

## Information and Next Steps for Equity & Merit Scholars

### **Accept your offer**

Please make sure you accept your academic offer via the self-service portal, if you haven't already done so. Your Academic Department will provide information on start of year arrangements. Our [Get Ready web pages](#) are now available, including [Welcome & Induction pages](#).

### **Activate your IT account**

You'll have received your unique University of Manchester ID in your academic offer letter. Your Academic Department will also send you instructions on [activating your IT account](#).

### **Accommodation**

International postgraduate students are guaranteed the offer of a room in University halls. We recommend that you apply for university accommodation and not private accommodation because rooms come with inclusive bills and insurance which will be more cost effective. This will also help you manage your finances as we can arrange to pay your fees up front. You'll also have access to a wide range of support services to make sure your time with us is as safe and enjoyable as possible. Please read this [separate document](#) with information on accommodation and how to apply for it.

### **Applying for your visa**

- **Right to Study Check**
  - You can only apply for your student visa online once you have received your **CAS** statement from your Academic Department.
  - The CAS cannot be issued until you have accepted your unconditional offer online and completed a Right to Study Check. The Academic Department may have already been in touch with you about this, however, there could be a delay between completing the check and receiving your CAS. Do not be too concerned about this, some Academic Departments do not begin issuing CAS until mid-late June.
  - As part of the Right to Study Check, the Academic Department will ask you to upload a scanned copy of your passport – please do this as soon as possible, as they will need it to create your CAS and at a later stage, we will need it to book your flight.
- **Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS)**
  - Keep an eye out for a **draft CAS reminder** in your email inbox;
  - Confirm your CAS details when prompted;
  - Get your documentation ready where possible;
  - Your CAS will be issued 3-4 months before the start of your course via email.
- **Visa Application**
  - Please have a look at our [Visa Guidance](#) which takes you through the visa application step by step. The webpage includes lots of valuable information on all aspects of the application process.
- **Immigration Healthcare Surcharge**

As you are applying for immigration permission (visa) for more than six months, you must pay an additional fee which will entitle you to access free healthcare under the National Health Service (NHS). You will need to pay £766 for each year of leave you apply for and an extra £388 for any period less than 6 months. Therefore, as your master's programme will

last 13 months you will need to pay £1164. If you must undertake a pre-sessional English course, you will need to pay £1552. You must read the information on the [UKVI website](#) about the healthcare surcharge.

- **Digital Visa**

- BRP cards have been discontinued so you will receive an electronic visa (eVisa), possibly in addition to a 90-day entry visa vignette (sticker) in your passport.
- You will be emailed a link to an online portal confirming your visa status. You will be able to use a share code from the UKVI website to prove your immigration status to the University, your landlord or an employer.
- **Please read the information on our website about [eVisas](#) before you travel.**
- Along with your entry vignette sticker in your passport, you should also receive a written notification called a decision letter which confirms what the conditions of your visa are (e.g. working hours, police registration). You should carry your decision letter with you with you when you enter the UK along with a screenshot of your immigration status that you have verified online through the UKVI website.

If you have any questions about the visa process, please contact the Student Immigration Team via [visa@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:visa@manchester.ac.uk) and copy your email to us at [equityandmerit@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:equityandmerit@manchester.ac.uk).

### **Advance Payment**

The cost of your visa is included in your scholarship, and we will need your bank details to reimburse you. Over the years we have had many issues trying to send funds to banks in Africa where there have been delays in crediting students' accounts and returned funds resulting in lost payments. Also, once you are in the UK, we need to be able to pay you your monthly stipend and this must be paid into a UK bank account, as we cannot send regular payments to an account overseas.

Therefore, we now strongly encourage all our new scholars to open an online UK bank account. There are several that offer the facility to open one from overseas, some without proof of residency in the UK. All our current scholars have an online account, and they recommend [Wise](#).

Please open an account as soon as possible as it can take some time to be fully setup. Please read the process of [Opening an Online Bank Account with Wise](#).

Some of our current scholars will be happy to share their experiences and help you with the process if anything is unclear. Please contact us if you're struggling and we'll put you in touch with them.

### **Flights**

We will book your flights as soon as we can, our intention is to put you on the same flight as each other from the same country to arrive on or around the dates as follows:

- Saturday 28 June - for those on PS10
- Saturday 26 July - for those on PS6
- Thursday 11 September - for the start of most accommodation contracts

## Register as a Student

- Additional step – Student Verification
  - Before being invited to complete registration, you will receive an email from the University's Student Immigration Team asking you to answer some questions and upload scans of specific documents, so that your student status can be verified.
  - **If you do not respond to this email, you will not be able to complete registration.**
  - Once the verification has been completed and your record updated, you will then receive an email invitation to register as a student; this usually takes place after 1 September.
- The registration email will ask you to complete the [ten step](#) registration process. Full details can also be found on the [Register as a student](#) page.
- UoM Student Card
  - You will need to upload a photo for your student card. You can do this via your [Manchester Portal](#). This is a requirement for the University to produce your student card. You'll receive an email invitation/appointment to collect your student card from a specific location on campus.
- Students' Union membership (automatic)
  - Once registration is complete, students are automatically enrolled as members of the Students' Union, but you can opt out within the first 10 days, if you wish.
- Bank Letter (automatic)
  - Once you've completed registration, you will receive a Bank Letter (usually within 3 working days) in your UoM email account. The letter can be used to open a bank account, apply for Council Tax exemption etc.

See our [Step by step guide](#) to becoming a student. A registration chatbot is available to guide you if you have any difficulties.

## Health

We want to emphasise the importance of [signing up with a GP](#) as soon as possible. This is the best way to access non-emergency medical care in the UK.

- UoM guide: **[welcome.manchester.ac.uk/get-ready/become-a-student/register-with-a-gp](https://welcome.manchester.ac.uk/get-ready/become-a-student/register-with-a-gp)**
- A local or family doctor in the UK, is known as a 'General Practitioner' or 'GP'.
- As soon as you know your term-time address (before you travel), use the NHS website to search for your nearest GP surgery: **[nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-GP](https://nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-gp)**.
- Then, register as a new patient on your GP's website. Please note, some GPs may ask that you wait until you have arrived in the UK to register with them.
- We also have a GP on campus – <https://rdp.org.uk/register-with-the-practice/register-with-the-university-gp-service/> that you can register with.

Please let us know now if you have any health issues or specific needs or additional support requirements, so that we can be prepared to help and support you once you're in the UK.

### **Get Ready for Manchester**

There can be a lot to think about before you arrive. Visit our [Welcome to Manchester](#) pages for useful information to help you get organised.

#### **Process Checklist**

- Accept your offer ☐
- Activate your IT account ☐
- Apply for Accommodation ☐
- Complete the Right to Study Check ☐
- Apply for your visa ☐
- Open UK Bank Account ☐
- Respond to Student Immigration Team email ☐
- Register as a student ☐
- Upload your photo for UoM Student Card ☐
- Register with a GP ☐