

MANCHESTER
1824

The University
of Manchester

undergraduate
brochure 2012



religions and theology

humanities

www.manchester.ac.uk/religion

the facts




- Committed to a comparative and interdisciplinary approach, with no ties to religious institutions
- 4 million books in one of the UK's best university libraries
- The University owns the oldest manuscript fragment of a New Testament book
- Many religious studies-related archives
- Best careers service in the UK
- Guaranteed accommodation for all first-years
- The UK's largest students' union





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'Manchester is a place for individuals, brilliant kids who like to do their own thing... and if you are ready it will release you to do the same...'



With a distinguished history of academic achievement and an ambitious agenda for the future, The University of Manchester offers you a highly reputable learning experience, rooted in a rich educational heritage and boosted by cutting-edge research and innovation – all at the heart of one of the world's most vibrant cities.

the university

Part of the prestigious Russell Group of universities, Manchester has much to offer you. As well as the outstanding facilities, resources and opportunities found within an institution of this calibre, the University is highly respected amongst academic and business communities alike – a respect that is conferred upon its graduates.

Innovative

Our tradition of success in learning and research stretches back over 180 years, encompassing the birth of the modern computer, the splitting of the atom and the founding principles of present-day economics. All these and many more world-changing innovations have their roots here, at The University of Manchester.

Rated third in the UK in terms of 'research power' in the last Research Assessment Exercise, today we enjoy a global reputation for our pioneering research, which informs our problem-based approach to undergraduate learning.

Internationally renowned

Since 2005, the University has risen in the influential Academic Ranking of World Universities Survey conducted by Shanghai Jiao-Tong University, from 53rd to 44th in the world, and ninth in Europe – confirming us as a progressive and world-class teaching and research institution.

Our campus is home to more than 37,000 students from around 150 countries, creating a diverse and inclusive multicultural community.

Ambitious

Our mission is to become one of the top 25 universities in the world by 2015 and the preferred destination for the best teachers, researchers and students.

It's a goal that we're well on the way to achieving, backed by a multimillion-pound investment programme in facilities, staff and buildings. This includes a virtual learning environment that offers you flexible access to study resources 24/7, and the Alan Gilbert Learning Commons, a new £30 million resource centre for students opening in 2012.



Distinguished

More than 5,600 academic and research staff – many leaders in their fields, with international reputations – provide stimulating learning environments and excellent standards of teaching.

As a Manchester graduate, you will join a prestigious hall of fame, including 25 Nobel Prize winners among our current and former staff and students. We have more Nobel Prize winners on our current staff than any other UK university.

Sought after by employers

Employers actively target University of Manchester graduates, giving you excellent job prospects.

Our worldwide community of 240,000 graduates can be found in top positions in every imaginable field, including Sir Terry Leahy, former chief executive of Tesco; former Secretary General of Amnesty International Irene Khan; writer/performer Meera Syal and author Louis de Bernieres.

Full of opportunity

You can take advantage of countless exciting personal development opportunities at Manchester, including career development programmes run by a university careers service that has consistently been voted the best in the UK by graduate recruiters.

Choose The University of Manchester and you will join one of Britain's most forward-thinking universities, which builds on its success year on year – and invites you to do the same.

Find out more...

www.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus



religions and theology at manchester

There are two key reasons for you to come to Manchester. First, we are officially one of the best universities in this country for studying religions and theology. Second, we offer you a wide and varied range of courses to choose from.

Official rankings of quality

Every few years, all disciplines in each university in the country are assessed for the level and impact of their research. We have a top research team here, including many who are known internationally for their work, and many who have written the key textbooks in this area. This was tested by an independent committee in 1996 and 2001, when Religions and Theology was awarded a 5*, which translates as "internationally renowned". We were the only university in the country to maintain the 5* twice in a row – and we are delighted to report that we were once again ranked among the elite departments in the new-style Research Assessment Exercise in 2008.

In 2001, every religions and theology department in each university in the country was assessed for the quality of its teaching of the subject. Religions and Theology at Manchester achieved the maximum mark (24). Only three achieved that top mark, and only Manchester achieved top grades for both research and teaching.



Unrivalled variety of courses

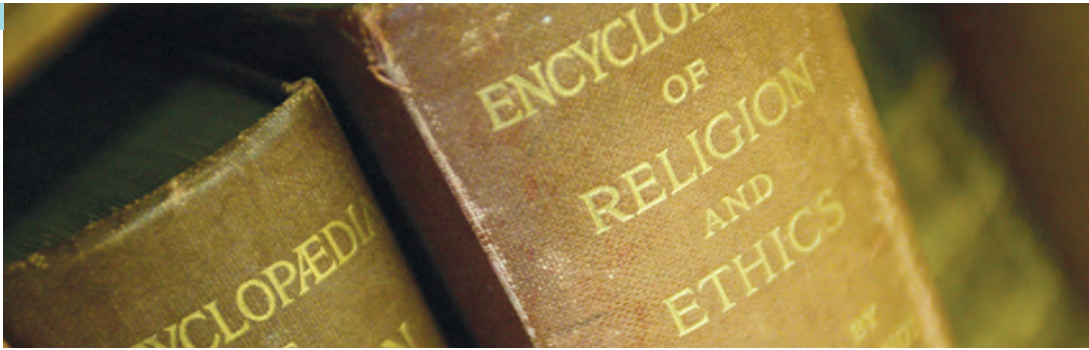
We offer an impressively wide range and variety of courses – more so than any other British university. You can take units in ancient Hebrew, Greek, or Sanskrit, learn about Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish and Islamic traditions, pursue an interest in the Bible or Christian theology, or discover the different approaches to religion offered by sociology, anthropology and philosophy. These are all supported by the resources of our John Rylands University Library, one of the best academic libraries in the country.

Welcoming community

A final reason for choosing Religions and Theology at Manchester is the friendly atmosphere and great relationship between staff and students. Come for a visit and see for yourself.

Manchester offers you...

- One of the UK's highest international reputation for research in religion and theology, which informs all our taught courses
- An impressive range and variety of subject areas to choose from
- Access to one of the UK's major university libraries, with a fabulous collection of books and archives in the areas of religion and theology



Student views

"There is lots of freedom to study what you want to study and to pick units outside of the subject area."

Patrick Daly, third-year student

"Particularly in the core course, having a smaller group was an ideal way to meet people and manage smaller group tasks. The atmosphere is generally more informal and it is easier to ask questions and ensure better understanding."

Scott Hunt, first-year student

"Small-group teaching is excellent in giving one the space to explore ideas in depth and share knowledge at a more-than-superficial level."

David Few, third-year student

"Feedback on coursework is useful and lecturers make the effort to write helpful comments."

Judy Scholes, third-year student

Study resources and facilities

The John Rylands University Library is one of the largest academic libraries in the UK, which boasts a fabulous collection of books and archives in the areas of religion and theology. It offers a wide range of printed books and periodicals, a comprehensive collection of textbooks and scholarly publications, and important manuscript collections. The Library also offers comprehensive access to specialised online and electronic resources and databases.

PCs for student use are found in clusters all around campus, in halls of residence and around the lecture rooms.



Personal support

You have a academic adviser, who usually works with you from the first year through to the third, helping you to become integrated into the learning experience on offer here. You also have a student mentor, usually from the year above you, who can offer advice and support with regard to the student experience more generally.

The University has an excellent Central Support and Advisory Service, and your academic adviser can put you in touch with them. In addition, the student body elects its own representatives to sit on the main committees and to raise matters that concern students, and put forward their views.

We encourage informal and relaxed relations between teaching staff and students, so no-one is afraid to ask questions and make the most basic of enquiries. This makes for a flourishing community, an academic culture that is committed to developing your intellectual potential, interests and curiosities.

Study abroad for one semester

You have the opportunity to study abroad for one semester (in your second year of studies) at a partner university in Europe, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Singapore, or the USA. For more information, email goabroad@manchester.ac.uk, or visit the Study Abroad website:

www.manchester.ac.uk/ug/studyabroad

Career prospects

Your job prospects are obviously crucial in your decision about which degree to take and we are very keen to make you employable. The courses are carefully designed to help you learn the necessary study skills and transferable skills by the end of your studies. These skills range from those associated with information technology and presentation (both oral and written), to those associated with research and communication.

More employers recruit from The University of Manchester than from any other university. It is the most targeted by the top 100 employers, followed by London, Warwick, Cambridge and Oxford.

Careers chosen by graduates in Religions and Theology include teaching in schools and colleges, broadcasting and print journalism, banking, publishing, legal, personnel, public sector professions, Civil Service, work within religious organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and many others.

course details

Study of Religions and Theology BA 3yrs

UCAS Code V600

Theological Studies in Philosophy and Ethics BA 3yrs

UCAS Code V610

Comparative Religion and Social Anthropology BA 3yrs

UCAS Code VL66

Typical offer

A-level: **ABB-BBB**

IB: **33-32**

For entry requirements to specific courses, you will need to visit:

www.manchester.ac.uk/ugcourses

BA (Hons) Study of Religions and Theology

Our BA degree in the Study of Religions and Theology is very carefully titled. It focuses on the facts and challenges of diversity and pluralism in many different religions, at the same time taking seriously the profound questions of ancient, medieval, modern and postmodern debates on theological matters in all those religions.

This makes our degree unique in the UK, as it combines a very wide range of religious areas – from religion in the postmodern city, to ancient Buddhism and Zoroastrianism – with a great variety of approaches. We are interested in the widest interpretation of religion at a time when the world is taking religious difference very seriously. We make the strange familiar, and the familiar strange.

We have scholars of international standing who are linguists; anthropologists; theologians of several religions; literature and mysticism; philosophers; historians; and critical theorists. Your range of choices is therefore very wide, with course units taught by experts in their fields. You will find that you are hearing ideas that come straight out of your lecturers' research, some of which may not yet have been published, or which are hot off the press.

Our introductory core course unit in the first year introduces you to the fundamentals for many of the areas of our expertise, including the various theories and methods currently being used in the subject area (eg literary, historical, social, scientific and feminist approaches).

Approaches and themes

Many of our students find that they are interested in certain approaches to the study of religion, or in specific religious or theological themes. While you can choose whichever course units interest you most, it is worth saying something here about those areas of study that are particularly well represented here.

The implications of religion for an understanding of society (and vice versa)

You could draw upon the interdisciplinary approaches of sociology, anthropology and politics. You might explore a very wide range of different religious traditions and approaches to the study of religion, or spend a lot of time on a single system, or a particular kind of religious phenomenon.

Relevant course units might include:

- Myth – Conceptions and Understandings
- Evolution and Religion
- The Rise of Christianity
- Introduction to Muslim Societies
- Religion, Culture and Gender
- Women in Middle Eastern Societies
- European Reformations
- Women and Men in Indian Traditions
- Christianity, Culture and Society in England 1700-2000
- From Religion to Politics
- Radical Theologies
- Urban Theology



The religions of South Asia

This territory includes India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives, home to about a quarter of the world's population – that's close to 1.5 billion people. There are also significant South Asian migrant populations across the globe, including, of course, in Britain. The cultures and religious traditions of this region, and their impact on social, economic and political life, are therefore issues with truly global implications.

You might want to explore popular practice and scholarly texts, the politics of religious nationalism and colonialism and the goals of religious asceticism. You might like to examine Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist and Islamic traditions in South Asia, and the interactions that have taken place between these traditions.

Relevant course units might include:

- Religion in Modern South Asian History
- The World of Buddhism
- Introduction to Islam
- Introduction to Spoken Hindi/Urdu
- Texts, Rituals and Practices in Mahayana Buddhism
- Religion and Conflict in Late Colonial India
- Sanskrit/ Pali
- Women and Men in Indian Traditions
- Indian Philosophy
- Ethnic Minorities in Britain
- Buddhism and Politics in Modern China and Japan

course details

Biblical studies

This would involve not only the study of the texts of the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament, and the contexts from which they emerged, but also other related texts, such as the Dead Sea Scrolls. It's an exciting opportunity to study some of the most influential traditions in the history of civilization, in an entirely open way.

The Bible is one of the most widely read books – or collection of books – ever written. It has inspired numerous works of art and literature, music and drama. It has had a profound effect on history and culture, ethics and legal systems. It has motivated countless people in a variety of ways, not least because it contains the sacred texts of two of the world's major religions, Judaism and Christianity.

If you'd like to learn both biblical languages, we allow the first-year course unit in either Greek or Hebrew to be taken in the second year; this policy permits you to study both languages without the heavy burden of taking both of the first-year units simultaneously.

Relevant course units might include:

- Greek
- Hebrew
- New Testament – Text and Context, or The World of the Ancient Israelites
- Dead Sea Scrolls
- Prophetic Literature
- Luke/Acts
- Paul and the Origins of Christian Theology
- Magic in the Ancient Mediterranean World

Jewish studies

This would involve study of Jewish religion, history and culture, and on the central issues affecting contemporary Jews. You might learn about the experiences of the Jewish people, and about the interactions between its traditions and those of their neighbours.

Relevant course units might include:

- Introduction to Judaism, or The World of the Ancient Israelites, or Biblical Hebrew
- Jews in Europe
- The History of Jewish-Christian Relations
- Sources of Holocaust Studies
- Jewish-Christian-Muslim Controversies
- History of Jewish Law
- Holocaust Theology
- Biblical Hebrew Texts
- Modern Jewish Thought

Course structure

Year 1

- Core course unit in the Study of Religion and Theology, which introduces you to the various theories and methods currently being used in the subject area (eg literary, historical, social, scientific and feminist approaches) and familiarises you with a range of key thinkers and critics of religion (eg Marx, Freud, Weber, and Durkheim)
- Five 'free choice' course units that will tend to be introductory in nature and quite broad in scope

Year 2

- Six free choices, which will be slightly more focused in their topics and will draw together different themes and approaches in innovative ways

Year 3

- Four 'free choice' course units that are very specialised
- A dissertation, a substantial piece of independent research, produced under the supervision of one of your lecturers

We teach in large and small groups, but always interactively. You have the full range of all the course units to choose from, and are even welcome to take up to two units a year from other subject areas such as History, Classics, or English. You can pick and mix as you see fit to create a unique degree programme that suits your own needs and interests.



Skills development

By the end of your studies, you will have acquired valuable general skills that equip you to succeed in a variety of contexts.

1. You will become familiar with a variety of religious traditions and theological perspectives.
2. With your study of methodical issues and your theoretically informed reading and analysis of a wide variety of texts, you will significantly enhance your alertness to the workings of power, authority, argument and ideology (both in religious and nonreligious guises).
3. By successfully completing this degree you will acquire a wide-ranging understanding of contemporary and past religious, social and cultural developments, and an awareness of how issues of politics, scholarly methodology and religious interpretation tend to intersect, especially in the field of religious studies.
4. By reading examples of some of the most influential and aesthetically powerful documents ever written, as well as offering presentations and writing many pieces of your own, you will acquire excellent communication skills (both written and oral).

course details

BA (Hons) Theological Studies in Philosophy and Ethics

This three-year course focuses on theology as it impacts on philosophy and ethics. You will study 20th-century continental philosophy and Christian theology, and will have a chance to consider their relation to Indian, Jewish and Islamic philosophies. It is designed to map on to the kind of topics that many students first meet in their A-level in Religious Studies, which often emphasises philosophy and ethics, and to take these interests further and into new areas.

The course is far more interdisciplinary than is offered elsewhere, and allows you to explore just how interrelated are theology, philosophy and ethics. While others offer an 'ethics' supplement to theology and philosophy, unique to Manchester is the way 'ethics' is related more generally to social ethics and politics.

Among other things, you will explore theological perspectives on the place of religions in today's society and the philosophical and ethical issues that are raised thereby, consider questions that relate to suffering and evil, investigate the complicated relationship between scientific and religious world views and evaluate philosophies and theologies in Western religious traditions.

Course content

A sample of relevant course units might include:

- Existentialism
- Introduction to the History of Philosophy
- Introduction to Christian Theology
- Islamic philosophy
- Problems in the Philosophy of Religion: Evil
- Indian Philosophy
- From Religion To Politics
- Holocaust Theology
- Radical Theologies

You are also encouraged to draw on a selection of units offered by the Philosophy and politics departments, among others.

Your choices are not restricted to those units that relate directly to theology, philosophy, or ethics; each year you will be given the opportunity to explore other topics, too.

In your third year, you will write a dissertation that draws together what you have learned from theological studies in philosophy and ethics, under the supervision of a member of the teaching staff.

BA (Hons) Comparative Religion and Social Anthropology (Joint Honours)

This course possesses a strongly interdisciplinary flavour. Although the disciplines of comparative religion and social anthropology indisputably differ from one another in a variety of ways, scholars and students in each area recognise the existence of an interface between the two. Increasingly, for instance, scholars of religion use anthropological concepts and tools to formulate and approach questions pertaining to religious phenomena, while religious ritual and magico-religious practices have long been standard topics in the research of anthropologists.

Our course allows you to work both in those areas where the two disciplines fruitfully come together (eg Anthropology of Religion) and in those where their interaction is less direct (eg the Politics of Contemporary Global Issues). Through the Granada Centre for Visual Anthropology, you will also have opportunities to study ethnographic film and video.

Course structure

Year 1

You will take:

- Core course unit in the Study of Religions and Theology
- Two other course units from a set of options in Religion (eg Introduction to Islam; Myth – Conceptions and Misunderstandings)
- Three units in Social Anthropology (ie Regional Studies of Culture, Culture and Power, Regional Studies of Culture)

You will be introduced to the challenge of understanding human diversity alongside an evaluation of some of the developments such as cultural imperialism, which might seem to challenge potential diversity.



You will look at some of the key concepts and approaches to understanding culture, especially in relation to questions of power and inequality, including topics such as nationalism, refugees and the good life.

You will also have the opportunity to study different regions of the world in some depth, such as Central Asia, India, Japan and Papua New Guinea.

Year 2

You will choose six further course units, to be distributed equally across the two subject areas:


- Three units in Religion, which may be chosen from a list that includes, amongst others, Ethnographic Approaches to Islam, or Mahayana Buddhism, Religion and its Critics
- Three units from Social Anthropology, such as Kinship and Social Life, Anthropology of Religion, and Political and Social Anthropology

You will explore a wide range of different religious beliefs and practices, as well as questions about how these should be understood. You will consider various ways of organising and governing societies and their economic relations, and think about how to understand exchange and human motivation, inequalities and some of the changes included under the label of 'globalisation'.

Year 3

This year consists of:

- A dissertation that relates to both religion and anthropology under the supervision of a member of the teaching staff
- Four additional course units, to be split equally between the wide range of options available at level three in Religion (eg Body and Society; Christianity, Culture and Society, 1750-2000) and Social Anthropology (eg Science, Magic and Expertise; The Anthropology of Museums)



Our University website holds a wealth of information on the many varied aspects of student life. Below are some of the most popular topics – use the web links for full details...

find out more

Accommodation

As long as you apply by our deadline, all first-year students holding an unconditional offer are guaranteed an offer of a place in university accommodation. For international students, this promise is extended to the full duration of your studies. We are proud to offer more spaces in university-managed accommodation than practically any other UK university.

Discover our diverse range of university accommodation, bustling student areas, halls of residence visits, private accommodation options and more:

www.manchester.ac.uk/accommodation
www.manchesterstudenthomes.com

Admissions and applications

We welcome applications from people of all backgrounds, and are fully committed to equality of opportunity. All applications for full-time undergraduate courses in higher education are coordinated by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). You must apply online at www.ucas.com. If you are unable to access the internet, contact the UCAS Customer Service Unit on +44 (0)871 468 0468.

Find out more about the application process, policies, procedures and support:

www.manchester.ac.uk/ug/howtoapply

Careers Service

Our award-winning Careers Service will work in partnership with you throughout your degree to improve your employability and prepare you for the competitive jobs market. It will help you find part-time jobs, volunteering and work experience opportunities.

Since Manchester is one of the most targeted universities by graduate recruiters, you will meet many employers on campus. You might also take part in the unique Manchester Leadership Programme, to help you develop skills and boost your CV.

Find out more about careers events, mentoring programmes, accredited course units and a whole range of other services:

www.manchester.ac.uk/careers
www.manchester.ac.uk/mlp

Childcare

There are two centres associated with the University for children between six months and five years of age: Dryden Street Nursery and Echoes Nursery. Find out more about funding options, private nurseries, playgroups and schools:

www.manchester.ac.uk/studentnet/crucial-guide/personal-life/student-parents/student-parents

City of Manchester

One of the great benefits of being a student at Manchester is that all the joys of Britain's number one student city are right on your doorstep. You'll be spoilt for choice for food, drink, culture, music, history, nightlife, festivals, shopping, sport and much more – with the quiet countryside of two beautiful national parks also within easy reach when you want to get away from it all. Find out what one of our current students has to say about the capital of the North West:

www.manchester.ac.uk/ug/studentlife/sociallife/manchester



Disability support/applicants with additional support needs

We welcome applications from people with additional support needs and all such applications are considered on exactly the same academic grounds as other applications. If you have additional needs arising from a medical condition, a physical or sensory disability, or a specific learning disability, you are strongly encouraged to contact the University's DSO to discuss your needs, any arrangements that may be necessary and the extent to which appropriate support is available:

www.manchester.ac.uk/dso

Information is also available from the Students' Union Welfare Officer:

www.umsu.manchester.ac.uk

Funding and finance

The University of Manchester will charge a headline fee of £9,000 per year to UK and EU undergraduates from September 2012, following changes to university tuition fees approved by Parliament in 2010. This fee will enable the University to maintain the quality of a Manchester degree, invest in the wider student experience and offer a range of bursaries and discounts for students from less well-off backgrounds.

However, more than one-third of all students who successfully apply to study here will receive bursaries of up to £3,000 per year – and many will be offered even more generous support. Students who are eligible will be able to choose how they receive this support – either as a cash bursary, or as a discount on their fees or accommodation bill.

For the most up-to-date details, including information on our proposed bursaries, scholarships and fee discounts, see our website:

www.manchester.ac.uk/studentfinance

International students

The University is a multicultural environment and home to more than 9,500 international students from around 160 countries. A range of services is available for international students, to help you both before and during your studies. This includes an airport collection service, orientation courses and specialist student advisers.

Find out more, including information specific to students from your country, such as entry requirements and useful contacts:

www.manchester.ac.uk/international

IT services

As a student at Manchester, you will have access to a huge range of up-to-date IT services, including: online and mobile learning, PC clusters with a wide range of software, extensive WiFi networks, halls of residence internet service, email and technical help and support.

www.manchester.ac.uk/its

Library

The John Rylands University Library (JRUL) is one of the best-resourced academic libraries in the UK and is widely recognised as one of the world's great research libraries, with diverse special collections and electronic resources unrivalled within UK universities.



In 2009, the Main Library underwent a large-scale refurbishment to the ground floor, improving access both to the building and to the collections and also introducing new social and learning spaces to cater for a range of learning styles.

Find out more about the information services and resources available to you:

www.manchester.ac.uk/library

Maps

Get to grips with your future home and take a closer look at our campus, the city and University accommodation by viewing our maps:

www.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/travel/maps

Prospectus

Our 2012 undergraduate prospectus offers a comprehensive overview of The University of Manchester. You can view a copy online:

www.manchester.ac.uk/ug/courses/prospectus

Religious support

There are two chaplaincy centres for the major Christian churches. St Peter's House provides chaplains for the Anglican, Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Churches, while the Roman Catholic Chaplaincy is at Avila House. Hillel House provides facilities for Jewish worship. There are prayer facilities on campus for Muslim students and student societies for many religions.

Sport

We have an exciting sport and fitness scene with something for everyone at every level, from complete

beginner to high performance athlete. Discover more than 40 sports clubs; a vibrant 'Campus Sport' programme, allowing you to play in friendly, recreational leagues; a huge variety of health and fitness classes; plus sport volunteering and scholarship opportunities.

Find out more about our superb sport facilities and opportunities to get active in Manchester:

www.manchester.ac.uk/sport

Student support

Whatever the issue – financial, academic, personal, or administrative – we have experienced and sympathetic people, support groups and advice centres to help you. Find out about counselling, academic advice and various other student support services:

www.manchester.ac.uk/studentnet/crucial-guide

Students' Union

The University of Manchester Students' Union (UMSU) is the largest Students' Union in Europe, offering everything from live bands to welfare advice, cheap stationery to student representation. UMSU has some of the largest and most active student societies in the country, as well as support and welfare services, student media, shops and bars and the famous Manchester Academy. Have a look at the SU website:

www.umsu.manchester.ac.uk

Video library

Watch and listen to our students and staff introducing various aspects of student life and The University of Manchester with our selection of online videos:

www.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/video



contact details



For further information about the courses, or about qualifications, please contact:

admissions tutor

Professor Daniel Langton

address

Religions and Theology
The University of Manchester
Oxford Road
Manchester
M13 9PL
United Kingdom

Please go to: www.manchester.ac.uk/ug/courses/search2012/atoz

and choose your course; current contact details are given in the Fact File for the course.

Disclaimer

This brochure is prepared well in advance of the academic year to which it relates. Consequently, details of 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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Royal Charter Number RC000797
J3234 05.11

