

Important Information for Equity & Merit Scholars

1. Accept Your Academic Offer

- Log in to the self-service portal and accept your offer if you have not already done this.
 - You will receive details about your start-of-year arrangements from the University and your academic department.
 - You can also visit the University's [Get Ready](#) and [Welcome & Induction](#) webpages for useful information.
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2. Activate Your IT Account

- Your University ID number is noted on your academic offer letter.
 - As part of the admissions process you will be sent instructions on how to [activate your IT account](#) – please action this as soon as possible.
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3. Accommodation - Apply Now

- International postgraduate students are guaranteed a room in University halls.
 - We strongly recommend choosing **University accommodation** rather than private housing because:
 - Bills and insurance are included
 - You will have access to a wide range of University support services.
 - Please read this [Accommodation Information](#) document for full details of your options and apply as soon as you can.
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4. Applying for Your Visa

- **Right to Study Check**
 - You can only apply for your visa after you receive your CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies).
 - To receive your CAS, you must:
 - Accept your unconditional offer, and
 - Complete the Right to Study Check.
 - Your department will ask you to upload a scan of your passport. Please do this quickly so they can complete the check.
- **Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS)**

- Look out for an email about your draft CAS.
 - Check your details carefully and confirm them.
 - Your CAS will be issued from mid to late June and will be emailed to you 3–4 months before your course begins.
- **Visa Application**
 - Once you receive your CAS, you can apply for your student visa online.
 - Check the University's [Visa Guidance](#) webpage for step-by-step instructions.
- **Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS)**
 - You must pay the IHS to access the UK's free healthcare (NHS).
 - The cost is:
 - £776 per full year, plus
 - £388 for any period less than 6 months.
 - For a 13-month master's programme, this totals £1,164.
 - If you also take a pre-sessional English course, the cost is £1,552.

You must read the information on the [UKVI website](#) about the healthcare surcharge.

- **Digital Visa (eVisa)**
 - You will receive a digital visa (eVisa) which is linked to your passport.
 - You can only access your eVisa through a UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) online account.
 - You will be able to view your eVisa and generate share codes to prove your immigration status using the UK Government's 'View and prove your immigration status' service.

Please carefully read all the information on our website about [eVisas](#) before you travel.

Need Help?

If you have any questions, email:

- visa@manchester.ac.uk (Student Immigration Team)
- Copy your message to: equityandmerit@manchester.ac.uk

5. Advance Payment & Bank Account

- Your visa costs are included in your scholarship, but we need your bank details to send you the funds.
- We will send you
 - Money for your visa costs - £1,920 (£2,300 if doing pre-sessional)

Send us your receipts once you have paid for all your visa costs, we will add or subtract any difference to your stipend.

- One month's stipend payment so you have funds when you arrive in the UK - £1,656

You can spend this on provisions or use it towards a deposit for private accommodation should you need to.

Bank Details

It is likely to be very difficult for you to open an **online UK bank account** without a visa. We understand that tighter restrictions have been put in place and there are now no online banks that allow overseas applicants to open accounts without a UK address or evidence you are allowed to live in the UK.

We are in discussion with our finance team about alternative payment options but as of now there are only two other options, so we will work towards this.

1. Find someone willing to make the payments for your visa costs on your behalf, then pay them back once funds have been received from us. Or -
2. We may send the funds to your local bank account; we can only send funds to an account in your name.

You will need to send me details asap as it takes longer for payments to clear to international accounts. I am waiting for confirmation if this is possible and how long this could take but I will keep you posted.

We would need you to *provide a letter from your bank on their headed paper with your account details*, which must include all the following:

- Bank Name & full address
- Full Name of account holder/payee (you)
- Account holder/payee full address as registered with bank (the address you provided the bank)
- Account Number
- SWIFT number
- Currency of account
- Confirmation that your account accepts deposits in either GBP or USD

Also, if available

- IBAN number and Routing Number
- Sort Code

Please upload requested documents to our secure [Dropbox \[dropbox.com\]](https://dropbox.com) folder and not via email attachment.

Opening a UK Bank Account

We can only pay your stipend into a UK account so to avoid delays in payment we strongly encourage you to open an **online UK bank account** once you have your visa and before you travel.

- Very few online banks allow overseas applicants to open accounts without a UK address.
- Our current scholars recommend [Wise](#). But there is also Revolut and Monzo.
- Please read the process of [Opening an Online Bank Account with Wise](#).

Our current scholars will be happy to guide you with the process if anything is unclear. We have already asked them to reach out to you.

6. Flights

We plan to book your flights so that you can travel together with scholars from your home country.

Expected arrival dates:

- **Pre-sessional students:** Saturday **1 August 2026**
- **Everyone else:** Thursday **17 September 2026**

Airport Support Service

The University offers an Airport Support Service to new University of Manchester international students arriving at Manchester International Airport.

- located in the Arrivals Terminals
- between 8am and 8pm
- Wednesday 16 September to Friday 18 September 2026

Our representatives will be wearing The University of Manchester purple clothing and holding signs.

7. Register as a Student

Student Verification

- Part I: This will be completed when you upload your passport for the Right to Study Check.
- Part II: You will receive an email from the University asking you to provide your eVisa share code and your boarding pass/flight tickets. You will be unable to complete this step until you have arrived in the UK.

Registration

- You will receive an email invitation (usually after 1 September) to complete the **10-step registration process** online; however, you will be unable to complete all 10 steps until the student verification has been completed.

UoM Student Card

- Upload a photo to your My Manchester Portal.

- You will then receive an appointment to collect your student card on campus.

Students' Union Membership

- You automatically become a member after registration. You may opt out within the first 10 days.

Bank Letter

- After completion of registration, you will receive a **bank letter** to your UoM email account.
 - You can use it to open a UK bank account or apply for Council Tax exemption.
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8. Health

- Register with a **GP (doctor)** as soon as possible so you can access non-emergency healthcare.
- Once you know your UK address, use the [NHS website](#) to find your local GP.
- Some GPs may ask you to wait until you arrive in the UK.
- You can also register with the [University GP Service](#) on campus.

If you have any health conditions or need extra support, please tell us now so we can be prepared to assist you.

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
- After arrival in the UK, complete
Step 2 of Student Verification
- Register as a student
- Upload your photo for UoM Student Card
- Register with a GP