MANCHESTER 1824
The University of Manchester

BIOSCIENCES AT MANCHESTER

WELCOME TO ***THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER***

We are delighted you have chosen to consider us as one of your university choices and we want to wish you all the best with your application.

This pack has been designed to give you an insight into what it's like to study here.

YOU DECIDE...

Our universal biosciences first year makes it easy to switch between most of our undergraduate course options before you start the second year.

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CHOOSE MANCHESTER

WE WILL LOOK AFTER YOU

As a bioscience student at Manchester, you'll be part of a really supportive community that helps you get the most out of your degree and your time here. Peer-assisted study sessions with a student from the year above will support your learning outside of lectures.

You will be expected to study hard, but we'll also give you our full support with your academic work or with any personal problem or situation.

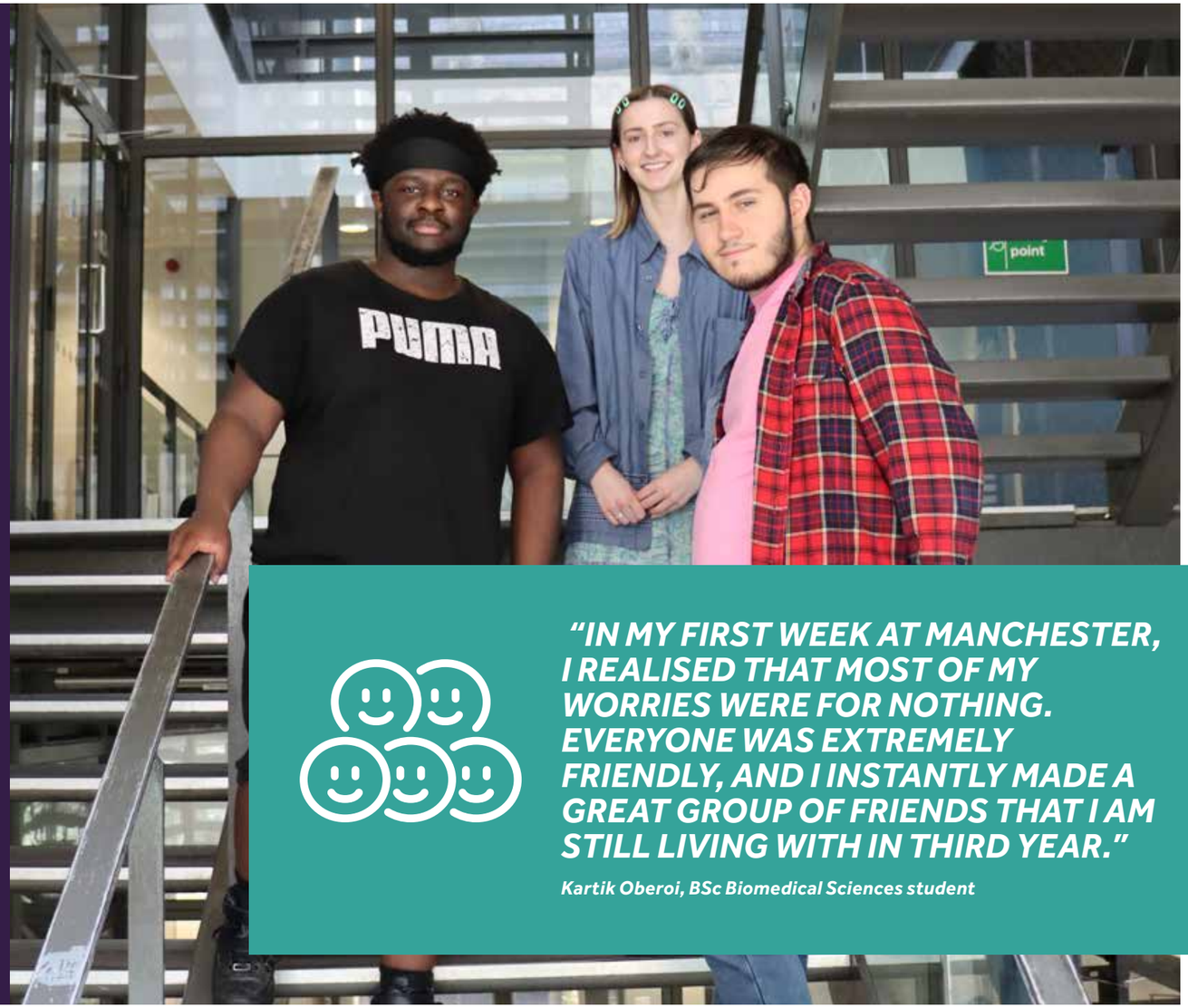
BE TAUGHT BY SPECIALISTS

You will learn from experts with first-hand knowledge of innovations and developments in their disciplines. Our courses are informed by the latest breakthroughs.

MOST TARGETED

Manchester is one of the top ten UK universities targeted by graduate employers (The Graduate Market 2023). Students from our biosciences courses enjoy careers spanning research, TV, global science and marine biology, and have even worked with NASA!

Check out pages 18 and 20 for examples of what our students go on to work as.



"IN MY FIRST WEEK AT MANCHESTER, I REALISED THAT MOST OF MY WORRIES WERE FOR NOTHING. EVERYONE WAS EXTREMELY FRIENDLY, AND I INSTANTLY MADE A GREAT GROUP OF FRIENDS THAT I AM STILL LIVING WITH IN THIRD YEAR."

Kartik Oberoi, BSc Biomedical Sciences student

BEING AN BIOSCIENCES STUDENT

BSC BIOMEDICAL STUDENT KHEMANI DISCUSSES HIS TIME SO FAR...

From a very young age, I have enjoyed science and the joy it brings me to learn the fundamental principles of what we know as life. I find biological sciences a very enriching and captivating field of study, as most of it applies to every single one of us.

RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

The staff at Manchester are very patient, kind and understanding, which I think is very important as a fresher – the fact that I have people I know I can reach out to if I am struggling with any assignments.

So far, I am truly impressed by the amount of resources that are available to me. The online learning system is well laid-out and has assignments, lecture material and timetables ready for me to interact with.

GET AHEAD

As a new student, one important quality that I have carried over with me from my A-level days is to always be at least one step ahead. By that I mean I complete assignments far in advance of the due date.

It gives me the feeling of satisfaction in knowing that I won't have to stress out about it later on. We all know that cramming last minute before a deadline is always a horrific and frustrating experience. Avoid it at all costs!

MY FAVOURITE STUDY SPOT

An aspect I have really loved about my course here at The University of Manchester is the free time I have in my timetable. I have been making sure to use that free time wisely by studying in one of the various well-developed study areas across the campus.

My personal favourite place to study is the Alan Gilbert Learning Commons. Its sleek, modern design is something I admire and is a study spot I truly recommend (as long as you arrive early enough to find a study space!).

"IT'S A WELL ORGANISED COURSE WITH A GREAT RANGE OF UNITS TO CHOOSE FROM, THAT ARE TAUGHT BY ENTHUSIASTIC LECTURERS. THERE IS ALSO PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN VITAL LABORATORY SKILLS."

Amy Picken, BSc Microbiology student.

NOT YOUR AVERAGE DEGREE

INTERNATIONAL NEUROSCIENCE STUDENT OLIVIA TALKS ABOUT THE FLEXIBILITY OF A BIOSCIENCE DEGREE AT MANCHESTER

Biosciences courses at Manchester are really what you make of them. There are numerous ways you can use this degree, and many different classes you can take in your second and third year. I love a lot of the bioscience lectures, specifically the pharmacology lectures!

A VERSATILE DEGREE

I love the versatility of the degree. Even though neuroscience sounds like a specific/niche programme to study in undergrad, there is still a lot of variation and different paths you can take on the degree, and ways you can make it your own.

For example, while studying neuroscience, I have chosen to stick with taking more biology classes (genetics and pharmacology ones are some of my favourites!) and doing projects that are more lab- and science communication-based.

However, one of my course-mates really likes computer science and has taken more computational biology and imaging courses, and paired that with doing a computational biology project with AI for both placement and final year.

OTHER OPTIONS

I love that you don't JUST have to take bioscience classes. I have taken two History of Technology and Medicine classes while at Manchester, and audited a music class. You also have the option of taking a few University College for Interdisciplinary Learning (UCIL) classes (topics offered by other departments at Manchester), and even language classes!

In final year, you get to take classes that teach the latest and most cutting-edge work in neuroscience. One of my favourite classes in third year is the Clocks, Sleep, and Circadian Rhythms class. Manchester is one of the few universities (in the world!) that offers an ENTIRE course on circadian research.

Read Olivia's blog:

MY FAVOURITE THING ABOUT MANCHESTER

"There is always something new to see or do both on campus and in town. There is always an event on campus, whether that be new societies hosting an event in the Students' Union, career development and seminar opportunities, or fun gigs (live music at the Academy) to see!

My other favourite thing is the people and the city. It sounds pretty sappy, but this is a great fantastic city with great energy thanks to the amazing people here."

"IT'S ALSO POSSIBLE TO DO A MARKETING/ BUSINESS ROUTE OR EVEN SCIENCE POLICY. THERE'S JUST SO MANY OPTIONS AND ROUTES TO CHOOSE FROM."

Olivia Pilson, BSc Neuroscience student

STUDYING ABROAD

MADDY NORBURN, A BSC BIOLOGY STUDENT, TELLS ALL ABOUT HER STUDIES IN AUSTRALIA.

"My study abroad experience was also valuable for my academic life and career. It gave me a taste of what different disciplines and fields of study are like in other countries, as well as strengthening my independence, organisational and time management skills, and providing something fascinating and unique to discuss in job applications and interviews that will make me stand out from the average applicant."

CHOOSING WHERE TO GO

After copious amounts of research and hours and hours of list-making comparing different courses and locations, I finally settled on the University of Melbourne as my top choice destination. Thankfully, my application was successful, and I was awarded a place to study at the University of Melbourne for the first semester of Year 2 of my Biology degree.

LIFE IN MELBOURNE

The university campus in Melbourne was gorgeous, and the feeling and overwhelming sense of community and acceptance there was immediately tangible. There was so much to get involved in, and there were numerous numbers of student-led clubs and societies that ran events and even free BBQs on campus every week!

STUDYING

An aspect of the academic life that I really enjoyed in Melbourne was the vast range of different modules to choose from.

I learnt about concepts I had never heard of before, such as One Health and how that can be applied to adopting a holistic approach to ameliorating human, animal and environmental health in the era of the Anthropocene and the deteriorating climate.

At the university, I also got the unique and special opportunity to learn about the Australian Indigenous cultures.

All of the lecturers and staff at the university also seemed to have a real passion and interest for their specific field of research, and thrived on thoroughly engaging the students. I felt inspired every time I left their lectures.

WANDERING FARTHER AFIELD

During reading week, a group of friends and I went to Perth. This trip was incredible, and we spent our days exploring the city, hopping on the ferry to Rottenest Island to see the quokkas and strolling along some of the most breath-taking beaches I've ever seen. Once my exams were finished, I also got the chance to go travelling up the East Coast for just over a month.

"I COULD GO ON AND ON ABOUT MY TIME ABROAD BECAUSE IT WAS THE MOST SPECIAL AND MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE. I WILL BE FOREVER THANKFUL FOR IT AND I WOULD DO IT A HUNDRED TIMES OVER IF I COULD."

WHAT'S IT LIKE DOING A PLACEMENT?

NATALIE, A BSC BIOCHEMISTRY WITH INDUSTRIAL EXPERIENCE STUDENT, LOOKS BACK ON HER PLACEMENT AT VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS

During my placement, I worked in Vertex's outreach space, 'The Learning Lab', engaging local school groups in practical science experiences surrounded by 'real scientists' and using high-tech equipment.

WHAT DID I DO OVER THE YEAR?

My placement involved getting experience in a variety of roles. No two days were the same but equally, there were enough frequent jobs so that my week had some structure. A typical week would usually consist of a class visit, planning for future engagements, lots of emails and calls with external partners, and bigger-picture discussions about how to improve our programmes.

In addition to my weekly responsibilities, there were frequent visits to Vertex's London offices to meet up with other placement students based there. The industrial placement program at Vertex had over 20 placement students and was superbly run. We frequently had training and professional development workshops.

Finally, I took the opportunity to lead on my own project. Vertex's Learning Lab team was global, with people based in San Diego and Boston too. I, along with two staff across the pond, took part in a review of the outreach at other top pharmaceutical companies. This project ran throughout the year and, despite some creative differences and logistical challenges, was a success. I thoroughly enjoyed collaborating with a global team!

My placement year at Vertex was truly transformational. It instilled in me the importance of initiative, self-trust, and networking.

"IN ADDITION TO THE HIGHLY VALUABLE SKILLS LEARNT AT THESE SESSIONS, WE GOT TO EXPERIENCE THE JOYS OF WORKING FOR A PHARMA COMPANY. SOCIAL HOURS ON THE ROOF OVERLOOKING CENTRAL LONDON ALONGSIDE DRINKS AND SNACKS, YES PLEASE!"

WHY I CHOSE AN INTEGRATED MASTERS

"The MSci is a great way to get a taste of what real-world research is like and to learn valuable skills that you can't get from lectures or labs, such as project management, specific laboratory techniques, and communication with other scientists.

The MSci and the BSc share the same curriculum for the first and second years of the degree. The difference starts in Year 3 when you will enroll in the MSci Experimental Skills unit.

This is a unique unit that only MSci students can take, and it will prepare you for your fourth-year project by allowing you to solve scientific problems and present your results in a professional format. This will give you a chance to practice your research skills and to collaborate with other students."

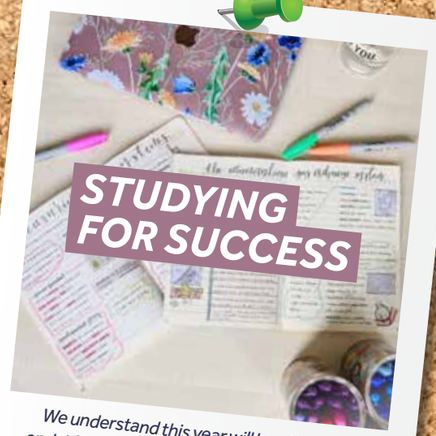
Oliver, MSci Neuroscience student.

CREATING MEMORIES

WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU P.A.S.S

Our Peer Assisted Study Sessions are designed to give you a support network that can help with revision, study techniques and mentoring.

STUDYING FOR SUCCESS



We understand this year will be different and difficult. Keep going and don't lose sight of your goals. You can do this!

HERE FOR YOU WHATEVER THE WEATHER

Benefit from P.A.S.S sessions, a personal peer mentor in your first year, a practice placement mentor and student societies. We also have a range of support designed to help you get the most out of your university experience.

A CHANGE OF SCENE

DISCOVER NEW CAREERS

Come along to careers events and hear about your options plus get the chance to ask graduates about their jobs.

SOCIETIES

There's a tonne of societies to choose from. You could explore a hobby, pick up a sport or gain new skills (plus make some friends on the way).

TAKE A LOAD OFF

The Alan Gilbert Learning Commons (affectionately known as "the Ali G") is our state-of-the-art study space that is usually open 24/7 for those late night study sessions. If your eyelids do start to drop, there are even nap pods!

BIOSCIENCE FACILITIES

Our modern teaching labs are equipped for a range of biological and biomedical techniques.

As a final year student, you have the opportunity to undertake a project in the labs of our world-class bioscience researchers. To support our research, we have extensive research facilities equipped with high-quality technology.

Check out this short film where student Tom takes you on a tour of the biosciences facilities at Manchester.

https://uom.link/biosciencefacilities

BIOSCIENCE FACILITIES TOUR FILM

A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES

WITH YOUR WORLD-CLASS DEGREE, THERE ARE SO MANY OPTIONS ONCE YOU GRADUATE.

Studying a bioscience course is a great way to explore your interests and prepare for an exciting array of careers.

From molecules and cells to large complex organisms, you'll have the whole breadth of the biosciences available to you. Many roles within bioscience allow you to continue exploring and learning new things. This could include researching a new drug, or developing and working with new equipment.

EXTENSIVE CAREERS SUPPORT

Receive guidance on entering your chosen career from your academic advisor, attend careers events and speak to alumni.

RESEARCH

RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS / NON-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS / UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC / COMMERCIAL ORGANISATIONS / PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES

CLINICAL & TECHNICAL ROLES

HEALTHCARE / CLINICAL SCIENCE / SAFETY & QUALITY CONTROL / FORENSIC SCIENCE / BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE

SCIENCE IN THE FIELD

ZOOLOGY / PLANT SCIENCE / FIELD RESEARCH / PLANT SCIENCE / ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE / ECOLOGY / ENVIRONMENTAL TRUSTS / CHARITIES/ RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS /

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION & PUBLISHING / MUSEUMS & OUTREACH ORGANISATIONS

SCIENCE ADMIN & SALES

FUNDING AGENCIES / RESERACH PROJECTS / RESEARCH COUNCILS / CLINICAL TRIALS / INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PATENTS / MEDICAL SALES / SCIENCE OR HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATOR / BIOTECHNOLOGY COMPANIES / PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES

POLICY

GOVERNMENT / CIVIL SERVICE / CAMPAIGNING ORGANISATIONS / SCIENTIFIC ADVISORS

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

READ GRADUATE BLOGS HERE

GLOBAL PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR FOR A SCUBA DIVING AGENCY

(ALONGSIDE BEING A FREELANCE EXPEDITION SCIENTIST, SCIENTIFIC SCUBA DIVER, MARINE BIOLOGIST, AND A SPACE AMBASSADOR)

"I won a diving scholarship, which led to me travelling to complete as many different training courses as possible, and became nomadic-ish from September 2022 (and still going at the time of writing!).

I became qualified in various facets of scientific diving, learnt more about recreational instructing, and used my networking skills to gain additional marine and space internships.

I dove in the deepest pool in the world (Deep Dive Dubai), witnessed astronaut training runs at NASA Neutral Buoyancy lab in Houston, made my own scientific diving documentary in Sardinia, crossed the Pacific Ocean in another expedition vessel, and made friends with famous diving brands for good measure!"

Jenn Thomson, BSc Zoology with Industrial/Professional Experience graduate

SENIOR MEDICAL WRITER

WHAT IS A TYPICAL DAY LIKE?

No two days are the same! I get to work with clients, health professionals, patients and charities to craft engaging and scientifically accurate content for various audiences.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS CAREER?

To help communicate the latest scientific and medical research to improve people's lives.

WHAT SKILLS DO YOU USE AND HOW DID YOUR COURSE PREPARE YOU?

Data analysis, critical thinking, evidence-based approaches. Manchester set me up for life.

Simon Stones, BSc Biomedical Sciences with industry/professional experience graduate

SELF-SHOOTING ASSISTANT PRODUCER AT THE BBC NATURAL HISTORY UNIT

"My biosciences degree enabled me to enter the industry I currently work in. During my final year, I undertook a science media and communications project that played a crucial role in my next step: pursuing a master's in wildlife filmmaking.

I spent last summer in Botswana working on a project called Big Cats 24/7. The unique thing about this series is that we filmed continuously, 24/7, including at night.

It was an exciting project for me because the original series, Big Cat Diaries from the noughties, was one of my favorites."

Tom Parry, BSc Biology with industry / professional experience graduate

REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN POLICY AND ADVICE OFFICER

"I enjoy the flexibility, stability, and the diversity of work that I do within my field. I open my laptop and I don't know what kind of enquiry I will get ."

Catherine Whatley, BSc Zoology with industry/professional experience graduate

PR ACCOUNT DIRECTOR

"My job involves developing communications, public relations and public affairs strategies for clients across the science and innovation ecosystem, including large research facilities, learned societies, and high-tech start-ups."

Tori Blakeman, BSc Neuroscience graduate

SENIOR SCIENTIST

WHAT IS A TYPICAL DAY LIKE?

I usually start my day by going over what I'm going to be doing in the lab. After planning, I work in the lab until lunch. Sometimes I have meetings with clients discussing projects. I then try and finish my lab work until the end of the day.

WHAT SKILLS DO YOU USE?

I use both practical skills in the lab and broader skills such as communication, data analysis and problem solving."

Naimah Begum, BSc Microbiology graduate

"I HAVE THOROUGHLY ENJOYED EXPERIENCING AND LEARNING ABOUT VARIOUS BRANCHES OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES (AND MORE!). THROUGHOUT MY ONE DEGREE I HAVE TAKEN UNITS ON HUMAN BIOLOGY, PLANTS AND ANIMALS TO CLIMATE CHANGE, HISTORY OF MEDICINE AND EVEN BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE."

Annabel Robson, BSc Biology with Industrial Experience (and Foundation Year)

ANY QUESTIONS?

We're here to help!

Don't hesitate to contact our friendly admissions team with any queries you may have.

BIOSCIENCE ADMISSIONS TEAM

PHONE:

+44 (0)161 529 4539

EMAIL:

ug.biosciences@manchester.ac.uk

Disclaimer
This brochure is prepared well in advance of the academic year to which it relates. Consequently, details of the courses may vary with staff changes.The University therefore reserves the right to make such alterations to courses as are found to be necessary. If the University makes an offer of a place, it is essential that you are aware of the current terms on which the offer is based. If you are in any doubt, please feel free to ask for confirmation of the precise position for the year in question, before you accept the offer.

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