MANCHESTER 1824

The University of Manchester

GET READY FOR MANCHESTER

A Russell Group university

THIS IS YOUR FUTURE

Keira
Philosophy graduate

"Manchester isn't just where I studied, it's a place that really shaped my whole university experience. The city's atmosphere and its mix of people and cultures creates a real sense of possibility that's hard to shake, even after you leave.

From the moment I arrived, there were things to discover, places to explore and opportunities to get stuck in, which made it easy to settle in and feel part of it all.

Getting involved outside my course made a big difference. I joined the student radio society, where I met like-minded people, built my confidence, and discovered interests I didn't even know I had.

We are number one in the world for our social and environmental impact (Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Ratings 2026)

Before starting, I was nervous about moving to a new city and not knowing anyone. But there's such a strong support system, from academic advisors to the wellbeing team, so any worries felt manageable. The sense of community, and the friendliness of the city and campus, meant it didn't take long to feel at home here.

Use this Get Ready Guide to prepare for life in Manchester. I'm really looking forward to welcoming you here!"

Keira

Keira
Philosophy graduate

Get ready to make your mark at Manchester.

uom.link/get-ready

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ARRIVAL, WELCOME AND INDUCTION

To kick off your time at Manchester, we're organising an extensive programme of Welcome events – all with the goal of helping you settle in, make new friends and get fully prepared to start your course.

Key documents to remember

There are a few important things you'll need to bring with you, especially if you're coming from abroad.

- Passport
- Visa (if applicable)
- Accommodation licence agreement (a digital is fine - no need to print)
- Record of any vaccinations you've had (if applicable)
- University acceptance letter

IT AND COLLECTING YOUR STUDENT CARD

Getting your University email address, IT access and student ID are key steps to becoming a student.

- During the admissions process, we'll send details for setting up your IT account to your email address.
- In early September you'll receive an email instructing you to complete your registration. You must have completed the IT sign-up process in order to do this.
- Once you've arrived and completed your student registration, you'll be invited to collect your student card.
- Your student card is your student ID. It gives you access to areas of campus such as the Library, and gets you student discounts in a range of shops and restaurants.

Follow our steps to complete your student registration:

uom.link/get-ready-register

Welcome and induction

There will be several Welcome events hosted by the University, the Students' Union and the ResLife teams for residents in halls. The University's Start of Year Fairs will take place within the first couple of weeks of the start of term, providing you with the opportunity to discover what you can get up to in your first year.

You'll have plenty of opportunities to get involved in a range of activities that will help you get to know the University and connect with people who share your interests.

uom.link/get-ready-welcome-induction

Teaching and learning at Manchester

Students at The University of Manchester are part of a dynamic and inclusive community of learners. Much of your time will be spent on campus, working with teaching staff and your peers in seminars, labs and lectures. You'll also have continuous access to online content and materials that enhance and support your learning.

Much of your learning will take place during scheduled times, when you will meet with teaching staff and other students either in a room on campus or in a virtual room online. At other times you'll be working through materials at your own pace, following a framework provided by your programme and supported by appropriate tools for your learning.

This blended approach allows you to engage with some of your learning at a time and place that works best for you. The exact mix of activities and how they'll be delivered (on-campus or online) will depend on what works for each subject area. You'll receive further information about what your course will look like from your local programme team.

uom.link/get-ready-blended-learning

TRAVEL AND VISAS

Wherever you're coming from, we're looking forward to welcoming you to Manchester, and are here to support you.

uom.link/get-ready-travel

Visas

If you need to apply for a visa to study with us you must have a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) issued by The University of Manchester.

You can apply for your Student visa up to six months before your course start date. You will be issued with a digital visa status known as an eVisa, which you will need to set up a UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) account before travelling.

Check our latest guidance on immigration and visas:

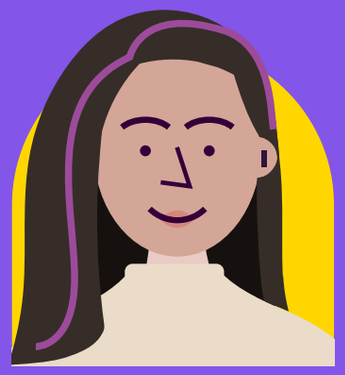
uom.link/get-ready-visas

If your course requires an ATAS certificate, this must be obtained before applying for a visa. More information can be found online:

uom.link/get-ready-atas

Watch our International Office staff answer your questions!

Listen to our podcast on being an international student in Manchester



Watch our bitesize clip of Dorsa talking about life as an international student

Getting to Manchester

Whether you're arriving by air, rail or road, check our website for the latest advice and guidance.

uom.link/get-ready-getting-to-manchester

Please check the latest UK government entry requirements before travelling.

www.gov.uk/uk-border-control

We offer an Airport Support Service to new University of Manchester international students arriving at Manchester International Airport. You can find out more on our website.

TOP TIPS ABOUT COMING TO MANCHESTER

Listen to
our podcasts

Khadijat

“You can make friends before you start university. I joined the African-Caribbean Society through their Instagram. The people you meet might not be your best friends in the end but at least you feel more comfortable.”

Maansi

“When I was coming here, I thought ‘I need to bring everything!’. Actually, everything is available here – clothes, cutlery, everything A-Z. So, you don’t have to get every little thing.”

Georgia

“As soon as my mum and dad dropped me off, I went on a walk. I like to know my surroundings and where everything is, so I went on loads of walks in my first few weeks.”

Aidan

“I ride my bike every day to campus. I was in Victoria Park during my first year and that meant I could get in in five minutes! I can’t recommend cycling enough.”

Aurora

“Manchester has a rich cultural scene. Visit museums, galleries and theatres, and don’t miss the local markets. Exploring the city will help you feel more connected to your new home.”

KEEPING YOU SAFE

We’re committed to keeping you safe during your time with us and have plenty of information on how you can stay safe and healthy on campus.

uom.link/get-ready-health-safety

Safety on and off campus

The city of Manchester is generally safe, but, as in any large city, you should take precautions. We recommend students visit our Student Support site for tips on keeping safe in the city.

You can call our Campus Support and Security team 24 hours a day, 7 days a week if you need assistance on campus or in University-managed accommodation. Their phone number is on the back of your student ID card.

We also encourage you to download the SafeZone app, which allows you to contact the closest university security team for help in the areas of Fallowfield, The University of Manchester campus, Manchester Metropolitan University campus and University of Salford campus.

uom.link/get-ready-health-safety

Avoid scams

Like everyone, students can fall victim to a scam or fraud, so it's important to be aware of the signs of a scam and know how you can protect yourself, your money and your personal information. You can find more information on common scams to watch out for here: **uom.link/financial-wellbeing**

- Only use approved methods to pay your fees to The University of Manchester. **uom.link/pay-fees**
- Remain vigilant about scams that offer to pay fees on your behalf at a discounted rate.
- We advise against purchasing tickets for unaffiliated Welcome or 'Fresher's' events and suggest only purchasing via the Students' Union.
- Be aware of scams and phishing emails and learn how to protect yourself. **uom.link/phishing-training**

If you have any questions or are concerned you have been the victim of this type of fraud, please contact Report and Support. **uom.link/report-support**

A GP (General Practitioner) is your main doctor for non-emergency health issues and ongoing care in the UK.

HEALTHCARE

While studying with us, if you have an illness or injury that won't go away then it's best to make an appointment with your General Practitioner (GP).

All students should register with a local GP so that, if you ever need one, you can book an appointment. A GP:

- provides primary and continuing medical care in the community;
- refers patients to hospital clinics for further assessment or treatment;
- may run specialist clinics within the practice for patients with specific conditions.

They provide a range of services by appointment, including:

- medical advice;
- examinations;
- vaccinations;
- prescriptions;
- access to other NHS services such as non-emergency medicine.

Vaccinations

We strongly recommend you're vaccinated against the following before coming to university:

- Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR);
- Meningitis ACWY.

If you're from the UK, you'll have probably had these immunisations – but it's worth asking your GP to check your health records, particularly as measles cases are on the rise in Manchester.

If you're coming from outside the UK, it's important to make sure you get these vaccinations before you leave. If you are unable to do so, you can get them from your GP (local doctor) once you arrive here.

Depending on where you're from, you may also need a certificate to prove you are free from infectious tuberculosis (TB) as part of your visa application.

The University GP service is an on-campus medical practice. It's located in Crawford House near south campus (Building 31 on the campus map), and you can register as a patient using their online portal. Find out more on the Robert Darbishire Practice website. Use the NHS 'Find a GP' website to search for practices near your address and find out how to register. You'll need to know your term-time address.

uom.link/get-ready-health-safety

Mental health support

If you have previously been diagnosed with a mental health condition, please let us know. It will not affect your application but will allow us to signpost you to our support and wellbeing services should you need them during your time with us.

EEA and Switzerland (with settled/pre-settled status):

Treatment is available for free on the NHS to all students from the EU/EEA and Switzerland who are studying in the UK for six months or longer and who have successfully applied for settled/pre-settled status.

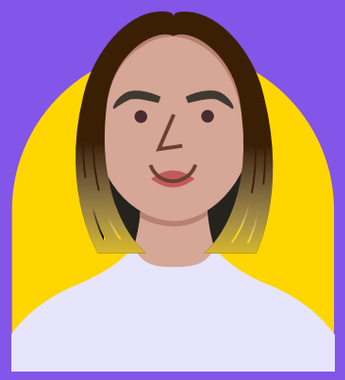
International (except EEA with settled/ pre-settled status):

If you are studying on a Student visa, as part of your visa application you'll pay an immigration health surcharge which will give you access to NHS treatment.

Citizens of Australia and New Zealand are exempt from paying the immigration health surcharge.

If you're not eligible for free NHS treatment, you should take out private medical insurance.

ACCOMMODATION



Watch student Ruby as she moves from home into her new place

Whether you're looking to get a room in one of our residential halls, a private rental, or plan to continue living at home while you study, explore the available options and what you should do next.

uom.link/get-ready-accommodation

Accommodation guarantee

New, full-time undergraduate and international postgraduate students are guaranteed an offer of a room in University halls of residence. Find out more:

uom.link/get-ready-guarantee

University accommodation

The University's range of accommodation means we've got something for all tastes and budgets.

You can apply for University accommodation by completing an online application. Applying is free, but if you wish to accept an offer of accommodation you'll need to make an Advance Licence Fee Payment of £400 to secure your room. You'll need an email address to complete the application and a valid student ID number, which will be on your offer letter.

With our accommodation guarantee you can apply for a place in halls with the reassurance that your Advance Licence Fee Payment is fully refundable should you be unable to take up your offer to study at Manchester.

The deadline for applications is Monday, 31 August.

uom.link/get-ready-uni-halls

Discover student Hanifah's top tips if you're living at home during your studies

Private accommodation

There are also options for private accommodation across the city.

Manchester Student Homes is a University department that advertises University-approved private accommodation such as shared houses, flats and private halls. They offer independent housing advice and provide a free contract checking service, helping you to find safe, reliable student housing.

uom.link/get-ready-private

Living at home

Many students choose to remain living at home while studying at Manchester. If you decide to live at home during your studies, you'll still have plenty of opportunities to get involved in student life.

The University and Students' Union both run tailored support services for those living off-campus, including:

- Commuter Student Society;
- Commuter Cafes;
- Commuter student spaces (with access to lockers, multi-faith prayer rooms, kitchens and shower facilities);
- Commuter Peer Mentoring Scheme;
- transport buddy system;
- day trips and networking events.

uom.link/get-ready-home

MONEY

From setting up personal banking and getting budget-savvy to paying your tuition fees and finding scholarship information, we're here to help.

uom.link/get-ready-money

Tuition fees

All university students in the UK are required to pay tuition fees. Your offer letter from the University will state how much you need to pay.

If you have a UK bank account, you can pay your tuition fees in instalments. You will receive more information around this once your place is confirmed but in the meantime, consider your options on how to pay your fees.

uom.link/get-ready-register

Accommodation fees

Our preferred method of payment for your accommodation is through Direct Debit. You can choose to pay in full or in three instalments and all the details are on our website.

uom.link/get-ready-accommodation-finance

Financial support

There's lots of financial help and advice available to you while you're studying. Find out more online.

uom.link/get-ready-finance

Need advice on managing your money? We've pulled together resources on how best to manage your financial wellbeing.

uom.link/get-ready-budgeting

Setting up a bank account

UK students

It's worth setting up a student bank account – they offer a wider range of services than current accounts, so it's important to consider your options. A main benefit of student bank accounts is an interest-free overdraft, which can be very handy during your studies.

International students

If you want to pay your tuition fees or University accommodation fees in instalments by Direct Debit, you'll need to set up a UK bank account.

It's also more convenient to have a UK bank account, as you can avoid transactional or currency conversion charges incurred through using a foreign bank card. Be aware that paying with a card issued outside the UK will result in an additional charge.

More information about setting up a UK bank account can be found on our finance pages.

uom.link/get-ready-banking

Guidance for finding part-time work

Listen to our podcast on affording university

Watch to learn five free things on campus from our Students' Union

Cost of living and budgeting

We offer a range of initiatives and support services to help you through this period. A few examples are:

- free counselling, mental health and wellbeing support through our on-site Wellbeing Advisors;
- Students' Union Advice Service Emergency Loan;
- Cost of Living Support Fund;
- regular free food events, cheap eat options across University and Students' Union food outlets, and a Community Fridge on campus;
- 20% discount on Food on Campus for students who use Food In Advance;
- free period products in 100 toilets;
- part-time job support;
- work experience bursaries;
- free furniture from our on-site store.

uom.link/get-ready-cost-of-living

Working part-time while studying

There is a broad range of part-time job opportunities for students, both on the University campus and in the wider Manchester community.

The Careers Service can help you make the most of these opportunities, with initiatives such as the Part-time Jobs Fair and bookable appointments.

You can also find part-time work that's flexible around your studies with the Students' Union JobShop.

manchesterstudentsunion.com/vacancies

Budgeting tips

- Choose supermarket own-brand groceries
- Take a pre-made lunch to avoid overspending each day
- Never go grocery shopping when you're hungry
- Consider a bus pass to save on individual fares
- Make a budget plan
- Get a cheap haircut at the Students' Union
- Talk to our Careers Service or the Students' Union JobShop about paid part-time and casual work options
- Go thrifting at the Students' Union and charity shops
- Boost your income – consider selling on Vinted or completing online surveys
- Take advantage of special student-only discounts both on and off campus

You can find more information on estimated living costs at:

uom.link/get-ready-living-costs

WELLBEING AND STUDENT SUPPORT

Looking after you is our key priority and your wellbeing will be central to your experience at Manchester. Our Six Ways to Wellbeing will support you to feel good and live well throughout your studies.

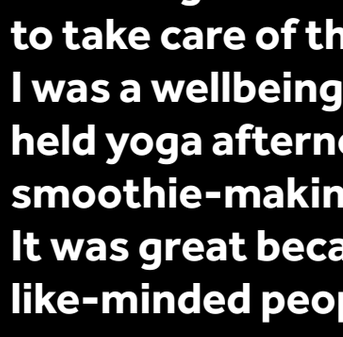
We also have a comprehensive range of support services to help you with anything from employability and finances to counselling and study support. Check these out online.

uom.link/get-ready-health-safety

Listen to our students talk about wellbeing on our podcast channel

“The University’s framework for wellbeing encourages everyone to take care of themselves. When I was a wellbeing champion, we held yoga afternoons outside and smoothie-making competitions. It was great because you met like-minded people.”

Nancy McDonald
Alumna BSc Psychology



Our Six Ways to Wellbeing are: Connect, Give, Take Notice, Be Active, Be Healthy, Learn and Discover.

MAKE YOUR MARK AT MANCHESTER

Our students are curious and creative, and they want to make a positive impact on their community. At Manchester, they find their own voice, stand up for what they believe in and enrich the culture of our city.

As you prepare to begin your time here, find out how Manchester has helped our students make their mark.

“Manchester is a place that enabled me to reach the ultimate goal: a balanced life, with time for studying, relationships, relaxation and fun, as well as the resilience to hold up under pressure and meet challenges head-on. A place that I am now grateful to call home.”

Angela Popovska
MEng Computer Science

“Moving to Manchester for university was one of the best decisions I have ever made. The friends I have made here are going to be ones for life. Living in such a vibrant city with so many opportunities has been absolutely amazing.”

Teya Fountaine,
BSc Biomedical Sciences

Manchester is a never-ending hub of activity and full of like-minded people who are involved in amazing things. Manchester's cultural history, connectedness and strong identity make it a truly one-of-a-kind city!

Aidan Rhode
BSc Geography

What I'm most proud of about studying at Manchester is the opportunity it has given me to study alongside scholars and academics with a wealth of different experiences from a range of different backgrounds over a multitude of knowledge.

Alexandra Robinson
BA English Literature

THINGS YOU CAN DO NOW

Why not use your summer to get ready? Talk to a current student, make a to-do list, explore our clubs and societies and think about your goals for the coming year. Now is the time to get excited!

- Apply and confirm accommodation
- Check if you need a visa and how to get one
- Book your travel
- Make sure you have copies of your ID and travel documents
- Register with a doctor/GP

Get to know the city

The city centre is packed with eclectic restaurants, bars, shops, museums and galleries, while just a short tram or bus ride away, you'll find the beautiful green spaces and vibrant communities of Greater Manchester.

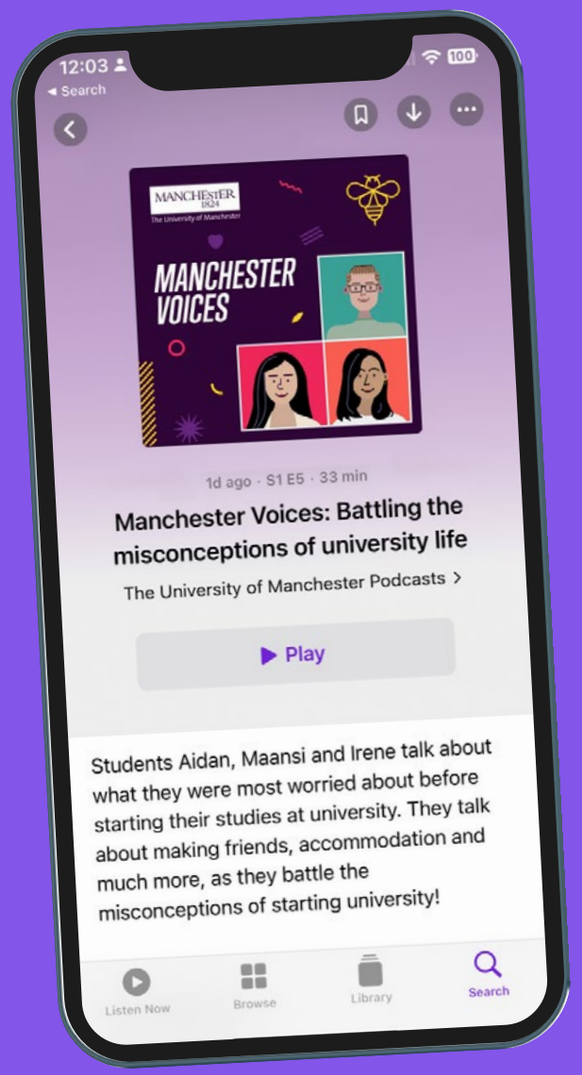
uom.link/get-ready-city

Get to know the campus

Our campus is home to world-famous buildings, institutes and facilities. From the historic arches of Whitworth Hall to the striking architecture of The Nancy Rothwell Building and Engineering Building B, The University of Manchester is a fascinating mix of old and new.

uom.link/get-ready-campus

- Watch our students' '100 things' challenge, where they try to do as many activities in Manchester as they can **uom.link/100-things-video**
- Check out the Students' Union and see what it has to offer **uom.link/get-ready-su**
- Read about managing your money **uom.link/get-ready-managing-money**



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If you have a disability, please register with our Disability Advisory and Support Service (DASS) as soon as possible. This includes if you've previously been diagnosed with a mental health condition. This will allow us to signpost you to our support and wellbeing services should you need them. It's all confidential and won't affect your application **uom.link/get-ready-DASS-register**

Prepare for your studies by completing our 'Transitioning to life at university' module online **uom.link/get-ready-transition-to-university**

Join us for a guided campus tour, or take a self-guided tour through our app **uom.link/get-ready-tour**

Take a virtual tour of our campus and city **uom.link/get-ready-virtual-tour**

Search for and listen to our 'Manchester Voices' podcast on **Spotify** or **Apple Music**

Visit our Welcome website for the latest news and events we have planned for your arrival **uom.link/get-ready-welcome-induction**

Watch our 'Get Ready' playlist on YouTube **uom.link/Get-Ready-Playlist**

Create a TikTok about how excited you are to join us and tag @OfficialUoM for us to see

THINGS TO BRING

Use our checklist to make sure you have everything you need before heading off. Be sure to check what your halls provide as you won't want to bring extra things if you don't need them.

Your room will have storage, but not a huge amount, so pack sensibly and remember that for most of you, you'll be moving out again in June.

You can order bedding, kitchen and bathroom kits through UniKitOut, who deliver directly to your halls before you arrive. Save 10% with the discount code MU10.

Consider waiting until you arrive to buy kitchen items. Often your fellow housemates may already own some things that you can share.

Packing list:

uom.link/get-ready-packing

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

- [ ] ID
- [ ] Student discount cards such as a railcard
- [ ] Details of accommodation and licence agreement
- [ ] University acceptance letter

ELECTRONICS

- [ ] Chargers
- [ ] Extension cable
- [ ] Headphones

BEDROOM

- [ ] Hangers
- [ ] Laundry basket
- [ ] Small first-aid kit with plasters, painkillers and other medicine

KITCHEN SUPPLIES

- [ ] Scissors
- [ ] Tupperware
- [ ] Oven gloves
- [ ] Tea towels
- [ ] Bottle and tin openers

MISCELLANEOUS

- [ ] Umbrella
- [ ] Pack of cards
- [ ] Small sewing kit
- [ ] A weekend or travel bag
- [ ] A reusable water bottle

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The University of Manchester

Please take a few minutes out of your day to fill in our feedback form so we can continue to improve our Get Ready Guide

All information in this document was correct at the time of publication, but is subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, please check our website.

uom.link/get-ready

The University of Manchester
Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL

+44 (0)161 306 6000
www.manchester.ac.uk