

MANCHESTER  
1824

The University of Manchester



***CULTURAL, CREATIVE  
AND MEDIA INDUSTRIES  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MANCHESTER  
OFFER HOLDER GUIDE***





**7th best university in the  
UK for arts and  
humanities**

*The Complete  
University Guide, 2026*



**35th best university in  
the world**

*QS World Rankings, 2026*



**22nd most international  
university in the world**

*Times Higher Education,  
2026*

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# COURSE AT A GLANCE

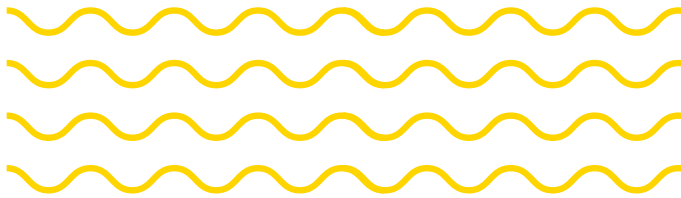
## Overview of your Degree

Through theory, research and applied learning, this course will provide essential knowledge and skills for those who aspire to have a **career in the cultural, creative, and media industries** whether in music, film and TV, theatre, fashion, publishing, or in galleries, libraries, archives, or museums (GLAM).

It will help to develop **critical understanding** of the industries from a national and global perspective and prepare the next generation of cultural leaders, cultural entrepreneurs, policymakers, and researchers in these sectors.

You'll benefit from **guest lectures** from a range of practitioners and creatives from various industries, focusing on a variety of matters across the creative and cultural industries.

You will be joining a **welcoming community** with students from around the world and countless opportunities to make friends through course and society activities. Receive support during your studies from second and third year students with our peer mentoring scheme.



**First year** Learn about historical and contemporary issues in the cultural, creative, and media industries (CCMIs). Analyse how CCMIs operate and how individuals work within them.

**Second year** Learn about how CCMIs operate from a business perspective. Explore issues of fairness in the creative field.

**Third year** Work on group and solo projects in real-world situations. Assess how government rules affect CCMIs. Undertake independent research for your dissertation.

The course is highly interdisciplinary and allows you to explore subjects from individual artforms, such as The Art of Film; Music and Its Contexts; Arts and the City: People, Power, and Protest; and Social Acts: Applied Theatre and Socially Engaged Arts Practice.

[Click here for more detailed information on your course page, including the syllabus for each module](#)

# ART & CULTURE IN THE CITY

Click on any of the organisations to find out more!

As one of the world's great creative cities, Manchester provides the perfect backdrop for this course, which is designed to give students **access to a range of business and organisations within the creative and cultural industries.** Here's an overview of some of the museums and libraries; galleries and art spaces; music, theatre and film attractions; and festivals and key organisations in Manchester that you will benefit from during this course:

## Museums

- Manchester Museum - named European Museum of the Year 2025 and home to over 4.5 million objects with it's wide range of collections including Egypt and Sudan, Archaeology, and Living Cultures
- People's History Museum - national museum of democracy, telling the story of its development in Britain
- National Football Museum - celebrating the history and culture of the sport
- Science and Industry Museum - explores science, technology and industry developments from the industrial revolution to today
- Imperial War Museum North - allows you to walk through a timeline of history from the First World War to the present day

## Libraries

- Manchester Central Library - houses the Manchester Archives, Local History collection, Henry Watson Music Library and the North West Film Archive
- John Rylands Research Institute and Library - the university's neo-Gothic building home to books, maps and other visual materials spanning 5000 years
- Chethams Library - the oldest public library in Britain, known for being the place where Marx and Engels met to discuss their revolutionary ideas that changed the world
- The Portico Library - Regency-period building with a historic collection of over 25,000 books and archives spans over 450 years



Manchester Museum



John Rylands Research Institute and Library



Portico Library

# ART & CULTURE IN THE CITY

Click on any of the organisations to find out more!

## Galleries & Art Spaces

From major galleries to community-run art spaces, Manchester offers a rich art scene with both modern art and historic collections.

### Major Galleries

- Whitworth Art Gallery - one of the university's cultural institutions and five-minute walk from campus, houses a collection of over 60,000 works of art, textiles and wallpaper from the medieval to contemporary age
- Manchester Art Gallery - city-centre gallery with collections from Dutch painting to contemporary ceramics and fashion
- The Lowry - contains the largest collection of L.S. Lowry pieces

### Independent Galleries

- HOME Manchester - platforming both inter/nationally recognised and local artists and cross-artform collaboration and transgressive practices
- Castlefield Gallery - contemporary art gallery and artist development organisation
- ESEA Contemporary - the UK's only non-profit institution specialising in platforming artists and art practices that are informed by East and Southeast Asian (ESEA) heritages
- Islington Mill - studios, gallery and event space home to over 100 artists
- Paradise Works - gallery and artist-led studio community of contemporary visual artists
- Smolensky Gallery - independent art gallery aiming to make art accessible



Whitworth Art Gallery



Manchester Art Gallery



ESEA Contemporary

# ART & CULTURE IN THE CITY

Click on any of the organisations to find out more!

## Music

We have a diverse music scene in the city, with more professional music-making than any UK city outside of London. Here are some highlights:

- Amazing music venues, including the Co-op Live, AO Arena, O2 Victoria Warehouse, O2 Ritz, O2 Apollo, the Albert Hall, Band on the Wall (with its Gospel and Soul Choir, and Folk and World Choir), Castlefield Bowl and Manchester Academy (in the university's students' union)
- World-renowned institutions, such as Stoller Hall and the Bridgewater Hall
- Three professional orchestras: The Hallé, BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and Manchester Camerata

## Theatre

Manchester has the second-highest concentration of theatres in the UK and frequently premieres major productions ahead of London's West End through initiatives like 'Manchester Gets it First'. Its theatres include:

- Palace Theatre
- The Royal Exchange
- Hope Mill Theatre
- The Lowry
- HOME Manchester
- Manchester Opera House

## Independent Cinemas

- HOME Manchester - an arts centre with five cinema screens showing the best in contemporary and classic cinema from the UK and around the world
- CULTPLEX - an independent cinema giving a big screen to cult classics and genre masterpieces
- The Plaza - a 1930s cinema where you can watch classic films the way they were meant to be seen, in their proper ratio and format



Albert Hall

Royal Exchange Theatre



HOME Manchester

# ART & CULTURE IN THE CITY

Click on any of the organisations to find out more!

## Festivals

### Music

- Parklife - two-day music festival drawing around 80,000 people per day
- Manchester Jazz Festival
- Manchester Folk Festival
- Sounds of the City
- Manchester Psych Fest
- RADAR Festival
- Neighbourhood Festival

### Arts

- Manchester International Festival - biennial festival bringing the most exciting artists on the planet to Manchester to create ambitious new work
- Greater Manchester Fringe Festival - arts festival with heartfelt theatre to unforgettable music

### Film and TV

- Manchester Film Festival - celebrating the best new and independent films
- GRIMMFEST - a horror and genre film festival
- Scene Festival - an LGBTQ+ film and TV festival
- Kinofilm Manchester Short Film Festival - showcases diverse and groundbreaking short films and debut features from around the world
- Manchester Animation Festival - the UK's largest animation festival

### History and Literature

- Manchester Histories - celebrates the stories of the people and places of Greater Manchester
- Manchester Literature Festival - two-week literary festival showcasing some of the finest writers and thinkers from across the globe



# ART & CULTURE IN THE CITY

Click on any of the organisations to find out more!

## Key Organisations

### MediaCityUK

Europe's largest media hub and UK's leading hub for media, creativity and innovation, home to organisations such as:

- The BBC and ITV
- Dock10 - the UK's leading T.V. facility
- Creative UK - an independent network for the UK's creative industries
- Into Film - the UK's leading charity for film in education
- Video and audio production companies, such as Audio Always (producer of multiple BBC radio programmes, Penguin audiobooks and popular podcasts)
- Marketing and advertising agencies

### Factory International

A creative company and charity based at Aviva Studios producing music, dance, theatre and literature. They work with a wide variety of local groups to develop ideas, collaborating with arts organisations globally to produce ambitious new projects, and engaging with a range of commercial partners.

### Creative Manchester

The university's research platform connecting the university's academics with arts and culture in Manchester and beyond. They have partnerships with organisations such as UNESCO, Factory International, Arts Council England, Contact Theatre, Lime Pictures and Carcanet Press.



# *HEAR FROM THE COURSE DIRECTOR & STUDENTS*



**Cultural, Creative and Media Industries at Manchester:  
Course Content, Course Aims, Employability and More**

# MY FIRST YEAR STUDYING CULTURAL, CREATIVE AND MEDIA INDUSTRIES

“ I chose BA Cultural, Creative and Media Industries because I'm passionate about performing arts, films, media and literature. Throughout the course, I've gained a lot of practical skills like creative problem-solving, research, project management, market analysis, and entrepreneurship. We've explored different industries and strategies, and had some field trips to visit libraries and galleries to apply theories to practice.



Manchester, as a city, is full of creativity and innovation, with lots of museums, libraries, and art galleries for us to visit, making it the perfect place to explore those creative industries. There are many opportunities for students. The university provides voluntary work for students. I joined 'Big Volunteer Day', 'Once a Month', 'Purplewave', and 'Pen Pal'. I've made lots of friends from different backgrounds by engaging in those activities. Manchester is a city that thrives on creativity, so please immerse yourself in its culture and let it inspire you. The most important is that don't be afraid to explore different areas of the creative industries - the course is designed to help you discover your passions and build a career that aligns with them.

The university is an inclusive place, with professors and students from all over the world. Staff support is excellent, and I enjoy all the professors I've met. Everyone has a personal tutor, and they offer us one-to-one meetings. They are kind and easygoing, and I could talk with them like friends. ”

Yuelin Yang, a first-year Cultural, Creative and Media Industries student from China

[Read the rest of Yuelin's blog here!](#)

# WORK EXPERIENCE & VOLUNTEERING



## Placement Year

Work placements are a great way to gain industry experience, boost your employability and gaining vital skills in project management, time management, research and networking.

This course offers an optional year-long work placement in your third year. You will have the opportunity to work in Manchester's vibrant cultural and creative scene, and will be supported in finding, applying and interview for placements, with subject-specific support from the Placements Office and Careers' Service. Your placement will be overseen by both the host organisation and your academic mentor.

You will receive a reduced tuition fee on your placement year. Click [here](#) for more information.

## Internships

You can also do a shorter period of work experience through an internship. These can last a day, a few weeks or a summer. Our Careers Service can also help you find and apply for an internship that will help you with your career in cultural, creative, and media industries.

## Volunteering

With a huge number of charities and creative and cultural businesses, Manchester has countless volunteering opportunities that can provide a flexible way to develop your skills and explore possible career paths.

The university's volunteer hub is an easy way to find opportunities that suit your schedule. There are a range of roles advertised that will prepare you for a career in creative industries, such as a community arts & wellbeing ambassador, events volunteer, photographer and social media assistants. Get an idea of the possible volunteering roles [here](#).



Hear about different volunteering opportunities at the Whitworth Art Gallery

# SOCIETIES

With nearly 700 societies at the university, there's plenty of arts and creative groups to join.

Societies are not only great way to make friends, connect with like-minded people and take part in fun activities, they are an amazing opportunity to develop your skills and prepare you for a career within creative industries.

You can be part of a society's committee with roles including:

- President
- Treasurer (responsible for budgets, setting membership fees and applying for funding)
- Inclusion officer
- Social media officer
- Communication officer
- Events officer

These roles offer an accessible way to gain leadership, organisational and administrative experience.

Whether in a committee role or simply as a member, joining a society provides a fun, valuable experience that will help you decide on and prepare for your career.

Explore just a few of the university's current creative societies:

## **Music**

**Music**

**Gigs and Bands**

**Digital Music Production**

## **Media**

**Fuse FM**

**Fuse TV**

**Mancunions**

**Women in Media**

## **Art & Fashion**

**Art History**

**Art Collective**

**Contemporary and Experimental Arts**

**Black Artistry and Creatives Society**

**Fashion Society**

**Click on a society to find out more!**



## **Drama & Film**

**Drama**

**Filmmaking**

**Queer Film**

**Global Stage**

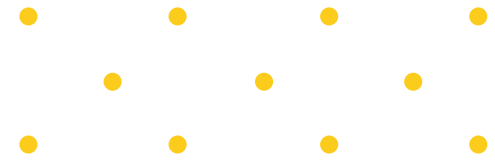
**Musical Theatre**

## **Business**

**Business Acumen for Creatives**

**Women in Business**

# CAREER SUPPORT & PATHWAYS



We will provide you with opportunities and guidance to develop your employability and start your career.

## **Our Careers Service**

You'll have access to dedicated, subject-specific support from our Careers Service throughout your studies and for up to two years after graduation. They provide guidance on improving your CV and interview skills, as well as help you find jobs, placements and internships.

The Careers Service runs the **Media Club**, in which leading industry practitioners visit the university to speak to students about getting into the media industry.

## **Postgraduate Study**

For students wanting to continue their studies and specialise in a particular area, we offer a range of MA programmes including Creative and Cultural Industries, Art Gallery and Museum Studies, Arts Management, Policy and Practice, Digital Media, Culture and Society.

## **Career Pathways**

Did you know the creative economy accounts for **one in 11 jobs** across the UK and employs 700,000 more people than the financial services industry?

*(Creative Industries Federation)*

During the course you will learn creative problem-solving, research, project management, market analysis, and entrepreneurship. You will have the expertise to excel in leadership roles, drive strategic initiatives, influence policies, and promote entrepreneurship within creative and cultural sectors.

The degree opens up the potential to work in a range of creative industries, such as:

- **Visual arts**
- **Performing arts**
- **Music**
- **Publishing**
- **Design**
- **Fashion**
- **Film and digital media**
- **Policy and leadership**

Plus you'll gain transferrable skills to work in creative jobs in other industries and in roles such as public relations, marketing, communications, fundraising and development.



**We are the most targeted university by the UK's leading graduate employers**

*(The Graduate Market 2026 study conducted by High Fliers)*



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