UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
ISLAMIC SOCIETY

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT GUIDE

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO HELP YOU GET SETTLED IN AS A MUSLIM STUDENT!



WELCOME

TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER!

WE HOPE THAT THESE WILL BE THE BEST FEW YEARS OF YOUR LIFE INSHA'ALLAH.

THIS SHORT GUIDE WILL ENSURE YOU HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO SETTLE IN AT UNIVERSITY AND SHOULD ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

IF YOU ENCOUNTER ANY PROBLEMS OR HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICER USING THIS EMAIL.

INTERNATIONAL.OFFICER@MANCHESTERISOC.COM



ARRIVING IN THE UK

HERE ARE A FEW THINGS THAT YOU SHOULD KNOW WHEN ARRIVING IN THE UK:

- BEFORE ARRIVING IN THE UK. YOU MUST COMPLETE A PASSENGER LOCATOR FORM ONLINE BEFORE YOU ARRIVE IN THE UK
- HTTPS://WWW.GOV.UK/PROVIDE-JOURNEY-CONTACT-DETAILS-BEFORE-TRAVEL-UK.
- SOME STUDENTS FROM SPECIFIC COUNTRIES MAY HAVE TO APPLY FOR AN ATAS CERTIFICATE. BE SURE TO CHECK THE WEBSITE TO SEE WHAT YOU NEED TO DO TO APPLY FOR ONE.
- HTTPS://WWW.GOV.UK/GUIDANCE/ACADEMIC-TECHNOLOGY-APPROVAL-SCHEME
- SOME PEOPLE NEED TO REGISTER WITH THE POLICE AFTER ARRIVING IN THE UK WITH A VISA, OR AFTER GETTING PERMISSION TO STAY FOR LONGER IN THE UK.
- IF YOU NEED TO REGISTER, YOU MUST GO TO THE POLICE WITHIN SEVEN DAYS OF ARRIVING IN THE UK. WHEN REGISTERING YOU WILL BE CHARGED A REGISTRATION FEE WHICH IS AROUND £34.

- HEALTH INSURANCE, ALL INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS, FROM BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE EU, WILL NEED TO PROVE THEY HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE TO COVER THEM FOR ANY HEALTHCARE THEY NEED WHILE IN THE UK

- YOU'D ALSO WANT TO SET UP A STUDENT BANK ACCOUNT. SETTING UP A BANK ACCOUNT CAN BE A LENGTHY PROCESS,AS BANKS WILL NEED LOTS OF INFORMATION TO VERIFY YOUR IDENTITY AND CREDIT RATING.

- HTTPS://WWW.SAVETHESTUDENT.ORG/INTERNATIONAL-STUDENTS/TOP-INTERNATIONAL-BANK-ACCOUNTS-UK.HTML

UNIVERSITY ACCOMODATION

FINDING ACCOMMODATION CAN BE TRICKY AND PRICEY!

BUT DON'T WORRY, HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT FINDING THE RIGHT PLACE:

IT'S GOOD TO FIND ACCOMMODATION WITH FELLOW MUSLIMS AS THIS CAN REDUCE THE COST AND ALSO GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS!

TIPS FOR PRIVATE ACCOMMODATION:

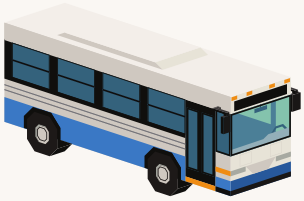
- MAKE SURE TO READ THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS ON THE CONTRACT AND DON'T RUSH INTO MAKING ANY DECISIONS.
- MAKE SURE TO DISCUSS WITH YOUR LANDLORD BEFOREHAND ON WHAT IS EXPECTED OF BOTH PARTIES DURING YOUR STAY. CHECK TO SEE WHETHER WIFI, WATER, ELECTRICITY AND HEATING IS INCLUDED IN RENT.
- IF DAMAGES DO OCCUR, FIND OUT WHO WOULD PAY FOR THE REPAIR COST AND IF THIS WOULD AFFECT THE DEPOSIT.
- ALWAYS TRY TO MAINTAIN A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR LANDLORD!

UNIVERSITY ACCOMMODATION IS AVAILABLE BUT THIS CAN BE A BIT EXPENSIVE SO IT'S BEST TO HAVE A GOOD LOOK BEFORE CHOOSING WHAT'S BEST.

HERE ARE SOME LINKS TO HELP YOU GET STARTED:

- HTTPS://WWW.MANCHESTERSTUDENTHOMES.COM/ACCOMMODATION
- HTTPS://WWW.IQSTUDENTACCOMMODATION.COM/MANCHESTER
- HTTPS://WWW.RIGHTMOVE.CO.UK/PROPERTY-TO-RENT.HTML

GETTING AROUND



TRAVELLING AROUND MANCHESTER IS VERY EASY, THERE'S LOTS OF TRANSPORT AVAILABLE!

IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE USING THE BUS EVERYDAY, YOU SHOULD CONSIDER BUYING A STAGECOACH UNIRIDER TICKET WHICH COSTS £250 FOR THE WHOLE YEAR AND IT WILL LET YOU USE ALMOST EVERY BUS IN THE AREA. IT'S A DEAL WORTH CONSIDERING AS IT WILL SAVE A LOT OF MONEY IN THE LONG RUN.YOU CAN BUY THIS TICKET ON THE STAGECOACH WEBSITE, OR IN THE STUDENTS UNION AND YOU'LL NEED YOUR STUDENT ID CARD.

MAKE SURE TO KEEP YOUR RECEIPT IN CASE YOU LOSE YOUR PASS!

IT'S ALSO WORTH GETTING A BICYCLE ONCE YOU'RE USED TO THE AREA, IT CAN BE HANDY TO CYCLE AROUND CAMPUS AND ALSO THERE ARE LANES DESIGNATED JUST FOR CYCLISTS ON THE ROAD.

IF YOU'RE TRAVELLING IN A GROUP, IT'S ALSO USEFUL TO CHECK THE UBER PRICE, AS THIS CAN WORK OUT CHEAPER PER PERSON INSTEAD OF TAKING THE BUS.

- YOU'LL DEFINITELY WANT TO CHECK OUT DIFFERENT CITIES AROUND THE UK SO GETTING A RAILCARD CAN REDUCE THE COST MASSIVELY AND IS ONLY £30 PER YEAR.
- CITYMAPPER IS REALLY USEFUL AND IS SOMETHING YOU SHOULD ALL DOWNLOAD TO HELP YOU GET AROUND!
- HTTPS://WWW.16-25RAILCARD.CO.UK/



- HTTPS://WWW.16-25RAILCARD.CO.UK/
- HTTPS://CITYMAPPER.COM/

HALAL FOOD/GROCERIES

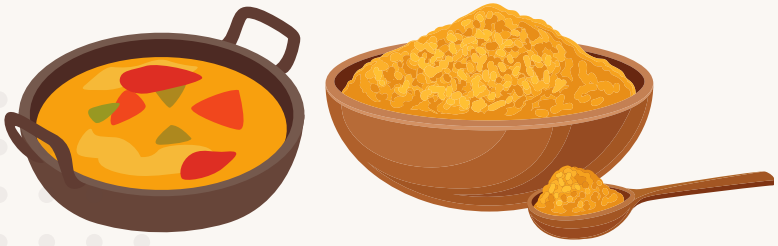
- MANCHESTER IS FILLED WITH LOTS OF DELICIOUS FOOD THAT CATERS FOR EVERY CUISINE! HALAL FOOD IS EVERYWHERE AND CAN BE CHECKED BY LOOKING AT THE LABEL TOO.

- YOU CAN FIND HALAL FOOD IN ABUNDANCE IN AND AROUND CAMPUS. THERE ARE PLACES SITUATED ON OXFORD ROAD GIVING YOU A CHANCE TO GRAB A QUICK HALAL BITE TO EAT BETWEEN LECTURES

- THE CITY CENTRE IS WALKING DISTANCE AWAY AND YOU SHOULD ALSO CHECK OUT THE FAMOUS CURRY MILE, SITUATED ON WILMSLOW ROAD WHERE YOU CAN FIND ALL VARIETIES OF HALAL TAKE-AWAYS AND RESTAURANTS!

- OF COURSE YOU'LL WANT TO COOK FOR YOURSELF TOO, WORLDWIDE CASH & CARRY ON WILMSLOW ROAD PROVIDES ALL THE GROCERIES YOU COULD WANT, OR YOU COULD TRAVEL TO STOCKPORT ROAD IN LONGSIGHT WHERE THERE ARE A FEW MORE HALAL CASH & CARRIES. IF IT'S A SUPERMARKET YOU'RE AFTER THERE'S A BIG ASDA IN HULME, JUST A BUS RIDE AWAY.
- ALSO BE SURE TO CHECK WHETHER SNACKS ARE SUITABLE FOR VEGETARIANS AS THIS MEANS YOU ARE ABLE TO EAT THOSE TOO!

- AS A STUDENT, ALDI IS ALSO GOOD FOR FRUIT AND VEGETABLES IF YOU'RE TRYING TO SHOP ON A BUDGET!



RECOMMENDED SIM DEALS



- SWITCHING SIMS WHILE IN THE UK CAN HAVE A NUMBER OF BENEFITS, SUCH AS MAKING IT EASIER FOR YOU TO SHARE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION AS WELL AS CHEAPER DEALS! HERE ARE SOME SIM PROVIDERS FOR STUDENTS:

- VOXI – A STUDENT'S DREAM SIM PROVIDER, THEIR MONTHLY DEALS ALL INCLUDE UNLIMITED SOCIAL MEDIA USE (WHICH DOESN'T EAT THROUGH YOUR DATA!). JUST MAKE SURE YOU DON'T FINISH ALL YOUR DATA BEFORE THE END OF THE MONTH TO REAP THIS BENEFIT. THIS SIM CAN BE ORDERED ONLINE, FOR FREE, FROM THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE: HTTPS://WWW.VOXI.CO.UK/

- SMARTY – AN INCREDIBLE SIM PROVIDER THAT GIVES YOU AMAZING VALUE FOR MONEY. ALL THEIR DEALS INCLUDE UNLIMITED MINUTES AND TEXT AND YOU CAN GET YOURSELF A SWEET DEAL FROM AS LITTLE AS £5 A MONTH. PERFECT FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE BUDGETING! THIS SIM CAN BE ORDERED ONLINE, FOR FREE, FROM THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE: HTTPS://WWW.SMARTY.CO.UK/.

- BOTH OF THESE SIM PROVIDERS HAVE MONTHLY PLANS (WHICH YOU CAN CANCEL AT ANY TIME), HOWEVER, IF YOU PREFER A PAY AS YOU GO SIM, VOXI HAS THAT OPTION AVAILABLE.

STUDIES!



YOU MUST ALL BE KEEN AND READY TO START YOUR NEW COURSE! SO HERE ARE A FEW TIPS SO THAT YOU'RE ALL READY TO GO:

- TRY TO JOIN YOUR COURSE GROUP CHAT THEY DISCUSS EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW SUCH AS UPCOMING EVENTS, TIPS TO SUBJECT TOPICS AND QUESTIONS, AND THIS IS ALSO THE BEST PLACE TO ASK QUESTIONS TO YOUR CLASSMATES.

- GET USED TO USING BLACKBOARD THIS IS WHERE MOST OF YOUR COURSE CONTENT WILL BE AND MOST UPDATES ARE PUBLISHED THERE.

- YOU WILL BE ASSIGNED AN OUTLOOK EMAIL WHICH WILL BE IN THE FORM FIRSTNAME.LASTNAME@STUDENT.MANCHESTER.AC.UK.

- YOU WILL ALSO BE GIVEN A USERNAME FOR MYMANCHESTER THIS HAS EVERYTHING YOU NEED, FROM YOUR TIMETABLE TO ACCESSING STUDENT SYSTEM. BE SURE TO HAVE A LOOK AROUND SO THAT YOU'RE COMFORTABLE AND HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED BEFORE THE STUDIES BEGIN!

STUDENT DEALS

LIVING AS A STUDENT MEANS YOU'D WANT TO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR AS MANY STUDENT OFFERS AS POSSIBLE.

AMAZON PRIME IS A MUST HAVE FOR STUDENTS AS THIS GUARANTEES NEXT DAY DELIVERY!

WHEN EATING OUT BE SURE TO ASK IF THERE ARE ANY STUDENT DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE!

YOU WOULD DEFINITELY WANT TO MAKE USE OF THESE! UNIDAYS AND STUDENT BEANS ARE BOTH ORGANISATIONS WHICH PROVIDE YOU WITH STUDENT DISCOUNT ACROSS THOUSANDS OF RETAILERS. FROM APPLE TO ASOS, THESE APPS WILL HAVE YOU COVERED.

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS MAKE A FREE ACCOUNT ON THEIR WEBSITES AND VERIFY IT WITH YOUR STUDENT EMAIL AND GET SHOPPING! THEY ALSO HAVE APPS WHICH YOU CAN INSTALL DIRECTLY ON YOUR SMARTPHONES.

- HTTPS://WWW.MYUNIDAYS.COM/
- HTTPS://WWW.STUDENTBEANS.COM/UK

MEETING OTHERS!

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER'S ISOC IS ONE OF THE LARGEST ISLAMIC SOCIETIES ACROSS THE UK, AND IS A GREAT PLACE TO MAKE FRIENDS AND GET INVOLVED!

EVERY YEAR WE RUN MANY EVENTS, BOTH ONLINE AND ON CAMPUS, SO BE SURE TO KEEP TUNED TO ALL SOCIAL MEDIA SO YOU DON'T MISS OUT.

WE ALSO HAVE WHATSAPP GROUPCHATS FOR BOTH THE BROTHER'S AND SISTER'S AS WELL AS ONE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS WHICH YOU CAN ASK TO BE ADDED IN TO!

YOU WILL BE ABLE TO FIND US VIA OUR WEBSITE:

HTTPS://WWW.MANCHESTERISOC.COM/

AND THROUGH OUR SOCIAL MEDIA:
MY.ISOC.LINK/



FINDING A JOB

JOB 

FINDING A JOB IN THE UK IS A STRENUOUS TASK AND UNIVERSITY IS THE TIME IN WHICH WE ALL BEGIN TO THINK OF CAREERS. THIS MAY BE A DIFFICULT TIME AS SOME OF US MAY NOT KNOW WHAT WE WANT TO DO ONCE WE LEAVE OR HOW TO SECURE OURSELVES A JOB. SO IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO FAMILIARISE YOURSELF WITH CAREERS CONNECT! THIS IS A SERVICE CREATED BY THE UNIVERSITY TO HELP YOU MAKE YOURSELF AS EMPLOYABLE AS POSSIBLE!

SOME OF THEIR SERVICES INCLUDE:

- CV SUPPORT
- ONE-TO-ONE MEETINGS WITH OUR UNIVERSITY'S CAREERS TEAM FOR GUIDANCE
- INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

YOU CAN FIND THIS SERVICE HERE:CAREERS.MANCHESTER.AC.UK

HTTPS://WWW.CAREERS.MANCHESTER.AC.UK/

SOME OF YOU MAY WANT TO FIND A PART-TIME JOB, ALTHOUGH THE UNIVERSITY MIGHT NOT PROVIDE SERVICES FOR THIS, THERE ARE MANY PLACES FOR YOU TO START SEARCHING.

ALWAYS TRY TO HAVE A CV PREPARED IN ORDER TO APPLY FOR A JOB AND TRY TO EXPLORE DIFFERENT OPPORTUNITIES.

HTTPS://WWW.REED.CO.UK/JOBS/JOBS-IN-BIRMINGHAM

INTERNSHIPS ARE A GREAT WAY TO GAIN DIRECT EXPERIENCE OF WORKING IN A PARTICULAR ROLE. IT'S ALSO A GREAT WAY TO TEST OUT THE TYPE OF JOB YOU THINK YOU MAY LIKE TO DO WHEN YOU GRADUATE.

BE SURE TO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THEM ON CAREERSCONNECT AND APPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

BURSARIES AND FUNDING

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS LOOKING FOR FUNDING, SCHOLARSHIPS OR OTHER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TOWARDS COVERING COSTS SHOULD START LOOKING SOON!

MANCHESTER ALSO OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS DEPENDING ON YOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE A-LEVEL GRADES YOU HAVE ACHIEVED!

MAKE SURE TO HAVE A LOOK AT YOUR SUBJECT'S WEBSITE TO SEE WHETHER YOU MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS.

HTTPS://WWW.MANCHESTER.AC.UK/STUDY/INTERNATIONAL/FINANCE/FUNDING/

UK CULTURE



LIFE IN THE UK AS AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT WILL BE DIFFERENT FOR MOST OF YOU SO HERE ARE SOME POINTERS TO HELP YOU ADJUST:

- RECYCLING – IN THE UK, WE TRY TO BE AS FRIENDLY TO THE ENVIRONMENT AS POSSIBLE AND ONE OF THE WAYS WE REDUCE OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT IS THROUGH RECYCLING! WE HAVE DESIGNATED BINS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR PAPERS OR PLASTICS/TINS ETC. BE SURE TO CHECK THE BIN'S LABEL BEFORE YOU DISCARD YOUR WASTE TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE USING THE CORRECT BIN.

- UK ETIQUETTES – AS A MUSLIM, IT IS NICE TO BE POLITE TO YOUR FELLOW PERSON AND THIS IS WHAT WE TYPICALLY PRACTICE IN THE UK.REMEMBER TO THANK THE BUS DRIVER AFTER GETTING OFF, HOLD DOORS FOR PEOPLE AND ALSO THE PHRASE 'EXCUSE ME' TO POLITELY GET SOMEONE'S ATTENTION. IN THE UK WE HAVE QUEUES WHEN SHOPPING SO BE SURE TO STAY IN YOUR POSITION IN THE QUEUE.

- STAYING SAFE – WHILE THE UK IS INCREDIBLY SAFE, IT IS BEST TO TAKE SOME PRECAUTIONS DURING YOUR TIME. WE RECOMMEND TO NOT GO OUT LATE AT NIGHT – ESPECIALLY ALONE. STAY AWAY FROM PARKS PAST DARK AS THEY MAY NOT BE ENTIRELY SAFE. TRY YOUR BEST TO STAY IN WELL LIT CROWDED AREAS IF YOU DO NEED TO GO OUT LATE AND TRAVEL IN GROUPS!

WHAT IS ISOC ALL ABOUT

ISOC IS ONE OF THE LARGEST SOCIETIES IN THE UNIVERSITY AND WE OFTEN HOLD A LARGE NUMBER OF EVENTS!

WE ALSO HAVE MENTORSHIP SCHEMES WHICH WILL HELP YOU SETTLE INTO UNI AND WILL ALSO GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE!

FRESHERS WEEK IS ONE OF THE BUSIEST TIMES OF THE YEAR, AND AT ISOC WE WILL HAVE STALLS SET-UP WHERE YOU CAN COME SAY HELLO TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, AS WELL AS HELP YOURSELF TO A GOODY BAG.

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR WE WILL HAVE A WHOLE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES SUCH AS: BROTHERS FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT, SISTER'S PYJAMA PARTIES AND LOTS MORE! AS WELL AS OUR INFORMATIVE ISLAMIC LECTURES AND STORY NIGHTS, YOU'LL ALL BE SPOILT FOR CHOICE.

WE WILL ALSO HOST A WELCOME DINNER WHERE YOU CAN COME ALONG MEET NEW PEOPLE AND MAKE LOTS OF FRIENDS!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO MANCHESTER AND MEETING YOU ALL SOON INSHA'ALLAH!



@MANCHESTERISOC