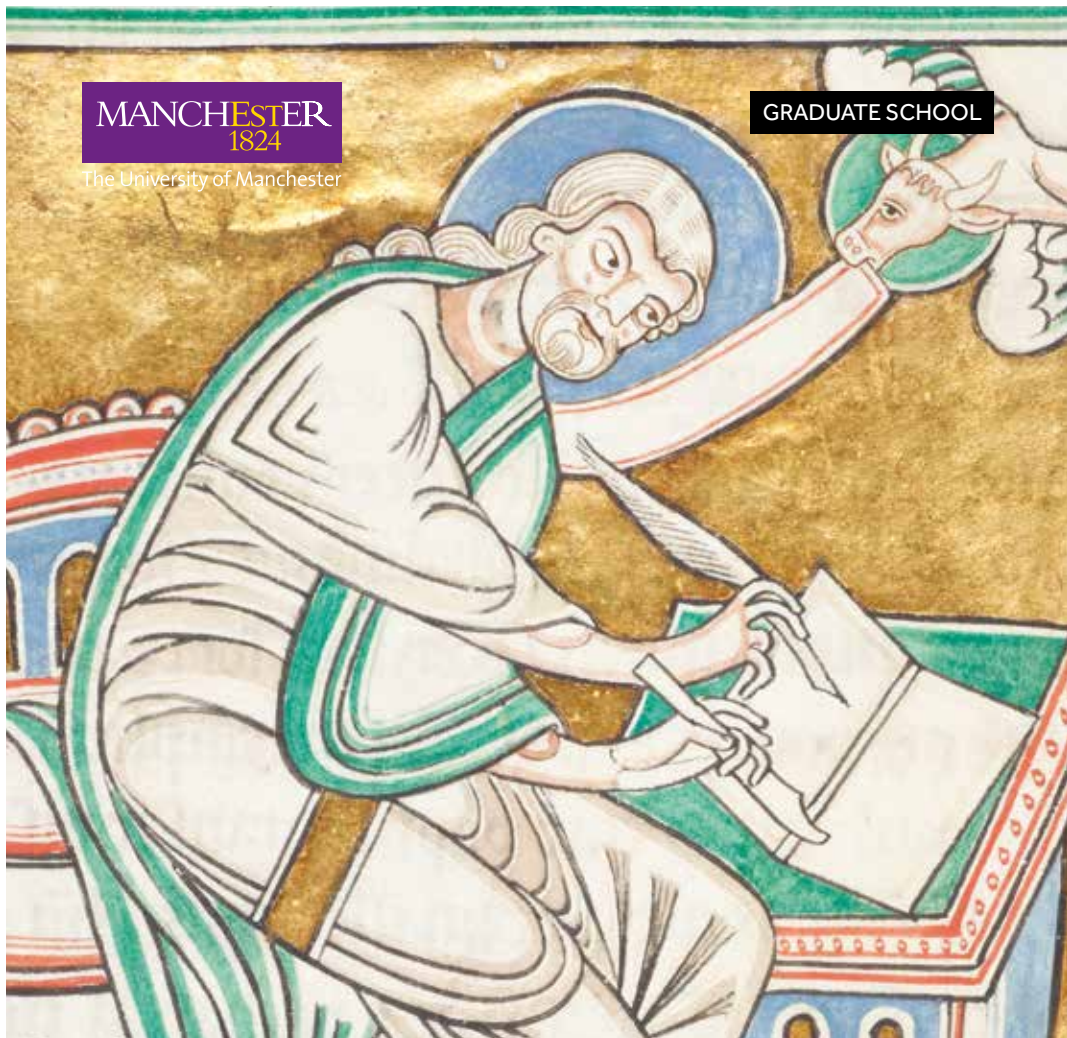


MANCHESTER  
1824

The University of Manchester

GRADUATE SCHOOL



# MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN STUDIES

POSTGRADUATE: TAUGHT MASTER'S COURSE **2016**  
SCHOOL OF ARTS, LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

# You're better connected at Manchester

With a breadth of research activity that's unrivalled in the UK, we work across disciplines and beyond the University, connecting the brightest minds to find innovative solutions to the world's greatest challenges.

Our pioneering taught courses draw upon our world-leading research and our strong links to global industry. You'll quickly develop skills, knowledge and experience that will make employers sit up and listen.

Connect with Manchester, and the world will connect with you.



POSTGRADUATE: TAUGHT MASTER'S COURSE 2016  
SCHOOL OF ARTS, LANGUAGES AND CULTURES



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*“I've been able to make good networks and connections in terms of the work I'm doing and my future career. I've been able to talk to some outstanding professors and read some world-class journals. Manchester has opened my eyes.”*

**Faith Nanyonga,**  
Postgraduate student,  
The University of Manchester, 2014

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www.jrri.manchester.ac.uk



# Welcome to The University of Manchester

Whether you're a committed researcher wanting to further the human quest for knowledge, a career-focused professional seeking a specialist qualification, or a burning enthusiast for higher learning and understanding, a postgraduate degree at The University of Manchester will help you to realise your ambitions.



## We make things happen

Our work makes an impact on real lives. We turn enthusiasm into achievement and ground-breaking theory into cutting-edge practice. That's why we're at the forefront of the search for solutions to some of the world's most pressing problems. Studying and researching at Manchester gives you the chance to make a difference, both during your studies and in your future career.

We work closely with organisations ranging from government bodies to global businesses, from local health services to registered charities. From these links spring unique opportunities: we can deliver courses informed by the latest expertise and research programmes that have greater, more immediate impact and value.

## We give you excellent prospects

Whether studying for a taught master's or a research degree, you'll be directly involved with cutting-edge research, benefiting from our continuous investment in the best facilities and a dynamic research culture that encourages innovative, cross-disciplinary collaboration.

Our programmes are led by distinguished tutors and fellow researchers working at the forefront of their disciplines, ensuring that your qualification comes with a reputation that will open doors across the world.

You'll also have access to a Careers Service that really understands postgraduates, with specialist advisors, events and resources tailored to your needs.

## We offer much more than a degree

At Manchester, you'll find the broadest range of options outside of your studies for developing your interests and experience, including: outstanding sports facilities, skills-development courses, mentoring programmes, community volunteering opportunities and dedicated support for taking part in or setting up a social enterprise.

And you'll be at the heart of the dynamic, multicultural hub that is the city of Manchester, with events, facilities, attractions and opportunities to suit every lifestyle, ambition and budget.

### Find out more

[www.manchester.ac.uk/discover](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/discover)

[www.manchester.ac.uk/research](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/research)

Manchester is one of Lonely Planet's Best in Travel Top 10 cities to visit in 2016



# Medieval and Early Modern Studies at Manchester

The MA in Medieval and Early Modern Studies is based at the John Rylands Research Institute at The University of Manchester. The Institute is an innovative and unique partnership between the John Rylands Library and the Faculty of Humanities. An 'arts lab', it promotes cutting-edge research in the humanities.

## About the Institute

The John Rylands Research Institute was launched in 2013 in response to the changing landscape of research in the arts, notably the increase in opportunities for collaboration between the traditionally distinct fields of arts and sciences. The Institute is based at the John Rylands Library, which has world-leading collections of manuscript, printed and visual material. Teaching on the interdisciplinary MA in Medieval and Early Modern Studies is delivered in partnership with the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures, with input from curators from the John Rylands Library.

Find out more online:  
[www.jrri.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.jrri.manchester.ac.uk)

## What kind of students study with us?

Our students come from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds, notably History, English Literature, Religions and Theology, and Art History. Complementary perspectives serve to build a vibrant learning community. Given the broad scope of our programme, students can build upon their existing interests as well as expanding into new areas of competence. We welcome mature students who may have a number of years of professional experience behind them as well as those who have just completed their first degree.

## Our collections

The collections at the John Rylands Library form a valuable resource for those wishing to develop research skills in the Medieval and Early Modern period. They contain examples from almost every stage in the development of the history of written communication. There are over 500 Latin manuscripts in the collection, some of which contain elaborate illuminations, as well as manuscripts written in Italian, French, English, and even Icelandic! Highlights of early printing include a collection of block-books, type-printed books from the Gutenberg press, as well as extensive holdings documenting the spread of printing in England, France, Italy, and Germany. The library holds approximately 12,500 books printed between 1475-1640, 45,000 printed between 1641 and 1700 and 160,000 volumes dating from the eighteenth century. Much of the collection remains understudied, giving students a unique chance to pursue original research.

## Why Manchester?

Manchester is a cosmopolitan city, but one that has a strong cultural heritage, with the John Rylands Library only one among a number of leading cultural institutions in the city. Notable among these are the Whitworth Art Gallery, which has an extensive collection of early modern prints and textiles dating as far back as the third century CE, and Chetham's Library, the oldest public library in the English-speaking world.

# Postgraduate taught course

## MA Medieval and Early Modern Studies

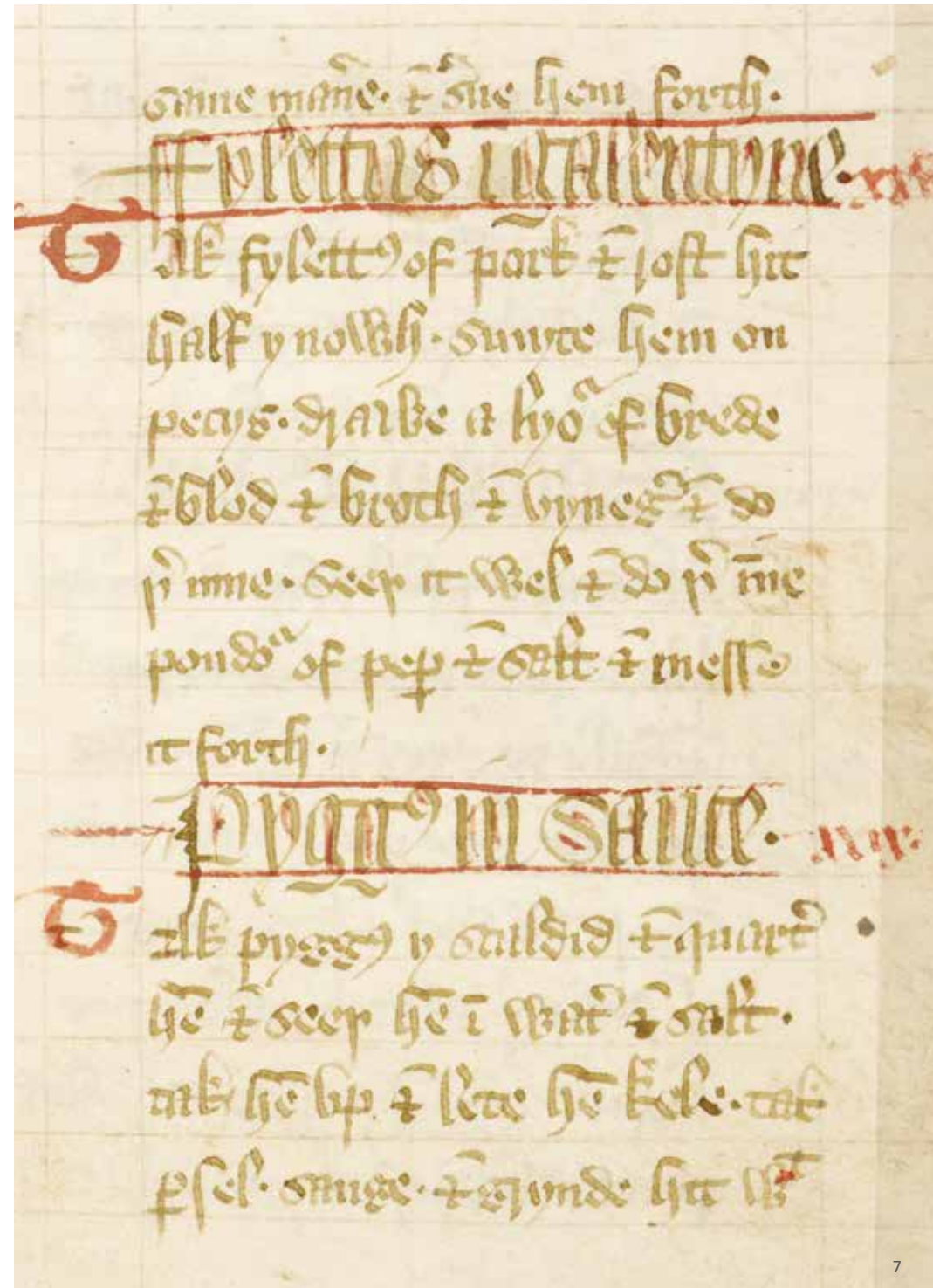
The MA in Medieval and Early Modern Studies offers you an opportunity to pursue your interest in the literatures, histories, and cultures of Europe in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern period. Research in this fascinating area has a long and distinguished history at The University of Manchester. Staff teaching on this MA represent the disciplines of History, Art History and Visual Studies, English, Religions and Theology, Classics, and European Languages. Two pathways are available for students who wish to extend their knowledge in a particular chronological direction: Medieval, and Early Modern. These pathways facilitate pursuit of research in a particular chronological direction, while ensuring that all study is situated in a cohesive intellectual programme that takes into account, and is informed by, varying perspectives on periodisation across disciplines.

### Aims of the programme:

- To provide, through the provision of core and optional modules, substantive study of historical, literary, art-historical and cultural topics within the field of Medieval and Early Modern studies;
- To achieve, through core course provision, advanced training in the variety of skills necessary for independent research in the Medieval and Early Modern periods;
- To encourage students in the use of primary source material, appropriate to their level, and facilitate students' use of libraries and archives;
- To provide training appropriate for future research (eg. at PhD level), future career opportunities, and personal intellectual development;
- To enable students to work across disciplinary boundaries.

### What you study:

- Core courses include Perspectives in Medieval and Early Modern Studies, a unit evaluating cross-disciplinary and cross-period methodologies (30 credits); From Papyrus to Print: The History of the Book, which considers the cultural relevance of the material presentation of the written word and all aspects of book production (15 credits) and Reading the Middle Ages and Early Modern Period: Palaeography, Codicology, and Sources, which offers valuable skills-training in using textual and visual sources (15 credits). These modules are co-taught by experts from the School of Arts, Language, and Cultures, and the John Rylands Research Institute.
- All students write a dissertation (60 credits), written on a topic of your choice, agreed in conjunction with your dissertation supervisor.
- Students take 60 credits-worth of optional units drawn from across the disciplines of History, English, Art History and Visual Studies, Religions and Theology, Classics and European Languages, as well as training in research-languages, such as Latin.
- Courses currently on offer include Saints and Society: Art and the Sacred in Italy 1200-1500; Prometheus Unbound: Art, Science and Technology in the Renaissance; Renaissance Print Cultures; Wonders, Miracles and Supernatural Landscapes in Medieval and Early Modern Europe; Troy Stories and Jews among Christians and Muslims: Introduction and Methodology in Jewish Studies.



# Postgraduate taught course

## The pathway

In addition to pursuing the programme described above, students can choose to specialise further if they wish. We offer two additional pathways through the MA:

- MA Medieval and Early Modern Studies (Medieval pathway)**  
 Students taking this pathway must write their dissertation on a subject concerning the Medieval period. Of the optional course units selected, 15 credits must clearly be of relevance to the medieval period.
- MA Medieval and Early Modern Studies (Early Modern pathway)**  
 Students taking this pathway must write their dissertation on a subject concerning the Early Modern period. Of the optional course units selected, 15 credits must clearly be of relevance to the Early Modern period.

## Building a community

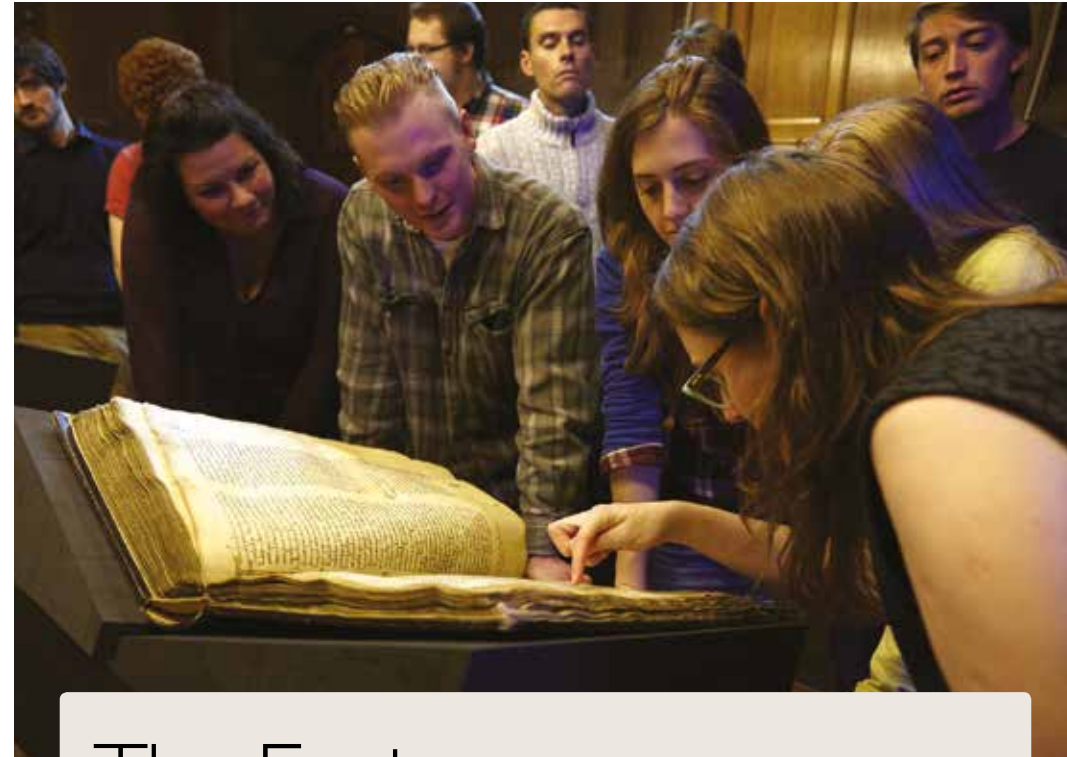
We have a lively research culture at the School of Arts, Languages, and Cultures. You will be able to attend talks, seminars and conferences in addition to your taught course units. You will also be able to draw on the expertise of scholars engaged in cutting-edge research at the John Rylands Research Institute, where the programme is based. The John Rylands Library houses exceptional Medieval and Early Modern treasures (which are currently being digitised) and offers many exciting opportunities for independent research and study. In addition you will be assigned an Academic Advisor who is your point of contact with the Institute and the School.

## What next?

The programme is designed to equip students with the critical skills and tools necessary for research in the history, literatures, and art of the Middle Ages and Early Modern periods. Many of these theoretical and methodological skills are highly transferrable, making our graduates popular with a wide range of employers. Active involvement in course delivery by researchers from the John Rylands Research Institute and the staff at the John Rylands Library facilitates engagement with the collections of the John Rylands Library. This makes the MA particularly suitable for students considering a future in heritage management, in library, archive, or museum work, arts management, or in education. In addition to these professional career paths, other students go on to study for a PhD with the degree proving an excellent basis for an academic career thanks to its emphasis on skills-training. The University has an award-winning Careers Service that provides ample opportunities for career development, whether through attending courses, or acquiring specific individual guidance.

### Entry Requirements:

Applicants should normally hold a good Upper Second Class Honours (II.1) degree, or its overseas equivalent, in a relevant subject. Students who are non-native English speakers are required to have the equivalent of an IELTS score of 7.0. The University's English language teaching unit offers support to those whose English needs improvement.



## The Facts

- Based at the John Rylands Research Institute, a hub for innovative research in the humanities
- Inter- and multi-disciplinary links across the University facilitate the provision of high-quality teaching
- Access to one of the best collections of manuscripts and early printed books in the UK
- £650 million investment in University facilities for research and study
- 4 million books in one of the UK's best-resourced university libraries
- Nationally acclaimed University Careers Service with postgraduate support
- Exciting and diverse environment in one of the best student cities in the world
- A physical Graduate School offering a breadth of continual professional development opportunities

# School of Arts, Languages and Cultures

The School of Arts, Languages and Cultures is the largest grouping of arts, languages and humanities scholars in the UK. It is home to some 6500 students, of which about 1000 are postgraduates, and around 350 academic staff working at the forefront of 20 disciplines:

- American Studies
- Archaeology
- Art History and Visual Studies
- Chinese Studies
- Classics and Ancient History
- Drama
- English Literature and Creative Writing
- French Studies
- German Studies
- History
- International Disaster Management and Humanitarian Response
- Italian Studies
- Linguistics and English Language
- Japanese Studies
- Middle Eastern Studies
- Music
- Religions and Theology
- Russian and East European Studies
- Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies
- Translation and Intercultural Studies

The School is also home to the University Language Centre and a range of interdisciplinary research centres and institutes.

Academic expertise spans the fields of the creative arts, human cultures, beliefs, institutions and languages (from widely spoken global languages to those which are endangered). Our research embraces the material, visual, linguistic, textual, social and performative dimensions of human society past and present, in a rich interdisciplinary culture led by world-renowned scholars, from analysts to creative artists, formal linguists to cultural critics, historians to cultural theorists.

The research unit areas which make up the School have an outstanding international profile. The 2014 Research Excellence Framework judged that:

- 80% of the School's research was 'world leading' (4\*) or 'internationally excellent' (3\*)
- 72% of our research outputs (books/articles) were 4\* or 3\*
- 91% of the impact documented in our case studies was 4\* or 3\*
- 97% of our research environment was 4\* or 3\*

Six units of assessment from within the School had more than 70% of research outputs rated at 4\*/3\* while Modern Languages and Linguistics was ranked a highly impressive 3rd overall. In the 2015 Times Higher World University Rankings, measuring the quality of universities around the globe, Manchester placed 28th for Arts and Humanities. This commitment to research enriches the teaching environment, by bringing renowned international speakers and sustaining a culture of research seminars, workshops and conferences. It also ensures that our curriculum is continually refreshed.

Research and teaching in the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures are supported by rich resources within the University. These include the John Rylands University Library, with its unique Special Collections housed in the refurbished Deansgate building; the University Language Centre, with its own language multi-media resource library; the Race Relations Archive; the Manchester Museum and the Whitworth Art Gallery. Other cultural assets at the University of Manchester include the Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama, Jodrell Bank Observatory and the Alan Gilbert Learning Commons. The School has a strong interdisciplinary orientation and houses the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in the Arts and Languages (CIDRAL).



We maintain a network of partners in research and skills training that involves a wide range of major cultural institutions across the North West. The University and the city offer superb facilities for almost any academic, culture and recreational interests you might wish to pursue. High profile festivals are a major part of Manchester's everyday life, and the School is involved in many of these, including the Manchester Literature Festival, Manchester Histories Festival and Manchester International Festival.

## Graduate School and student experience

Our students find our Masters programmes both challenging and rewarding, as well as good foundations for further study and future employment. The student experience combines the advantages of belonging to a specific subject community alongside the extended choice that a large and diverse School encompasses.

Studying for a Masters within the School offers diverse opportunities for personal, career and professional development. In addition to the integration of work-related skills and experience within degree programmes, our dedicated, physical Graduate School offers a comprehensive range of skills training workshops, placements and residential schemes targeted at postgraduate

students. Our award-winning Careers Service will work in partnership with you throughout your degree to improve your employability and prepare for the competitive jobs market.

Furthermore, we have a strong commitment to social responsibility and public engagement. We want our graduates not only to be highly sought after by employers but also ready to play a constructive role as citizen scholars in wider society. Through our research we seek to create and develop knowledge that makes a difference in the world; through our teaching we want to inspire our students to achieve their full human potential.

## Postgraduate skills and research training

The School of Arts, Languages and Cultures offer a number of bursaries set at the Home/EU fees level for Masters programmes, available for Home and Overseas students. In all cases, the awards are highly competitive.

Further information on all awards including application process and deadlines for application is available at [www.alc.manchester.ac.uk/fees/postgraduate-taught-funding](http://www.alc.manchester.ac.uk/fees/postgraduate-taught-funding)

The AHRC-funded North West Consortium Doctoral Training Partnership is now advertising 1+3 funding, which is available to outstanding applicants planning to undertake a PhD following the completion of their master's.

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## Deadlines

The deadline for all School funding is Monday, 1 February 2016. Applicants who wish to be considered for this funding must have also submitted a standard programme application by this date. References and transcripts need only be submitted once, as they can be used for both a place on the course and as part of the funding application. University of Manchester undergraduates are reminded to accept a fast-track offer by 15 January, 2016.

Candidates wishing to apply for AHRC 1+3 funding must complete the University of Manchester postgraduate admissions application by Friday, 22 January 2016.

Candidates must also submit a NWCDTP Funding Application by 12 February 2016 (5pm GMT) in order to be considered.

Further information is available at [www.nwcdtp.ac.uk/howtoapply](http://www.nwcdtp.ac.uk/howtoapply)

## Find out more about The University of Manchester

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



**Accommodation** – Discover your potential new home: [www.manchester.ac.uk/accommodation](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/accommodation)

**Admissions and applications** – Everything you need to apply to Manchester:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/pgapplication](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/pgapplication)

**Alan Gilbert Learning Commons** – Our ultra-modern student learning environment:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/library/learningcommons](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/library/learningcommons)

**Careers** – Many major recruiters target our postgraduates; find out why: [www.manchester.ac.uk/careers](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/careers)

**Childcare** – Support for students who are also parents:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/childcare](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/childcare)

**Disability support** – For any additional support needs you may have: [www.manchester.ac.uk/dso](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/dso)

**Funding and finance** – Fees, scholarships, bursaries and more:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/study/masters/fees](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/masters/fees)

[www.manchester.ac.uk/study/masters/funding](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/masters/funding)

[www.manchester.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/fees](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/fees)

[www.manchester.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/funding](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/funding)

**International students** – Discover what we offer our multinational community:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/international](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/international)

**IT services** – Online learning, computer access, IT support and more:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/itservices](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/itservices)

**Library** – One of the UK's largest and best-resourced university libraries:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/library](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/library)

**Manchester** – Britain's 'original modern' city is right on your doorstep:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/manchester](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/manchester)

**Maps** – Visualise our campus, city and University accommodation:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/maps](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/maps)

**Prospectus** – Access online or order a copy of our 2015 postgraduate prospectus:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/study/masters/prospectus](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/masters/prospectus)

**Sport** – Clubs, leagues, classes, facilities and more:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/sport](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/sport)

**Support** – Dedicated academic, personal, financial and admin assistance:

<http://my.manchester.ac.uk/guest>

**Students' Union** – Societies, events, peer support, campaigns and more:

[www.manchesterstudentsunion.com](http://www.manchesterstudentsunion.com)

**Videos** – See and hear more about our University:

[www.youtube.com/user/universitymanchester](http://www.youtube.com/user/universitymanchester)



## School contact details

For further information about our courses  
and how to apply, please contact:

Postgraduate Admissions  
School of Arts, Languages and Cultures  
The University of Manchester  
Oxford Road  
Manchester  
M13 9PL  
United Kingdom

tel: +44 (0)161 275 0322

email: [masalc@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:masalc@manchester.ac.uk)

[www.manchester.ac.uk/alc](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/alc)

Royal Charter Number RC000797  
DW3047.11.15

### Disclaimer

This brochure is prepared well in advance of the academic year to which it relates. Details of programmes may consequently vary with staff changes. We therefore reserve the right to make such alterations to courses as are necessary. If we make you an offer of a place, it is essential that you are aware of the current terms on which your offer is based. If you are in any doubt, please feel free to ask us for confirmation of the precise position for the year in question, before you accept our offer.

