



Greater
Manchester
Higher

UNI:4U
2026

WISE UP

7 July - 9 July 2026



WISE UP

The Wise Up summer school has been designed to give you the opportunity to dive into student life at one of the UK's leading universities, whilst supporting you in making important decisions about higher education, and providing you with tools and techniques to help with your upcoming GCSE's.

During the event, you'll be given your own room in a student flat and shown that university life is so much more than just studying. You'll get to explore our campus, make new friends, take part in university workshops, and relax and unwind during our fun evening activities.

All the activities have been chosen to give you a sneak peak of university life, and to show you what a typical day for a student really looks like; whether that's spending time in lectures and seminars, chilling at the students union, or completing a group project with other students, we hope there's something here for everyone to enjoy.

Here's what students have said

- Putting myself out there is not as scary as I had imagined.
- It was great meeting new people from diverse backgrounds but with the same ambition.
- It was super fun and engaging, it tested our skills in a good way.
- I learnt that everyone can go to university.
- The disco was the best experience ever!



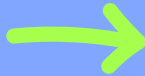
MEET THE TEAM



Rachael

Hi, I'm Rachael and I graduated in 2017 from Manchester Met with a Social Work Degree. I started working at The University of Manchester in October 2023. My job is to plan and deliver IAG events to students across Greater Manchester. Before this job, I had worked for 6 years with young people in Trafford supporting them with their mental health and wellbeing. I love music and comedy and going to live events. I also enjoy writing poetry, collage art and making things out of clay. I am super excited to work my 3rd Wise up and look forward to meeting you all, it's a fantastic few days!

Izaak



Hi, I'm Izaak. I work as a coordinator for the mA*ths Online Programme here at the university. This programme involves Year 12 and 13 students having online mentoring sessions from our Maths students, to help them reach fantastic grades to go to study a maths related subject at university! Before that, I studied Geography here and graduated in 2022 and was a teaching assistant for college students with visual impairments back home in Huddersfield. I was also previously a graduate intern in this team, working with Greater Manchester Higher on Campus Visits and Summer School last year! Outside of work I love listening to music, going to concerts, gaming, and watching football. I support Huddersfield Town (unfortunately). I can't wait to meet you all :)



MEET THE TEAM

Arooj



Hey everyone, I'm Arooj. I have studied at The University of Manchester 3 times, with a degree in English Literature, a PGCE in Secondary English and a Masters in Creative Writing. I work as the coordinator for the Gateways Programme, as well as leading the Manchester Young Academics Programme, where our current students mentor a cohort of Year 10 students to support their studies and raise aspirations. I have worked in the education sector for the last 10 years, both in teaching and in higher education and I also got the opportunity to teach abroad in Abu Dhabi. I'm generally a creative person and in my free time I like to sew clothes, write poems, design interiors and do anything that requires creating something! I have worked on summer schools back when I was a student ambassador at university and I am really looking forward to meeting you all



Jen

Hi guys! I'm Jen. I studied sociology at the University of Manchester and graduated in 2025. I currently work as an intern in the Access and Success team. This involves working directly with pre 16 students by delivering IAG sessions with the aim of informing them about the different possibilities that awaits them in their post 16 education. I love reading, crocheting, and collecting trinkets here and there. I'm also quite into fashion and love building my wardrobe and essentially changing up my style. I really look forward to experiencing this summer school with you all!



MEET THE TEAM



← Freya

Heya, I'm Freya! I graduated from the University of Manchester in summer 2025 with a degree in Politics and Modern History and have been working as a Graduate Intern ever since. I help plan and deliver programmes like Gateways, supporting young people to explore higher education and feel confident in their next steps. During my studies, I was lucky enough to have some amazing academic and social experiences, including travelling to Beijing for an international conference, and being President of the History Netball team in my final year. In my free time, I love playing Gaelic football, travelling, and cooking for friends (I make a meaaaaan lasagne and lemon drizzle cake). I'm really looking forward to Summer School and hope it's an inspiring and enjoyable experience for you all!

Sofia



Hi everyone! I am Sofia, I'm currently an intern in The University of Manchester's Access and Success team, working more specifically with Target Learners and with programmes in partnership with Greater Manchester Higher to provide information and guidance to young people about Higher Education options. I love reading and films and being outside (when it's sunny), whether it's on a walk or gardening. I also love cooking and baking! I am so excited for this year's Wise Up Summer School and look forward to meeting everyone.



TIMETABLE

Tuesday 7 July

Time	Activity
Daytime	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meet the Wise Up community – event leads, student ambassadors and other Year 10's.• Get guidance on 'choosing what and where to study'.• Take part in student life sessions and have the opportunity to visit the Manchester Museum and the University Library.• Academic skills presentation.• Start work on group project.
Evening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Take part in our quiz, and get to know other students and our ambassadors more.

Wednesday 8 July

Time	Activity
Daytime	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attend a session on wellbeing and looking after yourself.• Take part in a university subject taster session.• Develop some other key study skills.• Create your own campaign at the Students' Union.• Carry on with your group project.
Evening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enjoy a student social at the halls of residence; including a DJ, games and snacks.

Thursday 9 July

Time	Activity
Daytime	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Find out about student finance and how to budget your money whilst at university.• Take part in student life sessions and have the opportunity to visit the Manchester Museum and the University Library.• Complete your group project.• Celebrate the end of summer school at our Wise Up graduation ceremony; where your family and friends can come and celebrate with you!

FURTHER INFORMATION

WHAT TO BRING

- **Clothes** - You'll need clothes for the three days that you're with us. You don't need to wear school uniform, so wear something you're comfortable in. You'll be walking between the accommodation and University each day (25-30 mins), so make sure you have a jumper/jacket, comfortable shoes, and come prepared for rain (coat/umbrella). We'll also be having a social on the last night, so feel free to bring your party clothes!
- **A towel** - Bed linen is provided, but you'll need to bring a towel for a shower.
- **Toiletries** - Shampoo, shower gel, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.
- **Electronics** - An alarm clock (or your mobile phone), and your phone charger.
- **Medication** - Make sure you bring any medication you need whilst staying with us – we can't buy any medication for you. If it's likely to be sunny outside, you should consider bringing suncream and/or a hat too.
- **Money** - You won't need to buy any meals at summer school, but you might want to bring money to buy snacks on the walks back to halls in the afternoons. Please don't bring a lot of money though.

FURTHER INFORMATION

WHAT NOT TO BRING

- Pens or paper
- Any expensive electronics - we understand you'll probably want to bring a mobile phone, but please don't bring laptops, iPads etc - you won't need them.

TRAVEL

Transport will be arranged to collect you from school and drop you off at Wise Up on the morning of Tuesday 7 July. We'll send details to you and your teachers in the next few weeks and to let you know what time you need to arrive at school. Don't be late or you might miss the coach! We'll chat to your parents and carers about how you'll be getting home on the Thursday too.

PARENT/CARER SESSION

An online parent/carer information session will take place on Tuesday 16 June, from 6:00pm-7:00pm. The Wise Up team will provide further information about the summer school, including what activities will be taking place, where you'll be staying, and more about our graduation ceremony (that parents/carers are invited to). We'll send joining instructions at least 1 week prior to the session.

GRADUATION

You'll have an exhibition and graduation at the end of the summer school (the afternoon of Thursday 9 July). We'll be inviting your parents, carers and teachers along. This will take place at The University of Manchester between 3pm and 4.30pm.

FAQs

Will my teachers be there?


No. The summer school will be overseen by University of Manchester staff and student ambassadors. In giving you permission to participate, your teachers are acknowledging that you are a mature and responsible young person who can be trusted to attend without their supervision.

Can I call home?

Of course! Please feel free to bring your mobile phone or to ask the summer school supervisors to borrow a university phone to call home.

What if I don't like it?

Don't worry! Talk to one of the student ambassadors or staff. We all really want to help you enjoy your time at the University as much as possible. Try to see it through as you may find it a little strange at first, but by the end you'll have really enjoyed the experience.



FAQs

What will I eat during the Summer School?

We know that you may be worried about the quality (and the quantity!) of the food, so hopefully we can set your mind at ease. You don't need to bring any food or drink with you. We'll provide breakfast, and dinner at Canterbury Court dining room, and lunches to eat on campus during the days. There are plenty of tasty options for dinner and breakfast, with halal and vegetarian diets catered for. Please just let us know what dietary requirements you have, and we'll ensure you get lots of yummy food. There's something for everyone, and it always goes down a treat.

Where will I stay?

You'll be staying in Canterbury Court, where you'll have your own single study bedroom with en suite bathroom. The rooms are arranged in small flats of no more than 10 rooms, and each flat will be supervised by a Student Ambassador. The Ambassadors have been trained and you can go to them if you have any problems, or if you're feeling unwell. The Wise Up team, as well as additional overnight staff, will also be at Canterbury Court throughout the evenings and overnight.

Contact details

You can get in touch with the event team:

Email: gmlhigher@manchester.ac.uk or Phone: 07342077661



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