



The University of Manchester

SHANGHAI GRADUATION CELEBRATION

MARCH 2026

Making a difference



SINCE 1824



**I warmly welcome you all –
graduates, family members
and loved ones – to this special
international celebration.**

CONGRATULATIONS

This occasion is a moment to celebrate and honour all that you've accomplished. It is also a reflection of our University's commitment to work towards a more sustainable future, by providing opportunities to visit members of our community outside the UK.

Today we not only celebrate the degree that you have received, but also the experiences and challenges that shaped your journey at Manchester. By choosing to study with us, you embraced the opportunity to explore everything we have to offer – discovery, collaboration and learning, as you pushed yourself beyond your comfort zone. Nothing worth doing is ever easy, but your pursuit of new knowledge, skills and perspectives will serve you well for years to come.

2026 is the Year of the Horse, representing hard work, determination and the drive to move forward. You have, of course, shown these qualities in abundance throughout your degree, but they will also serve you well as you enter into this next phase of your life and career. You won't be alone on that journey; you are surrounded today by those who believe in you – your family, friends and members of the University community. We all want to see you succeed.

As you embark on the next stage in your life, you will forever remain part of the Manchester community. You join one of the largest alumni networks in the world, ensuring that no matter where you are, you will almost always find a fellow Manchester graduate.

It is our privilege to celebrate your graduation with you in Shanghai today. I hope the memory of this momentous occasion remains with you always. Please keep in touch. I wish you every success in the exciting journey that lies ahead.



Professor Duncan Ivison
President and Vice-Chancellor

Did you know?

We have the largest alumni community of any campus-based university in the UK, with more than 550,000 former students across 190 countries.



**When you joined the University,
you became part of a community
that works hard to make the world
a better place.**

YOU'LL ALWAYS
BELONG HERE

While you may have chosen Manchester for its courses and renowned academics, you quickly discovered that your university experience was about so much more. You realised you belonged.

You learned to exceed the expected and to go above and beyond what's needed. And you did so during some of the most challenging times in recent history. Today is a chance to celebrate your achievements as we recognise the hard work and determination you've shown throughout your time with us.

As I reflect on the accomplishments that brought you to this point, I am reminded of the important role that community plays in our lives. The Manchester community has been a great source of inspiration and encouragement for me, and this celebration is the perfect example of this – a day for friends, families and peers to come together, celebrate your incredible achievements and make lasting memories.

As you prepare to take your next steps, know that you will always belong at Manchester. You're joining an alumni community that spans the globe – and they all carry a part of Manchester with them. I hope the University has prepared you well for your next chapter, whether that's starting your career, getting set for further study or planning new adventures. As you go out into the world, you'll meet plenty of members of our Manchester family, and I encourage you to stay in touch with our valuable alumni network and remain connected with our campus.

I wish you every success for the future. Our world needs progressive, conscientious and compassionate people like you. I am sure you will continue to make us proud.

Did you know?

Our Chancellor appeared on Desert Island Discs and named *Jump Around* by House of Pain as one of his favourite songs.

Nazir Afzal OBE, Chancellor



CELEBRATING OUR HISTORY

Take a trip back through time with snapshots from our past.



Manchester Mechanics' Institute



The entrance hall of Sackville Street Building



Statue of Enriqueta Rylands, widow of John Rylands



Students taking an exam in the Whitworth Hall, 1939



The Old Quad was completed in 1902



Ernest Rutherford and Hans Geiger in their lab at Manchester, 1908



Christie's memorial window on the building's main staircase



Manchester Museum



Students' Union, 1944



The Christie Library, 1950s

MANCHESTER



Looms in Sackville Street Building



Electrical engineer Beatrice Shilling OBE, 1929



Graduation day, 1950



Novelist Anthony Burgess studied English at the University



The Old Quad, 1972



Tom Kilburn and Freddie Williams with 'the Baby' computer



The Whitworth Hall

Did you know?

The Whitworth Hall (named after benefactor Sir Joseph Whitworth) was the last of the quadrangle of buildings to be designed by Alfred Waterhouse RA for Owens College.

It was opened by HRH the Prince of Wales (later King George V) in 1902. The Hall's organ was gifted by Enriqueta Rylands, founder of the John Rylands Library.



The University of Manchester



University laboratory, 1940s



Taxidermist Harry Brazenor installing a whale skeleton, 1898



Nobel laureates Andre Geim and Kostya Novosolov



A student in the Samuel Alexander Building's Philip Haworth Library



Students of the Global Development Institute, 1958

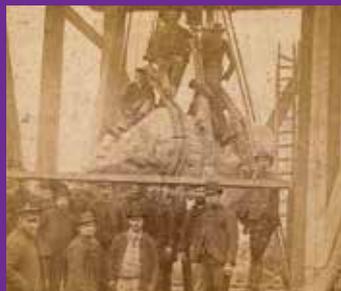


The entrance to Sackville Street Building

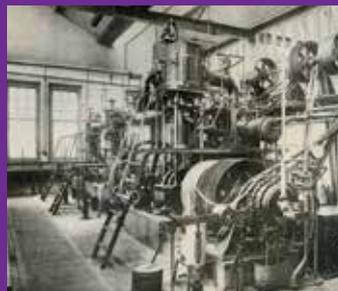
ESTER



Bridge link featured in original plans for the Christie



The excavation of the boulder that sits outside the Beyer Building



Experimental engines in the engineering laboratories



Catherine Chisholm CBE, our first female medical graduate, 1904

HIGHLIGHTS

2024-25

Did you know?

Our community of colleagues and students, both past and present, include 26 Nobel laureates.

Black Leadership Programme goes from strength to strength

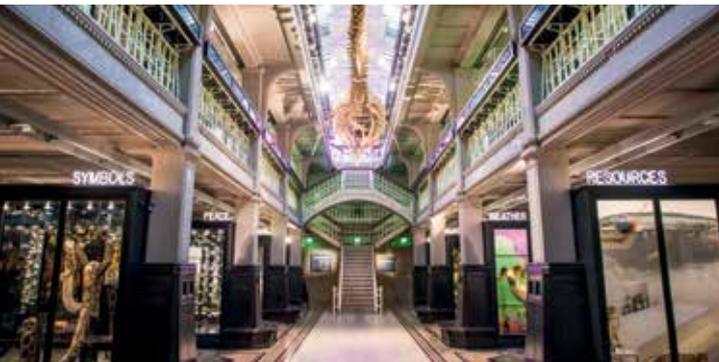
We celebrated our first Manchester 10/10 Black Leadership Programme graduates. Created to empower Black heritage students to build confidence, resilience and leadership skills, the programme was designed in partnership with students.

"One of my highlights has been the wonderful people I've met on this journey. We've grown and laughed together, becoming a community that has achieved so much in a short time," said Oluchi Ijeh, who was named the programme's Most Engaged Student.



Celebrating Turing's legacy

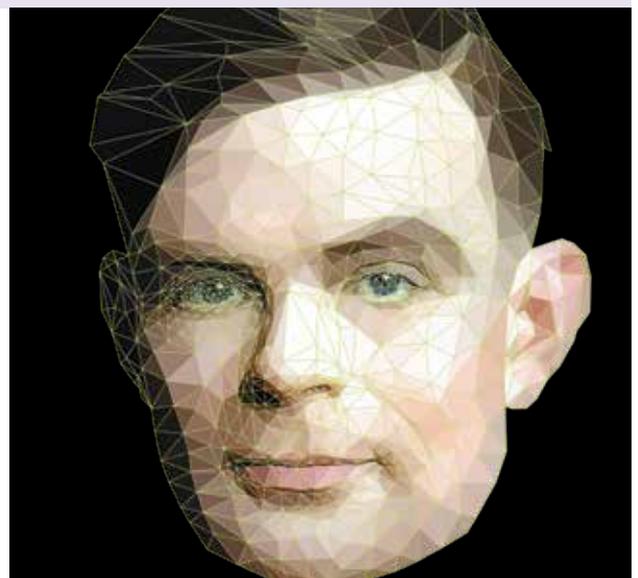
75 years on from the publication of Alan Turing's seminal paper *Computing Machinery and Intelligence*, we've invested in a world-leading research community who are shaping the future of artificial intelligence (AI). From renovating crop productivity in Ghana to tackling online misogyny, we're taking on global challenges, transforming industries, enhancing public services and improving lives.



Manchester Museum named European Museum of the Year 2025

Situated at the heart of our Oxford Road campus, the Museum was praised for "reimagining its mission, acknowledging and addressing its complex history by redefining the role of its collections and public programmes".

Museum curators worked with local and diasporic communities to bring new perspectives to collections and challenge traditional narratives.



University remains UK number 1 for social and environmental impact

Manchester was named top in both the UK and Europe, and second in the world, for meaningful contributions towards the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals in the 2025 *Times Higher Education (THE) University Impact Rankings*. We're the only institution in the world to rank in the top ten for social and environmental impact in every year of the rankings.



From Manchester for the world

This autumn, we launched our new strategy to 2035, setting out our ambition to be a great civic university for the 21st century. By focusing on a combination of foundations and strategic leaps, we will become the type of university we want and need to be: creating knowledge for the public good, locally and globally.



Greater Manchester students lead the way to a sustainable future

The Green Careers Mission event, pioneered by Greater Manchester's Civic University Agreement partners, brought together students from a variety of disciplines and levels to tackle real-world challenges set by industry partners.

Reflecting on the event, one student said: "It's incredible how all the diverse perspectives from all our universities made our insights sharper and more actionable. I'm proud to be part of such a powerful collaborative initiative for a greener future."



200 trees for 200 years

To mark our bicentenary in 2024, volunteers across the University planted 200 trees in partnership with City of Trees. The new trees are part of our commitment to make our region even better – and greener – one tree at a time.

"It's fantastic for the University to be actively supporting such an important green initiative, while creating a lasting legacy for our bicentenary," said former Deputy President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Luke Georghiou. "The oak trees we planted today should see at least another bicentenary."



LEADING THE WAY

Throughout our 200-year history, Manchester has helped shape the world through knowledge, wisdom and humanity.

1874

Edward Ryley Langworthy

The Langworthy Chair, a position later held by five Nobel laureates, is created by the legacy of this donor to the University.



1979

Sir Arthur Lewis

Britain's first Black professor, Arthur Lewis wins the 1979 Nobel Prize for Economics.



1906

Dame Christabel Pankhurst DBE

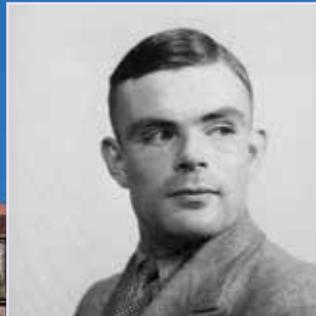
Prior to her role in the suffragette movement, she graduates in law at a time when it was illegal for women to practise the profession.



1945

Prof Alan Turing OBE FRS

The famed wartime codebreaker joins the University, where he later gains a reputation as the father of modern computing.



1908

Sir Ernest Rutherford OM FRS

This pioneer of chemistry and physics, who would later 'split' the atom, becomes the University's first Nobel Prize winner in 1908.



1945

Ellen Wilkinson

Ellen Wilkinson is appointed as Britain's first female Minister for Education. As a student she won scholarships for every stage of her education.



1998**Prof Brian Cox OBE FRS**

Graduating in Physics, Brian Cox starts a scientific career that has seen him become a household name through his work to popularise science.

**2023****Ella Podmore MBE**

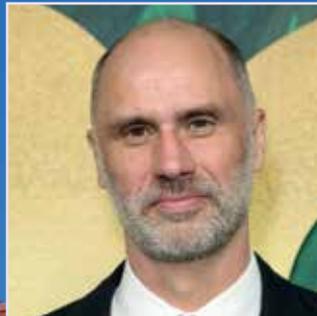
Aged just 27, materials engineer Ella Podmore receives an MBE from the Prince of Wales for services to Engineering, Innovation and Diversity.

**2004****Prof Alan Gilbert AO**

Alan Gilbert is appointed President and Vice-Chancellor in 2004, later establishing Equity and Merit Scholarships and the Manchester Access Programme.

**2019****Jesse Armstrong**

Author and screenwriter Jesse Armstrong wins the first of his five Emmy awards for his satirical drama *Succession*. It receives widespread critical acclaim.

**2006****Prof Danielle George MBE**

Danielle George is awarded her PhD. Ten years later she receives an MBE for her services to promote public engagement in engineering.

**2017****Naa Acquah**

Naa Acquah is named General Secretary of the Students' Union – the first Black woman to hold the position.



STEP INTO YOUR FUTURE WITH THE CAREERS SERVICE

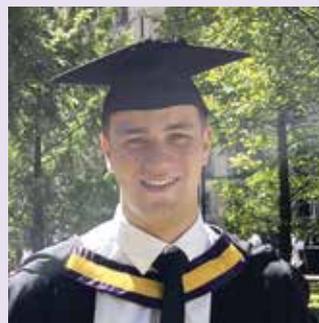
As you get ready to begin the next chapter of your life, remember that you don't have to figure it all out on your own. Our Careers Service is here to help you land your dream job.

Here's how some of our recent graduates have taken their next steps with our support:



Phoebe Feng
Business Development Manager, Alpha CRC

"When I was job searching and thinking about my next step, it was always very reassuring to know that the Careers Service had my back. I recommend going to different alumni panel sessions and connecting with the speakers. You never know where your next big opportunity will come from."



Killian Billinge
Graduate Drainage Engineer, AtkinsRéalis

"I was so uncertain about my future after graduating; unsure whether to continue within further education or to set my sights on employment. The Careers Service provided an abundance of information to guide me towards the decision I made, and I could not be happier!"

As a graduate, you can still access the Careers Service for up to two years after you complete your course.

Get started with our checklist:

- Activate your Graduate CareerConnect account for vacancies, CV feedback, practice interviews and more.
- Follow us on Instagram @uomcareers.
- Join The University of Manchester's Recent Graduates LinkedIn group.
- Book a one-to-one appointment with a careers advisor.
- Complete the Graduate Outcomes Survey 15 months after finishing your course.

@uomcareers

manchester.ac.uk/careers

Did you know?

The Careers Service offers one-to-one appointments for all graduates. In the last academic year, they provided 1,311 careers appointments to support our recent graduates in taking their next steps.

Have you heard of Manchester Graduate Talent?

We offer graduate-level roles in and around Manchester exclusively for University of Manchester students.

Find out more:



Charline Ñuflo

Product Manager, Oxfam

"I used the Careers Service after I finished my master's. It helped me to improve my CV and to practice for my first interview in the UK, which at the time was a bit scary because everything was new for me as an international student. The mock interview session I booked helped me to gain more confidence and be able to secure the job."



Tim Pickin

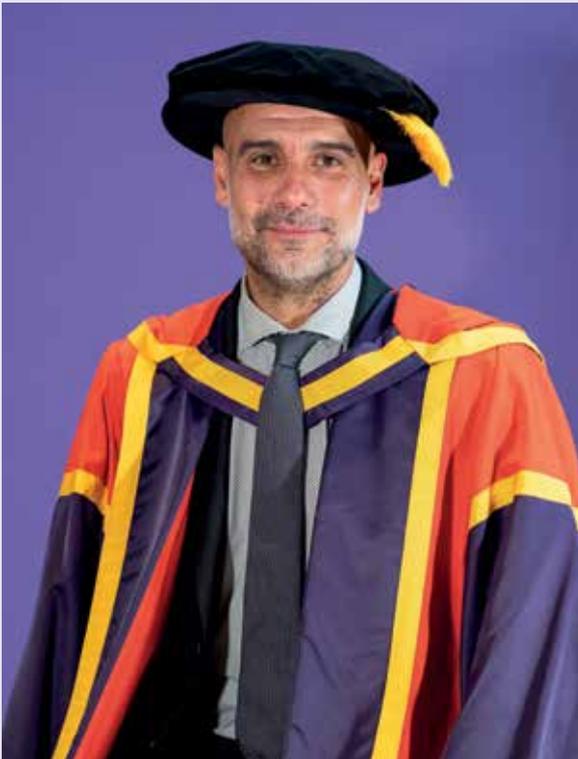
Marketing and Recruitment Coordinator,
The University of Manchester

"Because the Careers Service is so specific to The University of Manchester, the advice I received felt a lot more personal than other sources of careers advice. They understood what it was like to be in my position, what my options were and what I could do with my degree. It's free, too!"

STAY CONNECTED

Class of 2025, welcome to your alumni community!

We're here to help you preserve a lifelong connection with the University, and invite you to continue friendships, share experiences and inspire those who follow in your footsteps.



“Catalonia is my home, but Manchester will remain something unique for the rest of my life. I have lived the best moments of my life here.”

Dr Josep 'Pep' Guardiola on receiving his honorary doctorate, *The University Magazine*, Issue 17, Summer 2025

Scan to read the full article.



Update your personal details:
manchester.ac.uk/update

When you share your personal details with the Division of Development and Alumni Relations, you will receive:

- our emails, including our fortnightly newsletter;
- occasional information by post or telephone about how you can support our students and research;
- invites to University events.

Follow us



alumniuom



AlumniUoM

ACADEMIC DRESS



Mortarboards



Doctoral Bonnets

Did you know?

The gowns worn for traditional graduation ceremonies originated in the 12th century as medieval scholars' garments. It's speculated that these long gowns were donned to keep scholars warm in drafty buildings and symbolise their status at the same time.



Certificates and Diplomas



Bachelor's (3-4) Years
(including BA and BSc)



Bachelor's (5) Years
(including MBChB)



Undergraduate Master's
(including MEng and MChem)



Bachelor's
Manchester School of Architecture



Master's
(including MSc and MA)



Master of Philosophy
(MPhil)



Master's
Manchester School of Architecture



Doctorates
(including PhD, DPT, DBA)



Higher Doctorates
(including DSc)

本次活动期间，无消防报警测试及应急疏散演练安排。

No alarm test or emergency evacuation drill is scheduled during the event.

若单级警报器触发，即视为可能发生紧急情况，全体宾客须立即疏散。

If the single-stage alarm is activated, it shall be regarded as a potential emergency and all guests must evacuate immediately.

如遇火灾或其他突发事件，请遵循现场工作人员指引，沿疏散指示标识，通过指定疏散通道撤离，并前往疏散集合点（南京西路玫瑰园，MiuMiu 店铺旁）集结。

In case of fire or other emergencies, please follow the instructions of on-site staff, follow the evacuation signs, take the designated evacuation routes, and assemble at the evacuation assembly point (Rose Garden on West Nanjing Road, next to MiuMiu).

The University of Manchester
Oxford Road
Manchester
M13 9PL
www.manchester.ac.uk

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