School of Biological Sciences
University of Manchester

PROGRAMME FOR FIRST YEAR STUDENTS

WELCOME WEEK SEPTEMBER 2026

University of Manchester Welcome Activities

Alongside your programme-specific induction, the University runs a range of welcome presentations and activities that will help you get settled into the University and find out how you can make the most of your time at Manchester. Further information is available here: Welcome and induction | Welcome to Manchester | The University of Manchester

Finding your way around the University campus

A copy of the campus map can be found at the link here: https://www.manchester.ac.uk/discover/maps/ You can use this to locate the buildings referenced in your timetable below.

YOUR PROGRAMME-SPECIFIC WELCOME TIMETABLE (WEEK COMMENCING 21 SEPTEMBER)

Programme: Biology
Programme Director: Dr Thomas Nühse
Email: Thomas.nuhse@manchester.ac.uk

SBS Help Desk

There will be an SBS (School of Biological Sciences) Student Help Desk in the Stopford Building Foyer on the Monday of Welcome Week, and SBS Student Ambassadors who will be happy to answer any queries you may have and direct you to the relevant rooms.

Field Trip to Brockholes (Nature Reserve) on Wednesday 23 September

You will see that a trip to Brockholes has been included in your timetable below. Numbers on the trip are restricted to 25 – if you would like to attend, please complete the online registration form: Brockholes Registration Form Places are allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Stopford Building Tours

You will see that you have Stopford Building tours scheduled on your timetable. These are optional but are a useful introduction to the building where you will be spending a lot of your time once you start classes. You are not required to book on a tour in advance; just turn up at the desk in the Stopford foyer. Note that you may need to wait a few minutes for a tour during busy periods.

Queries about Welcome Week

Queries about Welcome Week can be directed to the SBS Student Support Hub – sbs.hub@manchester.ac.uk

MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

10:00 – 12:00	Meeting with your Programme Director Building: Stopford Building, 2nd Floor Room: 2 SUGT, Sec 8 & 9
12:00 – 13:00	Stopford Building Tour (Optional) Have a short tour of the building from one of our SBS Ambassadors! Tours start from the SBS Help Desk in the Foyer of the Stopford Building. Look for Ambassadors holding the 'SBS Stopford Tour' signs.
14:00 – 15:00	'With Entrepreneurship' Meeting (only for students registered on a degree 'with Entrepreneurship') Building: University Place Room: 4.205
14:00 – 15:00	'With a Modern Language' Meeting (only for students registered on a degree 'with Modern Language') Building: Roscoe Building Room: 2.4
15:00 – 17:00	Meeting for International Students (only for international students, including EU Students) Building: Stopford Building, 1st Floor Room: Lecture Theatre 2

TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

09:30 – 11:00	Essential Course Information Senior Advisor Building: Stopford Building, Ground Floor Room: PC Cluster 2 (PCC2)
11.00 – 12.00	Environmental Sustainability Talk – Dr Maggy Fostier Building: University Place Room: Lecture Theatre B
13:00 – 14:00	eLearning and IT Talk Building: Nancy Rothwell Building Room: Theatre A
14.00 – 15.00	Start of Year Fair Location: Marquee outside University Place (in front of the Williamson Building) We have kept a slot free for you to visit the Start of Year Fair and have arranged that Faculty representatives be there to talk to you at this time at the various stands. This is optional but highly recommended and you will be able to chat to lots of different services, including Careers, Volunteering, Go Abroad, Library and the Sports Team.
15.00 – 16.00	EDI: Celebrating Diversity - Presentation by the Students' Union Building: Nancy Rothwell Building Room: Lecture Theatre A
16:00 – 17:00	BIOL10401 Introduction to Laboratory Science (Practical Unit) Induction Microsoft Teams meeting. Join online here on the day: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/313968604599653?p=9kulGKGb9KhvKlUd1W

18.00 – 19.30	Biology Programme Drop-in Clinic, Online (Optional - just if you have queries) Join online via Teams on the day: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/39664616199125?p=S5opmAJB9CTgAMNqz1v

WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

09.30 – 10:30	Meet Your Tutor Building: Whitworth Building Room: Whitworth Hall You will be informed of your tutor group in advance of this meeting and further information will also be provided via email about this event.
10.30 - 15.00	Trip to Brockholes Nature Reserve (optional – sign-up required) If you would like to attend the trip to Brockholes Nature reserve, please complete the following registration form – places are restricted to 25 and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis: Registration form for Brockholes Those attending should meet at 10.30 promptly in the Stopford Building foyer.
15.00 – 16.00	Board games & refreshments in the SBS Hub (Optional) Building: Stopford Building Room: SBS Student Support Hub and Library (3rd Floor Stopford) Come along for a free drink, try out some board games, meet other SBS students, and chat with members of the SBS Student Support Team in a relaxed and friendly setting.
16:00 – 17:00	SBS Placement Fair (Optional) Location: Stretch Tent (Activity Zone), behind the Alan Gilbert Learning Commons Find out what it is really like to complete a year in industry as part of your degree programme. Explore placement opportunities, hear from recently returned placement students, and learn how a year in industry can build skills and boost employability.

THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

10.00 – 11.00	Course Unit Selection Drop-in Clinic Building: Stopford Building, Ground Floor Room: PC Cluster 1 (PCC1) For help with enrolling onto optional course units on the student system (NB this is not a session to help you to choose your optional units – if you have queries about which optional units to select, you should contact your Programme Director). This session is to help you navigate the online unit selection system, if you are experiencing difficulties with this.
12.00 – 13.00	School Welcome and Research Showcase – Prof Sam Griffiths-Jones Professor of Computational Biology, Division of Evolution, Infection and Genomics Building: Simon Building Room: Lecture Theatre B

13:00 – 14.00 Peer Assisted Study Scheme (PASS)
(Including Lab Coat Collection)
Building: Stopford Building, 1st Floor
Room: Lecture Theatre 1

14:00 - 15:00 Lab Coat Collection
Building: Stopford Building, 2nd Floor
Room: Sections 11-13, 2 SUGT (2nd Floor Teaching Labs)

Section 11 for Small/X Small Lab Coats
Section 12 for Medium Lab Coats
Section 13 for Large/XL Lab Coats

Don't forget to bring a bag or rucksack to this session. You'll be collecting your lab coat, laboratory book, cup and lanyard, so having something to carry them in will make your journey home much easier.

16.00 – 18.00 Biology Social Event
Building: Schuster Building
Room: Rutherford Lecture Theatre
Followed by party at Sandbar 18.00 – 20.00.

FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

10.00 - 10.30 'Get Started' by the University Library Team
Building: University Place
Room: Lecture Theatre A

11.00 – 12.00 Biology drop-in session
Building: Stopford Building, 1st Floor
Room: 1 SUGT, Bay B

12.00 – 13.00 Field Course Talk
Building: Mansfield Cooper Building
Room: G.20

13:00 - 15.00 Carnival in the Quad (Optional, drop-in)
Location: Stopford Building Quad

Join us in the Stopford Quad for games and snacks!

15.00 - 16.00 Lab Coat Collection
(Optional – for any students who missed the PASS session)
Building: Stopford Building, 2nd Floor
Room: Sections 11-13, 2 SUGT (2nd Floor Teaching Labs)

Section 11 for Small/X Small Lab Coats
Section 12 for Medium Lab Coats
Section 13 for Large/XL Lab Coats

Don't forget to bring a bag or rucksack to this session. You'll be collecting your lab coat, laboratory book, cup and lanyard, so having something to carry them in will make your journey home much easier.

MONDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

09.00 Lectures Begin