

Schools and Colleges Forum – HE Update – July 2021

Bernard Strutt

Head of UK Student Recruitment

Directorate for the Student Experience

Arrangements for Results Confirmation and Clearing

- Internal & external context
- UoM admissions position
- UoM confirmation strategy and implications for applicants
- Widening participation – objectives and approach
- Operational arrangements

Internal & External Context

- Firmer basis for planning, provided no last minute shifts in government policy.
- Managing implications of over-recruitment against target last year and continuing to juggle staff resource and physical capacity constraints.
- Competition for places this year will be further heightened by:
 - Growth in applications for undergraduate courses
 - Expectations regarding grade inflation potentially beyond the level witnessed last year
 - A continued paucity of gap year options reducing the likelihood of deferral
- Challenge in forecasting number of students who might successfully appeal or meet offer conditions through the Autumn exam period.
- Uncertainty re format of next academic year – planning socially and non-socially distanced timetables and remote study options.

UoM Admissions Position

- Overall applications for undergraduate study have increased 11% relative to last year.
 - Applications from home UK-domiciled students have increased by 6%
 - Applications from international students increased by 38%
- Proportion of students accepting Manchester as firm choice consistent with previous years.

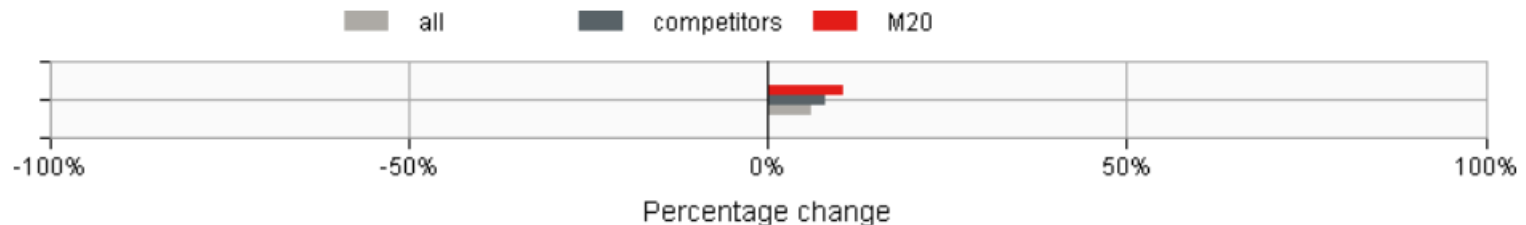


Table 1: % change to national and competitor UCAS applications entry 2021

Confirmation Strategy

- All students meeting the conditions of their offer will be accepted.
- Absence of Student Number Controls gives us flexibility to admit students who have narrowly missed entry requirements in a small number of discipline areas.
- Will be flexible where possible but need to mitigate risks of over-recruitment on the staff and student experience.
- We will seek to maximise our recruitment of WP students given the disadvantages many have faced throughout the pandemic.
- We expect to make targeted use of Clearing.

Widening Participation

- We will look to prioritise WP students in our confirmation decision processes .
- The impact of calculated grades on WP students' acceptances will be monitored
- Courses in Clearing will have a contextual offer -typically one grade lower, which will be published alongside our clearing offer for home students
- Designated staff will be on hand to speak to students participating in our Access programmes

Schools and Colleges Forum – Confirmation and Clearing Update – July 2021

Louise Hussain

Student Admissions Officer

Process of confirmation

- The majority of students will have a decision processed by 8.30am on Tuesday 10th August
- Students just need to log on to Track – there is no need to call us in the first instance
- Possible outcomes:
 - **UF** – their place is confirmed and we'll be in touch
 - **Unconditional Change Course Offer** – we haven't been able to accept them on their chosen course but can on an alternative. Students can accept/decline this via Track or call us for further details.
 - **Rejection** – we have not been able to accept the student. They should check their insurance offer (if they have one) and then clearing listings.
 - **No change** – they should contact us for an update and have their results to hand.

Clearing

- We are operating a hotline as normal and intend for this to be on campus.
- A central hotline acts as a triage and passes eligible callers through to School admissions teams.
- Students should be directed to our clearing webpage www.manchester.ac.uk/clearing - this has real-time vacancies so it is important students check this just before calling.
- We can only discuss places with students who have collected/received their results.
- Applicants will be advised if they need to refer themselves by a specific deadline. Their oral offer will also be confirmed by email.

Hotline Opening Hours

Tuesday 10 th August	08:30-17:00
Wednesday 11 th August	09:00-17:00
Thursday 12 th August	09:00-17:00
Friday 13 th August	09:00-17:00
Monday 16 th August onwards	No central hotline, applicants to contact Schools directly

The Teachers and Advisers and Widening Access hotline are only in operation on Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th August. After this period please direct enquiries to the confirmation or clearing hotline.



Telephone Numbers

Confirmation Line	0161 804 0050
Clearing Line	0161 672 8770
Teachers and Advisers Line	0161 306 4013
Widening Access Line	0161 306 6505

Before calling, students should check they have:

- ✓ **Their exam results**
- ✓ **Their UCAS Personal ID**
- ✓ **The name and UCAS course code for the course they're interested in**



Appeals

- Students should consider carefully if appealing is the right choice for them and should be aware that on appeal, grades could go up, down or stay the same. The exam board's decision will be final so if their grade is lowered, they will not be able to revert back to the original grade they received on results day.
- If a UoM offer holder chooses to appeal, we are going to ask students to complete an online form to notify us of this. Once they have submitted the form they will receive an email confirmation that we have received this information. We will only take submission of the form as official notification that you are appealing so they do not need to contact us via phone or email to inform us of this.
- Once the student has received their appeal outcome, we ask them to notify the admissions team in the relevant Academic School as soon as possible.

Appeals

- We would expect to honour places where applicants meet the conditions of their offer by 8th September (with the exception of Medicine/Dentistry - 31 August)
- If the student receives an outcome after 8 September (or 31 August), they should contact the academic School as soon as possible to discuss their application. The School will decide, at their discretion, whether they are able to offer them a place for September 2021 as a result of their new mark(s). If we can't offer them a place for the year of entry that they applied for, we would probably make them a deferred offer for the following year's entry, or offer admission to another course.
- Please note that if we make a student an offer for deferred entry in the following year, they'll be required, prior to taking up their place, to re-take the medical fitness assessment and repeat the DBS check for courses, where these requirements apply.

Sitting exams in a future exam series

- Applicants who choose to sit examinations at a later date would be required to reapply in the 2022 cycle but would be guaranteed to receive an offer providing they hold a conditional firm or insurance offer holder with us this year (please see an exemption and specific guidance for Medicine and Dentistry).
- Guaranteed offers would only apply to the specific course for which an offer is held this cycle, for example if they are holding an offer for English Literature, their guarantee would only apply for English Literature next year.
- The guarantee would result in an offer at the 2022 entry requirements, though Schools may honour 2021 conditions at their discretion.
- Students would not be required to attend another interview or resit any aptitude tests, such as UCAT, but some students may be required to satisfy non-academic conditions such as a DBS check or a health screening. The results obtained from the future sitting would be classed as their first attempt as opposed to a resit.

Sitting exams in a future exam series – Medicine and Dentistry

We strongly encourage students to sit exams in the relevant subjects as soon as possible. Applicants holding a conditional firm offer are guaranteed to receive an offer for 2022 entry, provided they sit exams in the next available exam series. A new UCAT or interview will not be required in these circumstances. Although we would guarantee a place for September 2022 and waive the requirement to sit the UCAT and interview, the offer would be conditional on achieving our A-level grade requirement as listed below.

For Medicine applicants sitting autumn 2021 exams, the standard AAA requirement will be applied. Choosing to sit the summer 2022 exams would result in our resit grades of A*A*A to be applied.

For Dentistry, grades of A*AA will be applied for both the autumn 2021 and summer 2022 exam periods.

Sitting exams in a future exam series – Medicine and Dentistry

We will only permit applicants to sit one of these exam periods for an application to be considered. If an applicant fails to meet the required standard in the autumn exam period, the application will be rejected and they will have to reapply for 2023 entry. Standard entry criteria, including UCAT and A-level resit grades would apply.

Due to the cap on student numbers, this guarantee would apply to conditional firm applicants only and not extend to those holding a conditional insurance offer. If students have accepted us as their insurance choice and choose to sit exams in autumn, they should reapply and will be reassessed alongside the other 2022 cycle candidates and would be required to take a new UCAT exam.



Applicants and offer holders FAQs

We understand that the current coronavirus situation remains unsettling and uncertain for many students. We have produced a set of frequently asked questions for applicants and offer holders including information on applications, accommodation, fees and funding and teaching and learning.

We will continue to update these throughout the summer as more information is available and will always communicate with offer-holders directly with any important updates.

<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/coronavirus-applicants-update/>

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester

Contextual Admissions E2022



What is contextual admissions?

We know that context can have an impact on the grades achieved and opportunity to take up extra-curricular activities or work experience.

Contextual admissions means that we can take these things into account, alongside consideration of the UCAS application, which helps us to ensure everyone has a fair chance at getting into The University of Manchester.



Contextual admissions E2022

<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/contextual-admissions/admissions/>

Measures	Benefit*
Applicant has indicated on their UCAS form that they have been in care for more than three months or have refugee status	Contextual offer two grades below the standard offer.
Postcode measure + education indicator	Contextual offer one grade lower than the standard offer.
Postcode measure only	Additional consideration e.g. personal statement/interview/results

*Certain restrictions may apply

Contextual Data alongside other access initiatives



Your Path to The University of Manchester

We offer a range of access schemes aimed at talented students from backgrounds that are currently under represented in higher education.

HOW IT WORKS

MANCHESTER 1824
The University of Manchester

ACCESS MANCHESTER

★ YOUR PATH TO UNIVERSITY ★

Applicant information

BA Ancient History / Overview

Year of entry: 2022

View tabs

View full page

Overview

Entry requirements

Application and selection

Course details

Careers

Degree awarded:	Bachelor of Arts (BA)
Duration:	3 years
Typical A-level offer:	ABB
Typical contextual A-level offer:	BBB Find out more about contextual admissions .
Refugee/care-experienced offer:	Applicants who have been in local authority care for more than three months or have refugee status may be eligible for an offer two grades below the standard requirements. Find out more about contextual admissions .

Look-up Tool

<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/contextual-admissions/admissions/eligibility/>

Do you have refugee status?

This means that you have applied for asylum and received an outcome granting you refugee status. If your asylum application is still pending or you have received an outcome other than refugee status, please answer 'no' to this question. Similarly, if you have never made an asylum application please answer 'no'.

When submitting your UCAS application, you should provide this information via the 'contextual category'.

Yes

No

Have you been in care for more than 3 months?

As part of your UCAS application you will be asked to indicate if you have been in care to time living in public care as a looked-after-child, including:

- With foster carers under local authority care
- In a residential children's home
- Being looked after at home under a supervision order
- Living with friends or relatives in kinship care

This does not refer to time spent in boarding schools, working in a care or health service or if you are a carer yourself.

Yes

No

Outcome: WP Plus PLUS

Should you submit an application to the University in the 2022 cycle using the information provided, your application would receive a 'WP Plus PLUS Flag'. This means you may receive a contextual offer with a two grade reduction (A-level or equivalent) should you also meet all of the following criteria:

- The qualifications and subjects you are applying with meet our published entry requirements. For example, if a course requires Chemistry and Maths you must be taking both of these subjects. Some courses may also require specific grades in specific subjects.
- You are applying for a course where the minimum entry requirements are ABB and the course is not a Faculty of Science & Engineering Foundation course.
- Your predicted grades are within two grades of our minimum entry requirements. For example, your predicted grades are BBB where the standard entry requirements are AAB.
- You successfully complete any additional selection requirements e.g. interview or aptitude test (eg UCAT for Medicine).

For further information, please see our [contextual admissions](#) page. Offers may change or be revoked if we find that information provided as part of the application is incorrect meaning that an applicant does not meet the eligibility criteria. Reductions applied as a result of contextual admissions will not be made lower than BBC at A-level (or equivalent).

Questions?