

School of Social Sciences New Staff Welcome

Claire Alexander, Head of School, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Humanities
Mario Pezzino, Deputy Head of School
Darien Rozentals, Director of School Operations

September 2025

Today

- Quite informal introduction to the School
- Good opportunity for you to meet each other
- In addition:
 - ❖ Your department induction will be key to you to settling in
 - ❖ Meet with your Head of Department / Line Manager to discuss the next 12 months, expectations, Health & Safety
 - ❖ Humanities New Academic Programme (HNAP)
 - ❖ University Welcome Event

UoM, Faculties and Schools

- The University of Manchester is the Second largest university in the UK.
- **3 Faculties, 9 Schools:** Science & Engineering (FSE); Biology, Medicine & Health (FBMH); and Humanities (HUMS).
- HUMS: 4 Schools: **School of Social Sciences (SoSS)**, Alliance Manchester Business School (AMBS), School of Arts, Languages and Culture (SALC), School of Environment, Education and Development (SEED)
- Largest School in terms of Student numbers
- We operate across five buildings – ALB (Economics, Politics, Sociology & Social Anthropology), HBS (Philosophy and Social Statistics), Williamson (Law & Criminology) Waterloo Place (Manchester China Institute & Justice Hub) & Crawford House (overflow).

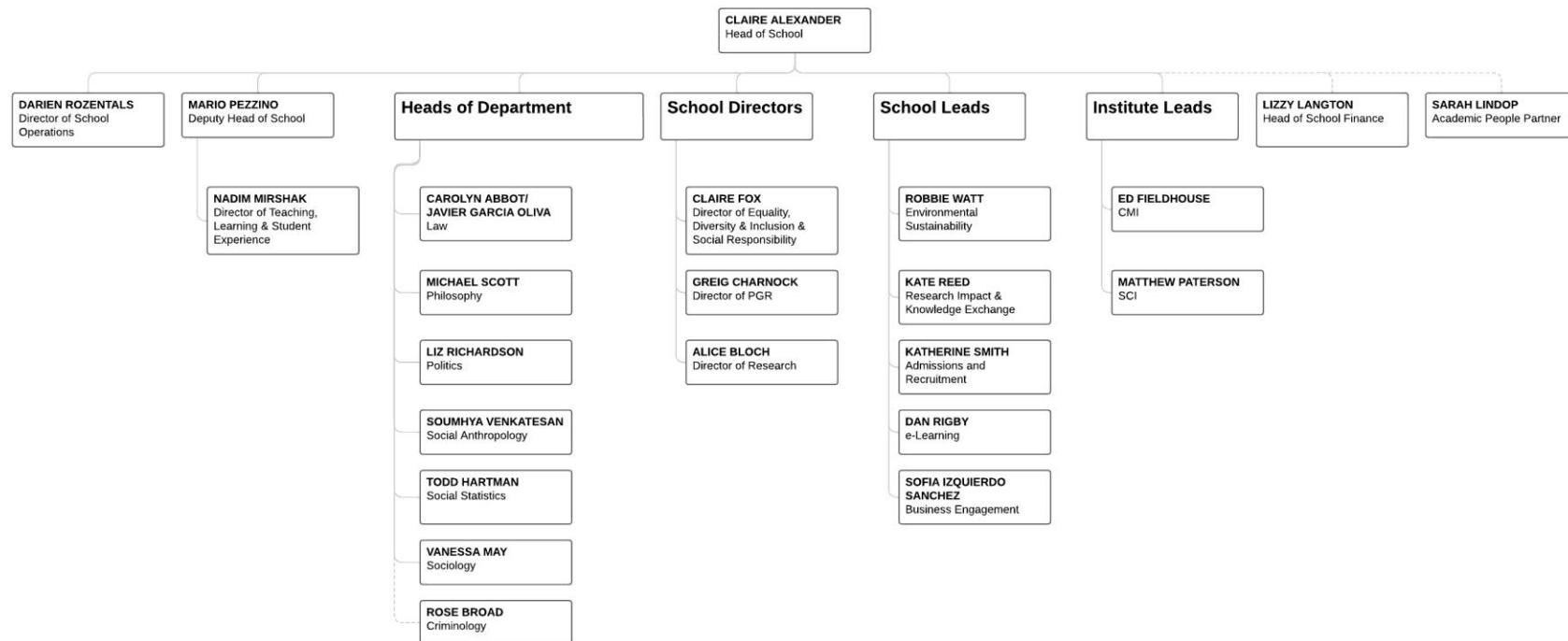
SoSS Structures

- **8 Departments** within SoSS: Criminology, Economics, Philosophy, Politics, Law, Social Anthropology, Sociology, and Social Statistics (currently around 450 members of staff)
- **10 + Research Institutes and Centres** associated with SoSS
- **Legal Advice Centre & Justice Hub**
 - Helps students to develop practical skills in offering pro bono legal advice in real legal cases.

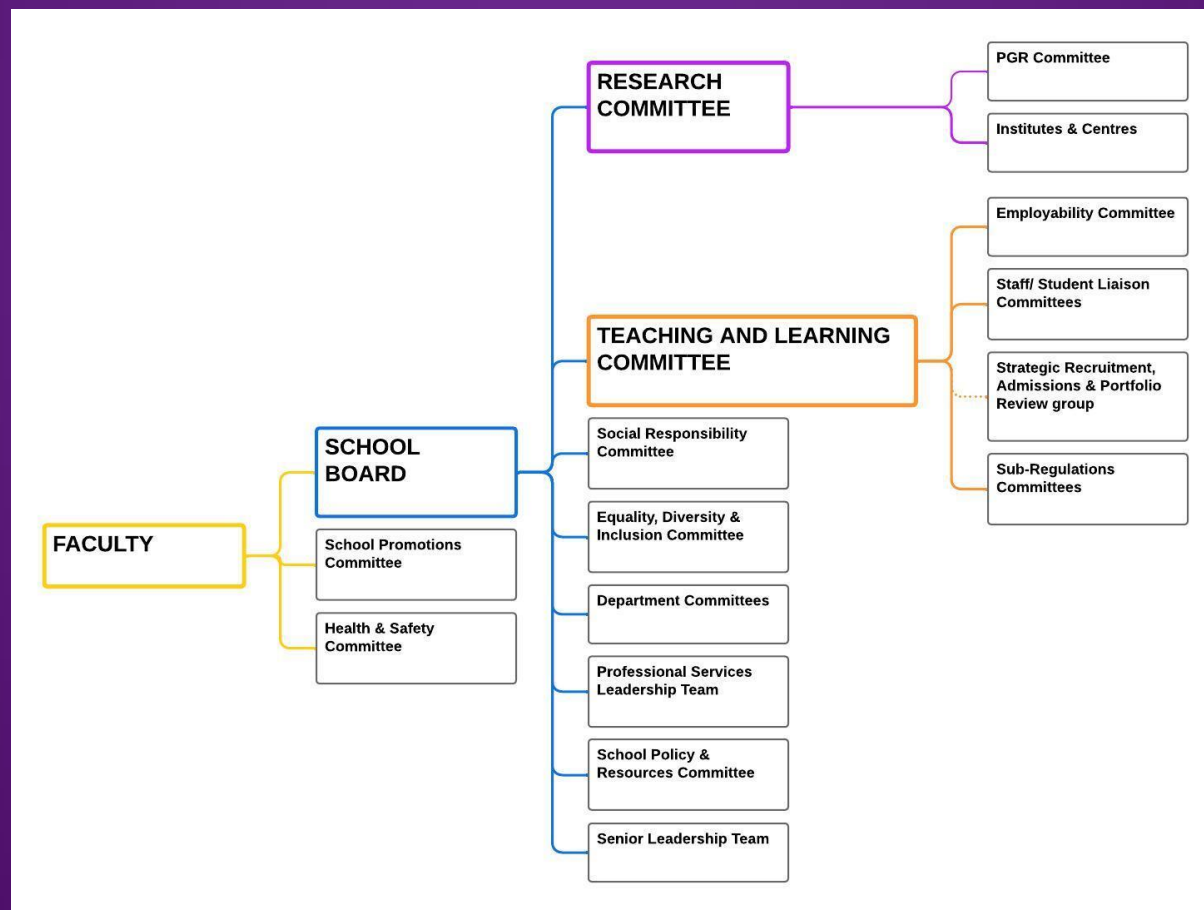
Senior Leadership Team (SLT)

- **Claire Alexander** – Head of School (HoS)
- **Mario Pezzino**– Deputy Head of School
- **Darien Rozentals** – Director of School Operations (PS)
- **Alice Bloch** – Director of Research
- **Greig Charnock** - Director of PGR Studies
- **Nadim Mirshak** – Director of Teaching & Learning
- **Paul Rowbotham** – Head of Teaching, Learning and Student Experience (PS)
- **Claire Fox** – Director of Social Responsibility/EDI
- **Lizzy Langton** – Head of School Finance (PS)
- **Sarah Lindop** – Academic People Partner (PS)

School Leadership



School Governance



Undergraduate Community

- 2025 intake (predicted: 1850): TOTAL 2024/25 4962 students, c. 45% international.
- Three School wide degrees: the **BA Econ degree** (1605) which is well established the **BASS degree** (577) and **PPE degree** (272)
- Each department has a specialist degrees
- Students also do courses in SoSS from the rest of the University (e.g. BA History and Sociology; optional modules)
- China remains our biggest international market.

Postgraduate Community - Headlines

- PGT applications received from over 50 different countries
- Predicted c680 new PGT students in September, approximately 82% international.
- Numbers have declined in SoSS and across the sector
- All Departments offer specialist degrees (inc. Research routes)

Postgraduate Headlines continued

- Trans-National Education (TNE) - distance learning programmes in Ethics, Healthcare and Law, Data Analytics & Social Statistics, International Commercial & Technology Law, Financial Crime & Compliance in Digital Societies
- Healthy PGR community (approx. 180) most of whom are supported through external or School funding

Our Teaching Challenges

- Scale of this activity poses specific challenges for us:
 - **NSS/TEF: Student Voice, Assessment & Feedback**
- Compared to other Russell Group universities our formal contact hours are relatively low and we have a lot of GTA support
- But, large student numbers means it can be very difficult to get to know them
But ESSENTIAL that we do !
- There will be more about teaching and learning in a later session

Academic Advisors

- Those on T&S and T&R contracts will be **ACADEMIC ADVISORS** to a number of students.
 - You **MUST** see them regularly face to face or via Zoom/Teams/Blackboard Collaborate. 2 meetings per year including PGT
 - UG students Year 1 – supported by 10 Academic Advisors, employed to just do AA , each of whom has a specialism and will be focusing on getting transition right.
- **MUST** Provide **OFFICE HOURS** on **two separate days (can be on-line)**.
 - Make sure students are aware of this and welcome them.
- **ALWAYS** be prepared to seek advice from your HoD/Mentor
 - We have a **collective responsibility** to our students

Research & Scholarship

- 40/40/20 (Teaching, Research, Administration)
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- Top-quality research our driving force for Teaching, Social Responsibility and International Reputation
- The current expectation is that colleagues on teaching and research contracts will produce at least four internationally excellent (3* in REF terms) publications in a typical rolling seven-year period, while aiming for three of these to be assessed by peer review as 'world-leading' (4*)
- For those without external funding, 1 research funding application within a 3 year cycle

Research & Scholarship cont

- Academic leave (sabbatical) for T&R and T&S can be applied for after six semesters of full time teaching and administration – one semester or one year after 12 semesters.
- Academic leave for Scholarship can be for a shorter time frame for tackling specific T&S projects. Therefore, academic leave measured by weeks and months as well as taken across the year in smaller chunks may on occasions be more appropriate and productive for T&S academic leave.
- Research Support Allowance (RSA) (£2,000 per annum) pro-rated if on a fractional contract to support research, scholarship (not books!), conferences etc

Humanities New Academic Programme (HNAP)

- Attendance and Completion of HNAP one of the probationary requirements for those appointed as a lecturer if you are not already a Fellow of HEA .
- HNAP has a core curriculum that covers teaching and student support, research and impact, social responsibility, and internationalisation. It provides opportunities for self-evaluation and professional development.
- HNAP will exemplify the learning experience we expect for Manchester students. This means HNAP is taught in cohorts, blended with active synchronous and asynchronous, online and in person activities.

HNAP Continued

- There are four on-campus days with associated material to engage with and tasks to complete.
- If you are not already a Fellow engagement with HNAP is essential in order to apply for Fellowship of Advance HE.
- If you are a Fellow you may find it useful to attend the on-campus days and this can be discussed with your line manager.
- Fellowship of Advance HE is a condition of probation. Once HNAP is completed you will need to apply and be awarded through the University's Professional Recognition Scheme .
- HNAP has been designed to provide participants with the knowledge, skills, and evidence to create a robust fellowship application.

Concluding Remarks

- Financial Contribution to the University
 - 2024/5: the School's income was £99.8, of which £94.3M (95%) was student fee income
 - We supported the University by providing 53% (57.9M) contribution from our income – in return for strategically and operationally important support (central services, Library, cultural assets, estate ...)
 - *School income budgeted for 2025/6 is 105.5m (£100m tuition fees)*
- SoSS is a collegial place to work
- Plenty of support available, including line managers, mentors, myself, Mario and Darien