about the mandatory modules that are being offered. So if you don't like the look of mandatory modules there, then that course probably isn't for you, because you need to take them. During my experience at University, I picked a course that was primarily exam-based because I knew I performed well in exams. You need to think about playing to your strengths when you pick your course.

Innovative teaching. So, as I've mentioned before, you're taught through research by leading experts in the field. We also have a variety of other support available for you during your studies. So as I've mentioned as well, you have a variety of learning techniques. You are assigned an academic advisor

at the beginning of the Academic Year and they will be on hand during your studies - if you have any issues about anything - academic or personal, you can go to them and you can get some guidance. We have Peer Support, which involves students from your course from later years giving you support, usually in a group of students, and they will have group chats and socials as well, so you have somebody closer in your age support you there. Then we also have 24/7 access to learning, so we have something called Blackboard, where all of your course materials and lectures are stored and you can access them

anytime you need. And we have Alan Gilbert Learning Commons, which is a study area: it has computers, it has group study areas as well, and you can go and study there 24 hours a day 7 days a week - so it's amazing for exam time.

I want to talk to you a little bit about University College for Interdisciplinary Learning. So, you can study subjects outside of your main discipline, but still get degree credits for it. It allows you to develop inter-disciplinary skills, boost your employability, and enrich your learning experience. It offers a range of topics, issues and new ways of thinking that are usually related to problems facing the 21st century. It's really great because you can study a subject that you're passionate about and get credit for it as part of your degree. I have a few examples of the kind of courses we offer here. So for example, if you were studying a Physics degree or a Psychology degree, you may be able to take some of these modules, something like artificial intelligence alongside your studies, which is really really great. I think that academic progress is made when people can see important links between topics and subjects that seem are seemingly unrelated. I think it's a great way to enhance your learning and potentially develop new and unique solutions to 21st century problems. I'm going to talk to you a little bit about work placements, so we offer extracurricular internships during your university years. You can also do a year in Industry, which is a great experience, and you can do work experience as part of a module at the University. So we did offer the option to study abroad pre-pandemic and we're hoping that this option will still be available in the 2021/22 Academic Year. When you were studying abroad it would usually be a semester at one of our

partner institutions outside of the UK. Now many of you may have heard of Erasmus, and the government has said that the UK will no longer be taking part in Erasmus, but the University of Manchester has secured funding for Erasmus for the 2021/22 Academic Year. They also think they will have enough funding for the 2022/23 Academic Year. Erasmus is being replaced by the Turing programme which intends to offer funding for UK students to study in countries across the globe. However we're still awaiting further details for that, so if you are interested in studying abroad, it's a good idea to keep updated. If you did want to study abroad and for that to be built into your undergraduate degree, then you need to pick a course with a language component or with international study. It's important to note that there are a small number of cases where you can't study abroad because the course is accredited by an external body in such a way that it makes it impossible to study abroad, for example, Pharmacy.

I'm going to talk to you a bit more about the student experience. So here are a few facts and figures: we have over 40,000 students registered at the University, from over 160 countries; we have over a hundred over 400 undergraduate degree programs across three faculties, and we are one of the largest single-site universities in the UK. We have some fantastic cultural institutions at Manchester, as I've mentioned Bernard Lovell's telescope at Jodrell Bank, which is located in Cheshire. We also have Manchester Museum, which is located within the University campus. It's great to go to on your lunch time or between lectures. They have a fantastic Natural History collection and a vivarium, which I visited a lot. They have 'Stan' the T-Rex, and they also have some archaeological and anthropological artifacts too. John Rylands Library is part of the University and houses many

beautiful manuscripts and books as well. So a little bit about student life here. The Student's Union at the University of Manchester is the largest in the UK and it's home to many societies. We also have a student-run newspaper, TV and radio, and they are run for and by students. The Student's Union is there to represent the views and the interests of the student cohort. We have over 400 societies as I have mentioned, and there are a wide variety interests represented. We have things from Quidditch to the Francophone Society, to Debating Society. In my first year at University, I joined the Living at Home Society and I actually met a best friend for life there, so it was really worth doing. We take Sports very seriously at Manchester and we have the Armitage Centre, which is located in Fallowfield. You have Sugden Centre and Manchester Aquatic Centre next to the university, and they all have a range of different sports facilities. I spent a lot of time at the Armitage Centre in my second year, watching my friends play five-a-side. It was all just good fun; it wasn't a competitive thing. But we do have the option for competitive sport as well. And we have 42 sports clubs at the University. It's also worth mentioning that we have the Sporticipate programme and that involves sports classes that are run across the University campus and you can go and do those between lectures and on your lunch as well. So it's a great way to keep fit. I want to talk to you a little bit about student finance. I'm not going to focus solely on student finance; I want to talk more about the University of Manchester and the kind of bursaries and scholarships that it offers here. If you did want to watch a webinar that was more about student finance specifically, then we have one that is coming up in February, or we have one online now, which has already been recorded if you want to access that now. So Manchester offers a range of bursaries and scholarships as you can see, there's some sports and subject-specific ones. We also offer the Undergraduate Access Scholarship that is for students that have completed the MAP programme, or for students under the age of 25 who have spent a minimum of three months in care. We have things like the Manchester Bursary, which is given to students who have a household income below £35,000. I myself was in receipt of this bursary, and I had no idea that I was eligible for it. Luckily, I shared my information on my UCAS form with the university, and unbeknownst to me, I was eligible for it, so I just received an email one day and I got access. So I think it's really worth checking whether you're eligible for these things because there are pots of money there to fund you and your student experience. So I'm going to talk to you a bit about the Careers Service. So the Careers Service is available from your first year at University, right up until two years after graduation. They offer a number of different services, both face-to-face, and now online, and they offer lots of online webinars as well. So these are just a few of the services that they offer, things like: CV and cover letter advice, careers advice, and mock interviews. They also have large scale Careers fairs with stalls from small and large companies, so that you can go and meet people, and network. I'm going to talk to you about employability at the University of Manchester. So 94% of our graduates were in employment or further study after six months. We are one of the most targeted universities by top employers, according to High Fliers Research, and we were named University of the year for graduate employment by The Times. So, the employability prospects for coming to the University of Manchester are pretty bright. We have lots of Pastoral Support at the University. So we offer things as I've mentioned. We have personal advisors and tutors. We also have personal advisors in Halls of residence, if you have any issues there. We also offer more specialised support, so the Disability and Advisory Support Service, you can go to them and get an assessment and they will have a look at what kind of support they can offer you. So for example a University laptop, recording equipment, programmes to help you if you have memory problems, and that kind of thing. We have a Nightline and Counselling service, and we also have Student Union and Independent Advisers. I want to stress that during this pandemic we offer a lot of support, and if you are struggling, there's lots of people that you can talk to. I wanted to emphasize there is a well-being stall in the Main Library of the University, that you can go and

drop into at any point. As I've mentioned, we have a Counselling Service and we also have support tailored specifically to certain groups of students, so students with care experience, students

who are part of the LGBTQ+ community, and also for those who are Refugees and Asylum Seekers. So following on from well-being we have Six Ways to Wellbeing at the University of Manchester. The first one is connect, so that involves connecting with family and friends, fostering social bonds, connecting with people. We have take notice, so being mindful of our surroundings and our actions. Be healthy, so making healthy balanced choices, eating a

well-balanced diet. Give, so taking part in things like volunteering. We actually have a Volunteer Hub at the University, so you can look at volunteering opportunities and get involved in those. We have be active, so obviously making sure that you're taking part in sports and being active everyday. Learn and discover, so that could be reigniting an old passion for something that's just sort of died off or undertaking something new that you've always wanted to do so that you can learn something new, like cooking, or learning a new instrument. So accommodation at the University of Manchester. We guarantee accommodation in your first year of study, if you're an undergraduate coming to the university alone. Even if you are from Manchester, it doesn't matter, we still guarantee accommodation. A lot of universities can't guarantee that so that's something that's really important. We have 8000 rooms and 23 halls and we have a mixture of different types of accommodation across the university. So we have Fallowfield Campus which has a very big student community in the Fallowfield area, it has a lot of second, third and fourth years there. We have Victoria Park, which is much more leafy, and then we have a City hall campus, so that is obviously much busier and located within the City Centre. We have a mixture of en-suite or shared bathrooms, catered or self-catered accommodation, and mixed or same-sex flats. As I've mentioned before they have Pastoral Support. So you'll have personal advisors that you go to if you have any issues at the accommodation, any personal issues, and we have a range of sports facilities. I'd also like to note there are other fantastic facilities there. So I spent a lot of my time in Grove Bar in Whitworth Park. They had a weekly quiz, and they had very cheap drinks, and a pool table, they also had loads of board games. It was a really great place to hang out and just relax with my friends. So, accommodation after the first year. You can apply to stay in student halls, but

most students move out with their friends and live in privately rented accommodation. They usually go to areas such as Fallowfield, Withington or Didsbury, and the rent varies according to the quality and location. It's also worth noting that Manchester Student Homes offers free impartial advice. So things like contract checking, mediation and a list of approved landlords. They work with all universities in Manchester to make sure that students are being looked after when they go and choose private accommodation. Finally, I want to talk about the city of Manchester itself. So, Manchester is home to so many fantastic things. I've lived there over 20 years of my life and I know lots about the university. So as I mentioned, we have Manchester Museum, we also have a Science and Industry Museum, and The Imperial War Museum. We have lots of green spaces in amongst the buildings. So like Heaton Park, it's a fantastic place, that's usually where Parklife is held. Piccadilly Gardens - we tend to sit out there in the summer, when it is sunny. There's a mix of old and new architecture and there's many theatres and concert venues. If you know anything about Manchester, then you'll know that music is huge here. So we have things like Albert Hall, you obviously have Manchester Academy, which is located in the SU and on the Manchester campus. You have lots of shops to go to and Manchester is well known for being quite quirky and eclectic. We have places like a Afflecks Palace, which has lots of different alternative independent stores, and we have many events like Manchester Pride,

Oktoberfest, the Christmas markets, Manchester International Festival, which I loved - it's a mixture of music, arts, and literature. We have many sports venues. I don't know if any of you would be into snowboarding or skiing. We have the Chill Factor which has a slope in it. And we're under, well roughly, 40 minutes away from the Peak District. I think it's also worth emphasizing that Manchester has fantastic transport links. So we have Oxford Road, it's one of the busiest bus corridors in Europe, and they offer a student pass for the year, which is roughly £250; so it's actually really cheap, especially if you're traveling to and from University or you've got a part-time job. We have the Metrolink which goes not just within Manchester, but also out to Greater Manchester surrounding areas, and we're a bike-friendly city with tonnes of cycle paths. I want to make the point that the university is a Campus University, but we're actually located right next to the City Centre, so you get the best of both worlds and you can just walk, a short walk, to the City Centre from the University. So we have the opportunity to chat with a student through 'Unibuddy'. If you wanted to find out more about the student experience, or about the courses you're interested in, then it's worth looking at 'Unibuddy', so you can chat to someone. And finally, if you're interested in any more Manchester Live webinars, then we have many different types. We have some focusing on the student experience, a more detailed look at the accommodation that we offer here, as well as student finance and also UCAS applications, so you can just access it with that website there.