

# Manchester Access Programme

## Admissions Guide for Previous MAP Students E2026

**Please note: Any dates mentioned in this document must be stuck to. If you are late completing or returning information you may not be able to go through the MAP Decision Manchester Process**

### **Completing the Manchester Access Programme**

#### ***What am I entitled to?***

Successfully completing the programme means that you can benefit from the MAP Admissions Processes. This means that you:

- Are eligible to receive a ***conditional*** offer for a course at The University of Manchester, **as long as you meet the entry requirements for this course** which will include:
  - Predicted (or achieved) grades
  - Any GCSE requirements
  - Satisfactory personal statement
  - Interview/additional assessment where appropriate (this will only be for certain courses).

This conditional offer takes into account the reduced offer of up to two A-level grades (or equivalent), but how this is applied is at the discretion of the admissions tutor.

- You will be able to find out before you submit your UCAS form which courses you will get offers for at The University of Manchester. In some cases, instead of knowing whether you have an offer, you will be able to find out if you will be invited to the next stage in the application process e.g. an interview.

**Please note:** Students who completed MAP in 2024 or before are still eligible for the 2-grade differential offer as outlined when they were on MAP. However, under certain circumstances, such as reapplying for certain subjects or resitting certain exams, admissions teams may increase the standard offer. The MAP 2-grade differential offer will be removed from this increased standard offer. All decisions are made at the discretion of the admissions tutor.

Students may combine the MAP 2-grade differential offer with the contextual offer, meaning some students will be eligible for a further grade reduction on top of the MAP 2-grade reduced offer. Please see [here](#) and [here](#) for more information. This is also discussed further down this document.

## MAP Decision Manchester Process

### *What is the MAP Decision Manchester Process?*

All students who are on track to/have already successfully completed the Manchester Access Programme can submit a MAP Decision Manchester application.

Your Decision Manchester application will be given to Admissions Tutors at The University of Manchester **before** you submit your actual UCAS form through your school or college. It will contain the information shown in the table below. This will enable Admissions Tutors at Manchester to decide whether they would make you an offer or invite you to interview **before** you submit your actual UCAS form. **The MAP Decision Manchester form will ONLY go to Admissions Tutors at The University of Manchester.**

Section Name	Section Content
Personal details	Name, ID number, address, contact details, date of birth, contextual offer eligibility result.
Applications	The name and code of the course(s) you are applying for at The University of Manchester.
School and College Education	Schools and Colleges attended with dates.
Prior achievement	A list of all the qualifications you have already achieved including the type of qualification, date achieved, the subject and the result.
Examinations still to be taken	A list of the exams you will be taking next summer, including any resits.
Predicted Grades	The MAP team will obtain your predicted grades directly from your school or college (if you are currently studying towards exams).
Personal Statement	Like the UCAS statement, this is where you justify why you would be a good student for the course(s) you are applying for.

## Timetable

The table below shows when you will need to complete the information for the Decision Manchester Application.

### Key dates for Medicine, Dentistry, Oxford and Cambridge applicants

Date	Task
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> August</b>	If you wish to apply to Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science or Oxbridge you must complete all sections of the Decision Manchester Registration of Interest Form on Blackboard by no later than <b>11.59pm, Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August.</b>
<b>20<sup>th</sup> August</b>	Any student applying to Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science or any course at Oxford or Cambridge who has filled in the register of interest will be sent the Decision Manchester application form.
<b>20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> August</b>	Provisional dates for personal statement drop-in sessions.
<b>31<sup>st</sup> August</b>	Any student applying to Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science or any course at Oxford or Cambridge must submit their final Decision Manchester Application Form (including final Personal Statement) by no later than <b>11.59pm, Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August.</b>
<b>6pm, 15<sup>th</sup> October</b>	UCAS deadline for students applying to Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Oxford or Cambridge.

### Key dates for applicants applying for all other courses

Date	Task
<b>17<sup>th</sup> August</b>	If you wish to apply to all other courses (NOT Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science or Oxbridge) you must complete all sections of the Decision Manchester Registration of Interest Form on Blackboard by no later than <b>11.59pm, Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August.</b>
<b>29<sup>th</sup> August</b>	Students applying for all other courses who have completed the Register of Interest will be sent the Decision Manchester Application Form.
<b>10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Provisional dates for personal statement drop-in sessions.
<b>28<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Students applying for all other courses must submit their final Decision Manchester Application Form (including final Personal Statement) by no later than <b>11.59pm, Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September.</b>
<b>6pm, 28<sup>th</sup> January</b>	UCAS deadline for all other courses.

## ***How do I submit my MAP Decision Manchester Registration of Interest Form?***

You will have to register your interest to go through Decision Manchester.

### **Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science and Oxbridge**

The Decision Manchester Registration of interest form will ask you:

- Basic personal information
- Qualifications you are currently studying and will complete in 2024 (if applicable)

You **MUST** complete the first survey by no later than **11.59pm, Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August – we will not accept any applications after this date!**

### **All other courses (NOT Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science and Oxbridge)**

The Decision Manchester Registration of interest form will ask you:

- Basic personal information
- Qualifications you are currently studying and will complete in 2024 (if applicable)

You **MUST** complete the first survey by no later than **11.59pm, Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August – we will not accept any applications after this date!**

## ***How do I submit my MAP Decision Manchester Application Form?***

Once you have registered your interest in going through Decision Manchester, you will need to complete the Decision Manchester Application Form. An e-mail will be sent to you with the link to the online application form. This form will ask you for information on;

- Basic Personal Information
- Previous/Current Qualifications
- Final Course Choices
- Personal Statement

Please re-visit the timetable on the previous page for information on when we will need to complete your final Decision Manchester Application Form. Your form will be submitted to the relevant Admissions Tutor at Manchester.

In your Decision Manchester application form, we will ask you to check your eligibility for a contextual offer using the [contextual data eligibility checker](#), please note that the eligibility checker is for 2025 and the checker for 2026 will be ready shortly. The 2-grade MAP differential offer can now be combined with the contextual offer, meaning some students may be eligible for a further grade reduction on top of the MAP 2-grade reduction.

If you are taking any qualifications this year, your predicted grades will be obtained directly from your school or college so you do NOT need to add these to your Decision Manchester form.

**Please note that we cannot consider students whose predicted or achieved grades are more than 3 grades below the standard requirements.**

For example, if you are interested in applying to Law but are predicted BBB, your application will not be considered as it is more than 3 grades away from the standard requirements of A\*AA.

You should check the standard entry requirements for the course(s) you want to apply to for several things:

- 1) Check that your predicted grades are within 3 grades of the standard offer for the course(s)
- 2) Check if there are any specific GCSE requirements for your course(s)
- 3) Check if the course(s) you want to apply to have any subject-specific requirements. For example, a course may have AAA-ABB as the standard A-Level offer. Students might be required to have studied two hard science subjects at A-Level and to have an A grade in one hard science. You would still have to meet the requirements of studying two hard sciences and have an A grade in one subject and the 2 grades will be reduced off the other two grades (at the discretion of the admissions tutor).
- 4) If you are studying a BTEC/other qualification at Level 3 – you should also check the requirements for the course(s) you want to apply for and you will need to provide additional information about these qualifications e.g. specific modules you are taking (if this information is required) when you apply through Decision Manchester. More information can be found under 'entry requirements', and 'alternative entry requirements' for each subject.

You can find this information about entry requirements for courses you want to apply to [here](#).

## **Stage 2**

### ***How will I find out if my MAP Decision Manchester application was successful?***

Once we have your completed Decision Manchester Application Form and your predicted grades from your school/college, your form will be sent to the Admissions Tutors at Manchester for the course(s) you have indicated on your Decision Manchester application. Admissions Tutors will make a decision and record their decision on the Decision Manchester Form and return it to the MAP team. The MAP team will then notify you of their decision as soon as possible. This is likely to take a few weeks so please be patient.

There are 3 possible outcomes once you have submitted your Decision Manchester Form:

#### **No Offer**

The Admissions Tutor decides that you have not demonstrated your potential to be a successful student on your first choice of course. This might be because of your personal statement, your predicted grades or you might not be studying/have studied the right subjects at A-Level if a course has subject-specific requirements. However, you will have the opportunity to submit a Decision Manchester Form for a different course or to submit for the same course with an improved personal statement (if this was the reason for rejection).

#### **Interview**

If you are applying for courses with additional selection measures e.g. interview, the Admissions Tutor will decide whether you have shown enough potential to be invited to the interview stage. You will then need to apply through UCAS in the normal way (using the same information on your Decision Manchester Application Form) and be invited to interview.

- a) If your interview is successful, you will receive an offer which will include the 2-grade differential offer. Once you have received your offer you will be expected to meet the

conditions of this offer. For all courses, this will mean achieving the required grades or passes in your exams. For some courses there will be other conditions – these are usually related to Healthcare courses e.g. DBS Check and Health Screening.

- b) If your interview is unsuccessful and you have not applied to any other courses at Manchester, you may be able to apply to an alternative course (through UCAS Extra or at Confirmation and Clearing), even though you have already submitted your UCAS form. You can speak to the MAP team and research which other courses may be able to consider you at this stage.

*If you are made an offer of interview for Medicine or Dentistry, your invite to interview would be dependent on your UCAT score being above the required threshold. This will be decided around mid-November once all students have taken their test.*

## **Offer**

If the Admissions Tutor decides that you have met the entry requirements for the degree course and have shown enough commitment and potential to be able to complete the course successfully, you will receive an offer through Decision Manchester.

For this offer to stand, you will need to apply for that course through UCAS in the normal way via your school/college, ensuring that the information you include on your UCAS form is the same information you included on your Decision Manchester application form (including personal statement).

## **A-level Requirements**

When you receive your offer it will take account of the 2-grade differential offer, which the successful completion of MAP is worth. So for example, if the entry requirements are AAB, your offer could be BBB or ABC. The 2-grade differential offer is applied at the discretion of the Admissions Tutor, as they may still require you to get an A in a specific subject, for example.

If you are also eligible for a contextual offer, this will be reflected in your Decision Manchester outcome. Students can accrue lower offers to a maximum of three A-level grades (or equivalent) and a minimum of BBC. This means that if complete MAP you may be eligible for a further reduction if you meet the criteria for a contextual offer.

For example:

A MAP student who meets our WP Plus criteria would receive a three-grade reduction (two for MAP and one for WP Plus status). If the standard entry requirements were AAB this may result in an offer of BBC. If, however, the standard entry requirements were ABB, the offer would still be BBC as drops can't be made below this threshold.

You can check your eligibility by using the [contextual data eligibility checker](#). Please note that this is currently the checker for 2025 entry, and it will be updated soon for 2026 entry.

## **GCSE Requirements**

For courses with specific GCSE (or equivalent) requirements, students who have successfully completed the Manchester Access Programme may still be considered if they are one grade lower, up to a maximum of two GCSE subjects, excluding any minimum subject requirements. For example, where a course asks for a minimum of five GCSE A grades which must include English

Language and Mathematics, a MAP student will be considered if they have three GCSE A grades, but would still be expected to have English Language and Mathematics at grade A. This is up to the discretion of the Admissions Tutor and is not guaranteed.