



BA Liberal Arts

Information for Applicants
2021-22



“Liberal Arts
are about the
training and
development
of free and
active citizens.”



WHAT ARE LIBERAL ARTS?

Liberal Arts are among the earliest intellectual pursuits, and they are associated with the training, development, and empowerment of **free and active citizens**.

A BA in Liberal Arts at The University of Manchester will allow you, through a number of bespoke modules (p.8) and a wide range of optional courses (p.10), to recognise and respond to **local and global challenges**, as well as to understand and explore key concepts—such as **humanness, morality, value, and truth**—that underwrite what it is to be a free, active, and engaged citizen in the world today.

Core Liberal Arts modules—which cover topics including the history of humanities, rhetoric, ethics, and social responsibility—deliver these aims through a combination of lectures, seminars, tutorials, and research workshops that introduce **challenge-led learning** and **interdisciplinary research methods and theories**. Teaching is enhanced by links to **cultural institutions** such as the John Rylands Library, the Manchester Museum, and the Museum of Medicine and Health, where ideas from the arts and humanities are presented to a range of academic and non-academic audiences.

By the end of your programme, you'll have used your skills to develop your own research that **engages communities** by working with non-academic institutions and organisations in Manchester. This opportunity, delivered in association with **Creative Manchester** (p.15), will be supported by an academic mentor and a suite of training sessions.

In addition to bespoke interdisciplinary Liberal Arts modules, the Liberal Arts degree programme lets you tailor your interests with more **choice and flexibility** than any other degree programme. You'll have an Academic Advisor who will help you to select the modules that will enable you to respond to key issues that affect the flourishing of free and active citizens. These issues range from equality to diversity, from health to wealth, and from AI to climate change, and many more.

You'll also have additional opportunities to supplement this knowledge by optionally taking a **language** (p.12), specialising in a **Minor subject** (p.14), or distributing your studies across different interdisciplinary **Thematic Clusters** (p.10).

Your Liberal Arts degree is yours to make what you want of it, and your lecturers and advisers are on hand to help you to get the most out of it.

The Liberal Arts programme here at Manchester is designed to empower you to develop **independent, interdisciplinary, and impactful** research. It helps you to map out broad fields of intellectual enquiry and to think critically about links between knowledge and societies. It balances between breadth and depth and gives you the scope to pursue your passions and interests and to make a difference in the world. It's a programme like no other, and we look forward to welcoming you to it and to the amazing city of Manchester, and to working with you to develop your ideas.



THE MANCHESTER EXPERIENCE

"This is Manchester, we do things differently here." —Tony Wilson

Manchester—both the University and the city—is a fantastic place for studying Liberal Arts. You'll be studying in one of the world's first industrial cities, a place with a history of pioneering innovations, now renowned for its creative culture and cultural diversity.

During your time at Manchester, you'll be able to make the most of what the city has to offer socially, culturally, and intellectually. On the Liberal Arts programme, you'll be trained to think about the city as a '**laboratory**' for interdisciplinary, challenge-led research (p.9), and you'll investigate and cultivate relationships between knowledge and society, through relationships between the University and wider communities.

The University of Manchester has set a precedent for championing **social responsibility** alongside world-class teaching and research. It's been recognised as one of the best places in Europe for social responsibility and societal impact* as a result of programmes like Making a Difference, Digital Futures, and Stellify.** In a nutshell, Stellify takes you beyond the core parts of your degree by encouraging you to undertake **leadership and volunteering** roles, and to reflect further on **ethical grand challenges** that you'll encounter in your studies, such as sustainability, social justice, and workplace ethics. You'll have chance to engage with these and other social responsibility schemes during your degree programme, as well as having other opportunities to get involved with one of our many **student societies**.

The University has also been declared the #1 in the UK for **graduate employability**,† and in addition to the employability skills that you'll receive as part-and-parcel of your programme, many of which link to the experience you'll have with civic engagement and challenge-led learning, you'll also be able to take advantage of our Careers Service,‡ as well as opportunities for work placements and volunteering.

* Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings, 2020 (#8 globally, #2 in Europe, #1 in UK)

** For more information on Stellify, visit www.stellify.manchester.ac.uk/

† The Times and Sunday Times, 2020

‡ For more information on the University Careers Service, visit www.manchester.ac.uk/careers



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Each year of the Liberal Arts programme combines some core modules, which are designed to give you the foundations for interdisciplinary study and the skills to develop world-facing research, with optional modules, that let you **pursue your interests**.

Your first year introduces you to some of the **big ideas** that have impacted the **landscape of knowledge** across the arts, humanities, and the sciences. You'll be familiarised with some of the methods and challenges of interdisciplinary research, and you'll have chance to take modules from a range of disciplines, or to specialise in an arts-based subject.

YEAR 1		
Intellectual foundations		
Core modules (50 credits)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History of Humanities: The Past, Present and Future of Ideas that Shape the World Research Methods in the Arts Standing on the Shoulders of Giants: Foundations for Study in the Arts 	20 10 20
Issues and interests (30 credits)	<u>EITHER</u> one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Language, Mind and Brain Being Human[e] Science and the Modern World Truth & Truth Telling Digital Cultures 	20 20 20 20 20
	<u>OR</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 credits from Thematic Clusters* 	20
	<u>EITHER</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 credits from Skills Clusters** 	10
	<u>OR</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 credits from Thematic Clusters* 	10
Minors and clusters (40 credits)	<u>EITHER</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor subject (via Flexible Honours)† 	40
	<u>OR</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 credits from Thematic Clusters* 	40

* See p.10 for more information on Thematic Clusters

** See p.12 for more information on Skills Clusters

† See p.14 for more information on Minor subjects and Flexible Honours

You'll see that the Liberal Arts programme is designed to offer you both **structure and flexibility**. Beyond the core modules, there are modules (including skills modules) that are recommended for you to take under 'Issues and Interests'; these will help you to develop your understanding of key concepts and interdisciplinary learning. There is also scope, though, to take additional modules from the Thematic Clusters in place of these recommended modules, following consultation with your Academic Advisor.

Your second year builds on the skills and knowledge from Year 1 of the programme by focusing more on the **communication of ideas** across different academic and non-academic communities. You'll be able to continue to develop your skills and knowledge according to your interests.

YEAR 2

Communication and creativity

Core modules (40 credits)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding Rhetoric: The Arts of Persuasion Arts and the City: People, Power and Protest 	20 20
Issues and interests (40 credits) (N.B. Modules may be subject to change depending on staffing and availability)	<p><u>EITHER</u> one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Problems in Theology, Philosophy and Ethics: Evil World Philosophies: Ethics and Ideas in the History of Thought Finding Happiness in the Ancient World International Modernisms Expressions of Creativity <p><u>OR</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 credits from Thematic Clusters 	20 20 20 20 20 20
	<p>Any combination of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 credits from Skills Clusters Up to 20 credits from Thematic Clusters 	10 < 20
Minors and clusters (40 credits)	<p><u>EITHER</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuation of Minor subject (via Flexible Honours) <p><u>OR</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 credits from Thematic Clusters 	40 40

Similarly to your first year of study, you'll be supported by your Academic Advisor to tailor a mix of core modules (with **options to specialise your interests** within these, see pp.8-9), recommended modules (including skills modules, see p.12), an open-ended list of modules via the Thematic Clusters (see p.10), and the option to continue with a Minor subject if you started one in your first year (see p.14).

Your final year of the programme allows you to acquire further skills and knowledge, while also supporting you to put it all into practice by developing world-facing **research that engages with Greater Manchester communities**. The final year of the programme gives you the most flexibility to pick the modules and topics that matter to you, and you have further opportunities to experience being an **independent researcher**.

YEAR 3/4

Engagement and impact

Core modules (30 credits)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creative Manchester: Engagement Project Reflections on Liberal Arts 	20 10
Issues and interests (50 credits)	<p>Any combination of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent Research Project Up to 20 credits from Skills Clusters Up to 50 credits from Thematic Clusters 	20 < 20 < 50
Minors and clusters (40 credits)	<p><u>EITHER</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of Minor subject (via Flexible Honours) <p><u>OR</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 credits from Thematic Clusters 	40 40

CORE MODULES

YEAR 1



History of Humanities: The Past, Present and Future of Ideas that Shape the World

This module will give you a whistle-stop tour of some of the biggest ideas that have emerged from the humanities since classical times right through to very recent developments. It will help you to ask questions about what defines the 'humanities', what their role and value is in different contexts, and whether we're currently experiencing any kind of "crisis" in the humanities. This module provides an important starting point for interdisciplinary and wide-reaching Liberal Arts study that recognises the importance of academic and social contexts.



Research Methods in the Arts

Alongside the different theories, contexts, and ideas that you'll encounter in the History of Humanities, this module provides more detail and discussion of the methodologies and approaches that have come to define the arts and humanities. There will be an emphasis in this module on asking critical questions of different methods, as well as how to start thinking about methods in developing your own research.



Standing on the Shoulders of Giants: Foundations for Study in the Arts

What makes a key theorist or 'giant' in a field or discipline? This module will help you to reflect on that question and what it reveals about the wider politics of knowledge, by introducing you to some of the biggest names in intellectual—as well as cultural—history. You'll come across people you've maybe heard of, like Plato and Darwin, alongside others that you may be unfamiliar with, like Fanon and Kabir. You'll be guided to ask why we've heard of some theorists and not others.

YEAR 2



Understanding Rhetoric: The Arts of Persuasion

In nearly all aspects of society—from politics to propaganda, from advertising to activism, and from the media to social media—we find attempts at persuasion. Rhetoric is the ancient art of persuasive speech and writing, and in this module, we explore what makes for successful persuasion by combining research across the arts and sciences. You'll also have chance to hone your own rhetorical skills by participating in debates and reflecting on what techniques are effective and why. In addition to core ideas about rhetoric, the module features elective units that let you take a deeper dive into applications of rhetoric, exploring topics like the appeal of cults and conspiracy theories, the spread of fake news and the role of artificial intelligence, and the communication of science and statistics in the media.

YEAR 2



Arts and the City: People, Power, and Protest

Manchester is a culturally significant global city that has historically been at the cusp of pioneering new developments in industry, science, computing, and the arts. By using Manchester as a case study and 'laboratory' for Liberal Arts, this module teaches you about some of the challenges that face the contemporary city and its diverse communities, as well as some of the ways that local research is working to tackle some of those challenges and engage with communities.



Expressions of Creativity

Creativity and self-expression are commonly associated with artists and the arts, but they are a fundamental part of our societies, informing the ways that we make sense of the world. In this module, we'll focus on creativity as a key skill, as an invaluable commodity, and as a cultural activity. You'll have a chance to experience different ways of expressing creativity, in writing, film, and other media. The emphasis will be on how to develop your own creativity, how to think about creativity as a collaborative process, and how to tap into the power of creativity in a range of contexts.

This flagship module is developed in conjunction with UCIL (see p.13) and Creative Manchester (see p.15) and can be taken as a shorter skills-focused module, or a longer module that lets you delve deeper into expressions of creativity.

YEAR 3/4



Creative Manchester: Engagement Project

This flagship module on the Liberal Arts programme supports you to work with local organisations in order to develop your own piece of world-facing, interdisciplinary research. You'll learn important research and communication skills as you write a proposal, conduct research, and present your findings to academic and non-academic audiences.



Reflections on Liberal Arts

By the end of your Liberal Arts degree, you'll have taken a diverse set of modules, found your passions and interests, and worked with local organisations and communities to develop world-facing research with impact. This module helps you to pull these ideas together by reflecting on what you have learnt throughout your Liberal Arts degree, and you'll also be trained to share these ideas with other students. All of this can be beneficial for thinking about the knowledge and skills you have gained throughout your programme and how this can prepare you for future careers and pursuits.

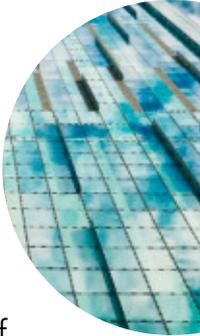
THEMATIC CLUSTERS

A Liberal Arts degree gives you more **choice** than any other undergraduate programme. To help you to navigate all the options that enable you to pursue your interests from a range of disciplinary perspectives, modules from across the University are organised into a series of Thematic Clusters.



There are three branches of Thematic Clusters: **Foundations**, **Topics**, and **Skills**.

- **Foundations** cover key ideas and approaches that can help you to make sense of different perspectives, and they build on the teaching you'll have in your core modules.
- **Topics** let you delve into different disciplinary explorations of issues, and can help you to make sense of the challenges that we face in our world today.
- **Skills** focus on developing your entrepreneurial and interpersonal skillset, which can give your employability profile an added boost on top of the skills that you'll get in your core and elective modules.



FOUNDATIONS



Ethics and theory

These modules attend to broad and abstract questions about who we are, and what is right and good and beautiful and true. What key theorists and ideas have impacted our ideas about morality and ethics? They also introduce some of the foundational principles in fields from the social sciences to the physical sciences, as well as the arts.



Methods and approaches

Methods are the cornerstone of research, and these modules give you an opportunity to consider different types of methods from different fields—from social and linguistic to archaeological and digital research—that you can use in your independent work. Depending on your research interests and styles, you can tailor your methodological expertise beyond that from your core modules by selecting from this Cluster.

TOPICS



Bodies and beliefs

Modules in this Cluster help you to explore individuals and their ideas, including religious and humanitarian beliefs. The Cluster also includes modules which raise questions about life and death, health and personal wellbeing, and gendered and sexualised bodies.

TOPICS



People and places

Modules in this Cluster explore people in the context of communities and places. These typically relate to nations and countries, allowing you to explore the dynamism of different global and historical cultures, as well as their internal and external interactions and issues. How are identities linked to different places, and how do they change over time?



Governance and societies

More social and political in scope and focus, the modules in this Cluster allow you to explore and critique larger-scale principles of organisation, including legal and judicial systems, military actions that ensue from political decisions, and businesses and their impacts on economies. How are groups of people and societies organised and managed, and what are the controversies and tensions in such governance processes?



Texts and contexts

Taking 'texts' in the broadest sense, this Cluster allows you to analyse literature, artworks, and film across various contexts by examining questions about their authorship, composition, and reception. You'll be able to investigate the role that various different texts have played in responding to, as well as shaping cultural trends.



Communication and culture

Communication is crucial to our experience of the world and our participation in it, and so the modules in this Cluster help you to think about the role that language and the media, including new media and the internet, play in shaping and reshaping different notions of culture. These modules build on the emphasis placed across the Liberal Arts programme on the communication of ideas in different contexts.



Ecology and environment

Climate change is arguably one of the most pressing issues of our time, and it presents us with a need to examine and reflect on our attitudes to the broader nonhuman environment. The modules in this Cluster help you to reflect on interdisciplinary approaches to 'nature' and our relationships with it, raising matters of sustainability, development, and responses to natural disasters and processes.

For more information about Liberal Arts modules,
including Thematic Clusters, visit:

http://bit.ly/UoM_LibArts

SKILLS



Leadership and engagement

These modules are focused on developing your enterprising and entrepreneurial skills, which are particularly important in the world of business but also have wider reach across a range of career pathways. You'll be able to reflect on what makes a good leader and develop your skillset in order to work effectively with others in a range of situations.



Creativity and innovation

Creativity is crucial in many aspects of life, from research and study to the arts, business, and politics. In addition to the core modules on the Liberal Arts programme that help you to think about creativity, the modules in this cluster help you to develop your creative skillset and your ability to innovate and engage others. These entrepreneurial skills have importance not only in the worlds of business and the arts, but across a whole range of disciplines and careers in between and beyond.



Languages

You can broaden your horizons even further while studying Liberal Arts by taking a language. There are many ways to do so: you can take a language as part of your programme, or you can study a language in addition to your degree programme for a subsidised rate. Languages are offered at a range of levels depending on your ability and prior experience.

For more information, see www.languagecentre.manchester.ac.uk.

Please note that module availability in the Thematic Clusters is subject to availability and may be revised annually. Your Academic Advisor will help you to identify suitable modules that meet your interests.

"Today's graduate employers are seeking to recruit students who can evidence a range of transferable skills such as first communication, adaptability flexibility, higher level thinking, reasoning and the ability to respond positively to feedback. A Liberal Arts degree will equip students with these skills, and many more"

—Louise Sethi,
Careers Consultant

"Studying at university can and should be a unique and 'transformational' experience. It should challenge your principles, take you outside your comfort zone, broaden your horizons and deepen your awareness, give you opportunities to new experiences - often abroad - and even expose you to some shocking realities through volunteering in areas that you may never know. Employers repeatedly tell us want graduates equipped with more good degree result; and society engaged, informed and questioning citizens."

—Dame Nancy Rothwell,
President and Vice-Chancellor

UCIL

UCIL, the University College for Interdisciplinary Learning, is your key to access a range of ideas and skills from across the University. Beyond modules in arts, humanities, and social sciences that you can take as part of your Liberal Arts programme, special UCIL modules are designed by experts in a range of fields to introduce you to new concepts and **interdisciplinary topics**, from AI to aliens, and from mental health to equality, diversity, and inclusion.

UCIL modules are open to any undergraduate student from anywhere in the University, with **no prior knowledge or experience needed** in any discipline or topic. This means that, on UCIL modules, you'll be able to **work with students from a range of programmes**. This will develop your knowledge and your ability to communicate with a range of audiences.

"[My UCIL unit] allows me to learn things I would never have otherwise covered in my degree. It gives an important insight into global issues. It teaches valuable information that I will use for the rest of my life. It gives me a chance to work with different kinds of people from all over the University"

—UCIL student

Example UCIL modules include:

- AI: Robot Overlord, Replacement, or Colleague?
- Climate Change and Society
- Creating a Sustainable World: 21st Century Challenges and the Sustainable Development Goals
- Current Topics in Biology
- Digital Society: Your Place in a Networked World
- From Cholera to Covid-19: A Global History of Pandemics
- Entrepreneur: Innovator and Risk-Taker
- Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion: Your Role in Shaping a Fairer World
- From Antarctica to Outer Space: Surviving and Thriving in Extremes
- From Frankenstein to The Matrix: Science Fiction and Film
- Madness and Society in the Modern Age
- The Global Journey Towards Health for All: Health, Development, and People
- The Nuclear Age: Global Nuclear Threats from Hiroshima to Today
- Trust and Security in a Digital World: From Fake News to Cybercriminals
- Understanding Mental Health



UCIL modules can complement your Liberal Arts degree by allowing you to see first-hand some of the connections that can be made between ideas from across the arts and sciences. Taking UCIL modules as part of your programme will enable you to engage with the kinds of interdisciplinarity that you learn about and experience in Liberal Arts core modules. Familiarity with ideas from a range of fields and disciplines across the arts and sciences is also **valued by employers**, as this can often be a platform for **innovative thinking**.

UCIL
University College for
Interdisciplinary Learning

For more information on UCIL, visit the website:
www.college.manchester.ac.uk

FLEXIBLE HONOURS

Liberal Arts is a radically interdisciplinary degree programme. If you would also like to **specialise** in a subject during your studies, which is completely **optional**, Flexible Honours lets you do that.

You can pick a Minor subject before you arrive at Manchester, or during Welcome Week. If you choose to follow your Minor subject pathway throughout your programme, you'll have the option to graduate with a Minor represented in your degree title. You can also choose to drop a Minor in any year of study, and on the Liberal Arts programme this will mean you'll take additional modules from the Thematic Clusters (see p.10).

Your Academic Advisor will be able to **help you to decide** whether a Minor subject is a good fit for your interests and the outcomes that you seek from your Liberal Arts degree. While it is not possible to pick up a Minor in your second or final year of study, you may still be able to take modules from different Minor subjects through the Thematic Clusters (subject to eligibility and timetabling).

Examples of minor subjects that you can take as part of your Liberal Arts degree (subject to timetabling restrictions and academic approval) (for full list visit Flexible Honours website):

Ancient History	Film Studies	Italian
Archaeology	French	Japanese
Chinese	German	Jewish and Israel Studies
Classical Literature	History of Art	Linguistics
Digital Humanities	History of Science, Technology & Medicine	Middle Eastern Studies
Drama	International Disaster Management and Humanitarian Response	Russian
East Asian Studies		Spanish
Egyptology		Theology

"It's a great way to branch out and explore something completely different and new"

"Flexible Honours provides more opportunities to learn a language properly, and this further helps some parts of study in the Major subject"

"What I have learnt in my Minor subject has greatly inspired me and helped me to think more creatively in my Major subject"

"Very fulfilling"

FLEXIBLE HONOURS

For more information on Flexible Honours, visit the website:
www.alc.manchester.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/flexible-honours

CREATIVE MANCHESTER

Creative Manchester is a research platform based in the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures (SALC) at The University of Manchester. It connects researchers in the University with partners, which include **cultural institutions**, and **external organisations** that form the local and national creative and cultural economy.

Manchester has the country's fastest-growing creative economy outside of London: in 2017 it became a UNESCO City of Literature; it's home to MediaCityUK, "an international hub for technology, innovation, and creativity"* and where the BBC and ITV have their regional headquarters; and it has annual festivals that celebrate its diverse culture, including the Manchester Literature Festival, the Manchester Histories Festival, and the renowned Manchester International Festival (MIF). Creative Manchester forges a strategic link between The University of Manchester and **creative industries**, as well as **communities**, across the city and beyond.

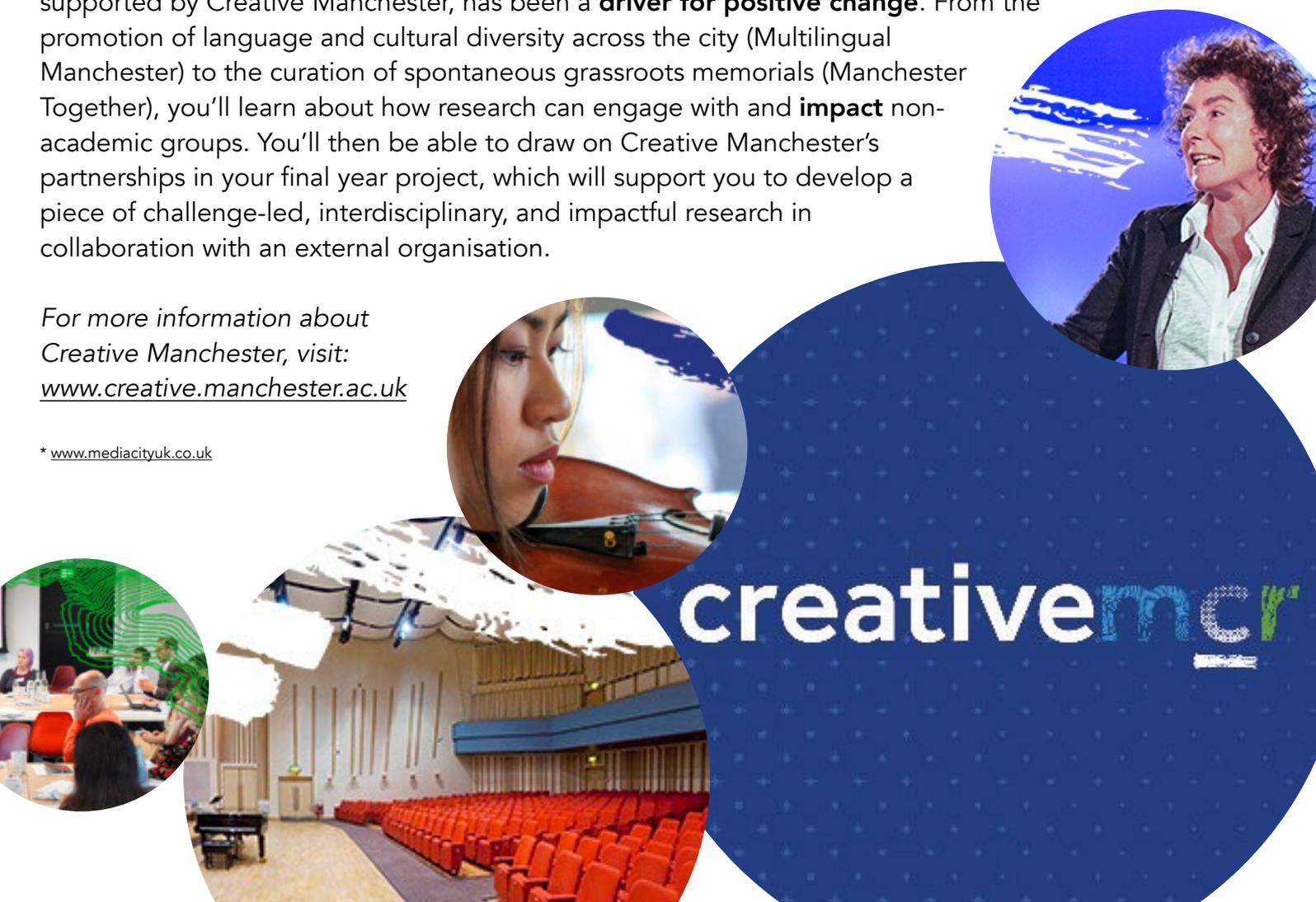
Creative Manchester supports local communities by hosting events from poetry readings to workshops, as well running competitions for schools and colleges, all of which is designed to celebrate the role of **creativity and culture** in people's everyday lives.

Creative Manchester also host events led by internationally renowned '**iconic**' performers and writers, who are ambassadors of creativity and culture, to engage students and public audiences. These individuals, who are affiliated with the University, include people like Jeanette Winterson (pictured, below), Michael Wood, David Olusoga, Maxine Peake, and Sir Peter Bazalgette, among others.

In your Liberal Arts programme, you'll be able to explore how research from SALC, which is supported by Creative Manchester, has been a **driver for positive change**. From the promotion of language and cultural diversity across the city (Multilingual Manchester) to the curation of spontaneous grassroots memorials (Manchester Together), you'll learn about how research can engage with and **impact** non-academic groups. You'll then be able to draw on Creative Manchester's partnerships in your final year project, which will support you to develop a piece of challenge-led, interdisciplinary, and impactful research in collaboration with an external organisation.

For more information about Creative Manchester, visit: www.creative.manchester.ac.uk

* www.mediacityuk.co.uk



STUDYING ABROAD

(BA LIBERAL ARTS WITH INTERNATIONAL STUDY)

A year abroad as part of your Liberal Arts degree can help you to further develop your understanding of **cultural diversity** and **global challenges**. You'll be able to learn different approaches to civic engagement and social responsibility, as well as to interdisciplinary teaching and research. As you bring these insights and experiences back to Manchester in your final year of study, you'll be able to apply them to your own challenge-led research and to draw further connections across your Liberal Arts programme.

We have partnerships with many other leading universities worldwide, which means that we are able to offer a range of international study placements, from Montreal to Melbourne, Seoul to Singapore, or Vancouver to Vermont. You'll receive support from the International Programmes Office and from your Academic Advisor while abroad, to help you get the most out of your placement.

How do I apply?

If you're interested in the Study Abroad scheme, you'll be invited to find out more and to submit an application in the first semester of your second year of study. Eligible candidates will need to maintain an average grade of at least 60% in their first and second year. The International Study programme is competitive and places are given to a limited number of applicants based on their academic merit and the strength of their application.

WORK PLACEMENTS

(BA LIBERAL ARTS WITH PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE)

In addition to collaborating with non-academic partners as part of your Liberal Arts programme (specifically in the final year Creative Manchester module), work placements enable you to spend a longer amount of time applying your academic skills and knowledge to **real-world industries and challenges**. Work placements, which might be within the UK or overseas, can be a great addition to your Liberal Arts programme, giving you further opportunities to develop your understanding of civic engagement and impact, as well as your CV, by helping you to build your industry contacts and your confidence.

While on your placement year, you'll be supported via the Placement Resource Hub, the Placements Office, and your Academic Advisor. Your placement year will be assessed as pass or fail on the basis of a satisfactory reference from your employer and submission of a personal reflective log.

How do I apply?

If you're interested in the Work Placement scheme, you'll be invited to find out more and to register your interest during your second year of study. Eligible candidates will need a minimum grad of 55% in their first year, as well as an academic reference and evidence of good academic engagement. You'll then receive support in sourcing a placement (or placements) that works best for you, as well as throughout the interview process.

In addition to the opportunities that you'll have on the 3-year BA Liberal Arts, there are also options for you to convert your undergraduate programme into a **4-year programme** that includes either a year abroad or a work placement in your third year.



For more information on these study routes, visit:

www.goabroad.manchester.ac.uk

www.manchester.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/expanding-study/study-abroad/

www.alc.manchester.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/work-placements/

CAMPUS LIFE

Manchester is a **city university** with a campus based along Oxford Road, one of the main roads that stretches from the City Centre towards Fallowfield, which is a popular area with students and the site of many of our Halls of Residence (in addition to University-owned Halls in Victoria Park and the City Centre).

All first-year students are guaranteed University-owned accommodation,* and we've got **options** whatever your preferences; so whether you want on-site catering or not, or whether you want a room with an ensuite or not, we've got you covered.

Wherever you live during your studies, you're never far from campus and all that it has to offer. One of Europe's best-served bus routes provides **quick and easy access** to places like the Manchester Museum; the award-winning Whitworth Art Gallery; and the Contact Theatre, all of which are based in the **heart of our main campus** and that you have opportunities to link with as part of your Liberal Arts programme.

There's also the Alan Gilbert Learning Commons that are typically open 24/7 year-round for students; the University Library with an extensive set of collections you can use throughout your studies; and **facilities** like the Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama, all on campus.

And, for when you need to **unwind** from your studies, there's also the Students' Union and its range of bars and eateries; the Marketplace in University Place; Manchester Academy, which is renowned for its music gigs and events; and plenty of bars, coffee shops, and restaurants—including the new University Green—to keep you fuelled.

The campus is also just a short bus ride from the City Centre, which has **cultural institutions** like the John Rylands Library, where the world's oldest New Testament Bible fragment is housed; Manchester Art Gallery with a vast collection of Victorian works among others; and the Science and Industry Museum, built on the site of the world's first passenger railway station. The city is also **well-connected** to MediaCity (Salford), SportCity (New Islington), EventCity (Trafford), and to other towns and cities in the UK and globally through its train stations and international airport.



Left: Unsworth Park, the University's flagship student accommodation based in Fallowfield

*See our Accommodation website for more details:
www.accommodation.manchester.ac.uk

TEACHING AND LEARNING

On your Liberal Arts programme, you'll benefit from a range of teaching and assessment styles. You'll be challenged to explore new things and to learn in new ways; this is designed to help you to develop your academic and employable skills, and to train you to identify global challenges, to critically engage with interdisciplinary ideas, and to communicate with different audiences as part of your degree programme.

How will I be taught?

Lectures		
	A lecturer will disseminate information about a specific topic, which is designed to provide a <u>starting point</u> for your own further reading and reflection. Most lectures include time for discussions and activities to facilitate engagement with the topic.	
	Online lectures and learning modules	
	Whereas a standard lecture takes place at a set time, online lectures can be split into different learning content, including videos, quizzes, discussion boards, and other media that you can work through at your own pace. During the pandemic, students have appreciated the <u>flexibility</u> of online lectures and so, for a small number of courses, we will continue to offer online modules that make effective use of eLearning technologies.	
Seminars		
	A tutor leads a <u>discussion</u> with a smaller group of students than a lecture. Typically, the discussion focuses on a set reading (i.e. a book chapter) that expands on ideas covered in the corresponding lecture, and you have chance to learn from your peers.	
	Workshops	
	Similar to a seminar, workshops facilitate <u>active learning</u> , but unlike a seminar, workshops tend to be more open-ended and focused on exploring and developing your own ideas and different methodologies and lines of enquiry.	
Tutorials		
	When undertaking your own research, your tutors will be able to offer <u>tailored support</u> and advice on your ideas. These tutorials may be optional or a core part of your course.	

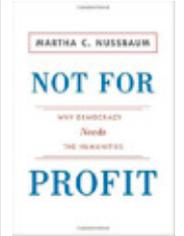
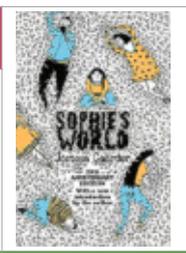
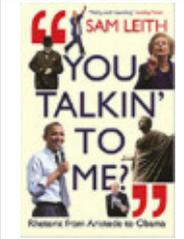
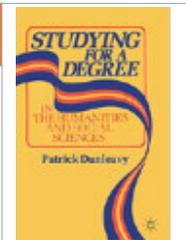
How will I be assessed?

Depending on the modules that you take throughout your programme, you will be asked to complete a **range of different assessments**. In addition to independently researched essays, which are a fundamental part of scholarship, you'll work independently and in groups to participate in debates, write reports, prepare presentations (sometimes using just images), design posters for non-academic audiences, and plan your own research projects. You'll receive training and support to help you to develop the relevant skills for these assessments throughout your degree programme.

These diverse assessment activities are important to help you to think about the **links between theory and practice** in your own life and in others'. The Liberal Arts programme places a strong emphasis on the impact of ideas and for different audiences, and in your modules you'll hone the necessary skills of **communication** and **reflection** in order to understand and develop such challenge-driven research.

SUGGESTED READINGS

The BA Liberal Arts programme at Manchester is **yours to make what you want of it**. It's designed to help you to realise your passions, to challenge you, and to inspire you and help you to develop research that impacts local communities. All of the knowledge, skills, and support that you need to succeed will be provided to you throughout your programme. If you want to prepare yourself with some preliminary reading before you arrive in Manchester, though, here's a list of recommendations to get you started.

	Martha Nussbaum, <i>Not For Profit: Why Democracy Needs the Humanities</i>
Nussbaum's book makes a passionate defence of the humanities against what she sees as the 'shortsighted focus on profitable skills' in societies. The debates that Nussbaum engages with are explored and critiqued in the <i>History of Humanities</i> core module, as we probe into the role and value of the humanities in our contemporary context, as well as historically.	
Jostein Gaarder, <i>Sophie's World</i>	
This imaginative novel from Gaarder sees Sophie, a 14-year-old girl, encounter a mysterious mentor who introduces her to philosophy through 'giants' in the history of philosophy, some of whom you will meet in the first-year core module <i>Standing on the Shoulders of Giants</i> . The questions that confront Sophie resonate with questions that are at the heart of the liberal arts.	
	
	Sam Leith, <i>You Talkin' to Me? Rhetoric from Aristotle to Obama</i>
Leith's text provides an accessible way of thinking about <u>Rhetoric</u> , which is the subject of the second-year core module on the Liberal Arts programme. Leith uncovers the power of persuasion not only in political speeches, but in everyday parlance, which makes for a good starting-point to consider the myriad of ways rhetoric can be used - as well as abused.	
Patrick Dunleavy, <i>Studying for a Degree in the Humanities and Social Sciences</i>	
There's lots of books available that familiarise you with <u>key study skills</u> , some even tailored for interdisciplinary degrees such as Liberal Arts. Dunleavy's book, though, is well-written and accessible, and it helps you to think about how to research and write, all the while developing your own ideas and arguments and keeping in mind your future career plans.	
	

And finally, given the **flexibility** of the Liberal Arts programme and its ability to be tailored around the topics you want to study, it's a good idea to keep reading **books and essays** that pique your interests. Whether you're interested in AI, climate change, inequalities, migration, classical texts, multiculturalism, secularisation, or anything else, there's lots of **think-pieces available online**, from sources like newspaper websites, *The Conversation*, *TED.com*, *Medium*, and others. The *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* is also an excellent resource for getting to grips with key thinkers and big ideas from the philosophical canon.

Elsewhere online, Twitter is a good place to find links to sources that might be of interest (and we also tweet a few such links from [@UoM_LibArts!](#)). Even via Wikipedia, by exploring the references list, you can find links to useful sources to get you started on your research journey.

If you want to discuss your interests and how the options and opportunities on our Liberal Arts programme can enable you to pursue them further, and to help you to decide if Manchester is the right place for your studies, you can get in touch with us to ask any questions you have or to arrange an additional consultation with the Admissions Tutor. Just drop us an email: ug-libarts@manchester.ac.uk

We look forward to welcoming you to Manchester!



http://bit.ly/UoM_LibArts
www.alc.manchester.ac.uk/about/subjects/liberal-arts