

December 2021

Dear Admissions colleague,

I am writing to inform you that this student has successfully completed the Manchester Access Programme, a post-16 widening participation project run by The University of Manchester. I am sending this information to you on the student's request as they have submitted an application to your institution. Below you will find an overview of the programme; students begin the programme in year 12 and complete it at the beginning of year 13.

The aim of the Manchester Access Programme is to:

help students, who meet [specific academic and background criteria](#), achieve entry to The University of Manchester, or another research-intensive university, through the completion of a portfolio of work demonstrating specific knowledge and skills.

The Manchester Access Programme has been developed to minimise and address some of the cultural, social, educational and material barriers faced by students from underrepresented social groups by:

- developing specific academic study skills necessary to succeed within a research-intensive institution
- supporting success on the students' post-16 programme of study through the development of transferable academic and study skills
- developing informed choices regarding choice of degree programme and institutions, as would befit students' aspirations and academic potential
- facilitating admission to The University of Manchester (or other research-intensive universities) through the completion of a portfolio of work which allows students to prepare for and demonstrate their potential for higher education.

To be eligible for progression onto the MAP programme, participants needed to meet a number of essential academic and background criteria. Among other criteria they must:

- be in the first year of post-16 study (Lower Sixth/Year 12) in a state maintained school or college in Greater Manchester
- have obtained at least 5 9-6 grades at GCSE or equivalent (and English and Maths at a minimum of grade 4)
- have parents who have not attended university

Many students who completed MAP also meet a number of the following priority criteria. They:

- are in receipt of the 16-19 bursary
- received free school meals at high school
- have been in local authority care
- live in a 'disadvantaged' or 'low participation' neighbourhood

- have attended a high school where the average Key Stage 4 performance is lower than the national average
- have attended an institution where Key Stage 5 performance is lower than the national average

To successfully complete the Manchester Access Programme, participants are required to complete a number of core activities which aim to develop the skills needed to be a successful undergraduate in a research environment. This enables students to provide additional evidence of their potential to be successful undergraduates in their chosen programme of study. The core activities include a variety of skills workshops, which include academic writing and research skills, communication skills, and presentation skills. In total, the students commit 50 hours of additional time in order to complete the programme during their first year of post-16 study. This includes attendance at workshops, an online conference, and independent study time.

The main component of the programme is the 1,500 word academic assignment. The aim of the academic assignment is to link the students' current studies with a subject area they are interested in pursuing at university. Students are assigned an Academic Tutor who is either a member of university teaching staff or a postgraduate student with teaching responsibilities. The academic assignment is structured around common QAA guidelines and students are set learning outcomes in the following areas:

- Knowledge and Understanding
- Intellectual Skills
- Research Skills
- Transferable Skills

The manner in which you consider this information is entirely at your discretion. If you require further information about the Manchester Access Programme, my contact details are given below.

Yours faithfully,

Amy Foster
Administrator
The MAP Team
The University of Manchester

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