MSc Precision Medicine

Description

1. Introduction

1.01 Welcome to the University of Manchester and the School of Biological Sciences

1.02 This handbook is accurate at the start of the 2025/6 academic year.

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18600â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Welcome from Head of School 25-26â?³]

1.04 Key Contacts

If you have any queries or concerns at any time during your period of study at The University of Manchester, there is a range of people you can approach. The Programme Administration Team will be your first point of call for general issues. Alternatively, you may wish to contact the Programme Director for specific aspects to do with the course or your Academic Advisor for career development issues. If you wish to raise a confidential matter at School level, you should approach the Head of Teaching, Learning and Student Experience â?? contact details below.

Responsibility for overall management of the Programme lies with the Programme Director who has assembled a Programme Committee, which meets regularly, to advise on content, structure, management, student supervision, and regulatory matters such as Programme improvement and refinement. The Committee also includes the student representative who is democratically elected by you to attend these meetings.

Programme Administration Team

Your first point of call should be directed as follows:

Student SharePoint site: School of Biological Sciences Student Information â?? Home

- Student Hub
  â?¢ sbs.hub@manchester.ac.uk

- Student Support
  â?¢ sbs.wellbeing@manchester.ac.uk

- Assessments
  â?¢ sbs.assessment@manchester.ac.uk

- Programmes and Curriculum
  â?¢ sbs.programmes@manchester.ac.uk

Student Representative
â?¢ To be appointed democratically

Director of Education (UG and PGT)
â?¢ Professor Nicky High
â?¢ nicky.high@manchester.ac.uk

Head of Teaching, Learning and Student Experience
â?¢ Kerry Mycock
â?¢ kerry.mycock@manchester.ac.uk

Teaching and Learning Manager
â?¢ Kelly Salimian
â?¢ kelly.salimian@manchester.ac.uk

Student Service, Support and Development Manager
â?¢ Sam Green
â?¢ sam.green-1@manchester.ac.uk

Programme Directors
â?¢ Dr Janine Lamb
â?¢ janine.lamb@manchester.ac.uk

â?¢ Dr John Curtin
â?¢ john.curtin@manchester.ac.uk

Your contact details

You will be supplied with a student e-mail address. The University will direct communications to you by using your student e-mail address and it is your responsibility to ensure that you can access and read mail from this source. You should check your university email regularly and in turn should send all emails to the University using your student email address.

1.05 Key dates in the academic year

A summary of the key dates is given below, and additional information can be found here: https://www.manchester.ac.uk/about/key-dates/

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•19128â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Responsibilities of staff and studentsâ?•]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18603â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Canvas 25-26â?³]

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1.09 Changes/Updates to your personal details recorded in the Student System

It is your responsibility to ensure that the Student System is kept up to date with changes to your recorded personal or programme details. Any change of personal details must be completed online via My Manchester.

Incorrect information can lead to problems with your fees and funding, at Examination times and with other official processes.

Please read guidance available on the University of Manchester Student Support webpage for details on Updating your bank details and changes to your personal information (for example, your address or name).

If you need any help, please contact the Student Support Hub

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18619â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? The Student Charter 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18621â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? The Digital Equity Charter 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18726â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Dignity at Work and Study 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18627â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Health and safety information 25-26â?³]

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[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18647â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Other facilities/resources â?? 25-26â?³]

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2. About your programme

2.01 Programme overview for MSc Precision Medicine

Precision Medicine is a rapidly changing and exciting area of healthcare. Huge advances in science and technology, from biotechnology to computer power, have fuelled a new model of clinical medicine, changing the way that individuals access healthcare and doctors treat their patients. Precision Medicine transforms healthcare from a â??one size fits allâ?• approach, to a more tailored disease prevention and treatment approach, that takes into account variability in genes, environment, and lifestyle for each person.

The MSc Precision Medicine provides training in the principles of precision and stratified medicine and the clinical impact of individual molecular and lifestyle variability. In this programme, you will learn about multidisciplinary molecular profiling technologies including genetics, genomics, proteomics and metabolomics and their application to the growing area of precision and stratified medicine.

2.02 Aims and Learning outcomes of the programme

- to attract and nurture high calibre students and prepare them for continuing research in industry or academia by providing them with laboratory experience, a comprehensive set of practical research skills, and professional, transferable skills that will be vital for their future professional development.
- to meet the needs of universities and industrial employers by supplying high calibre graduates with a proven commitment to research, coupled with a broad base of practical research skills, general transferable skills and laboratory experience; to enable students to make an informed decision about their personal suitability and motivation for a research career.

The objectives of the programme are fulfilled because on graduation you will:

- have acquired a comprehensive set of practical Research Skills in your chosen areas of interest, including the ability to identify and analyse problems, design a series of experiments to test hypotheses, and to analyse and present results and conclusions,
- have acquired a broad set of transferable skills to help prepare you for the workplace â?? these will include oral and written communication skills, time management, group skills and leadership, have direct experience and understanding of different research environments, have acquired critical skills in reading scientific documents and responding to the research of others, have acquired the ability to plan and organise an in depth piece of scientific writing which sets a

coherent description of the work undertaken, including timeliness, relevance, methodology, and a discussion of the findings.
- have acquired the ability to summarise the scientific content of a research paper or research presentation, have acquired the ability to write in a scientific style according to given formats e.g. a published paper or an oral presentation,
- have acquired a high level of library and IT skills, including the ability to use a range of reference tools to search and retrieve information.

2.03 Summary of the programme structure

Course Unit	Credit	Teaching Methods	Assessment Method
Health and Safety and Academic malpractice	0	Online material	Online MCQ assessment
Research Methods	15	Lectures and workshops. Online material	Critical appraisal of literature, ethical reflective piece and statistical online MCQ assessment, Self-learning exercises. Students take 3/4 assessments.
Lab Skills	15	Lectures, workshops, Online material	MCQ assessment and 1000 word report
Genetics and Genomics	15	Lectures, workshops, Online material	Group oral presentation (formative). 2000 word written report
Proteomics and Metabolomics	15	Lectures, workshops, online material	MCQ tests (formative assessment). Individual presentation of journal article (20%). 2 hour written exam (80%)
Research Project 1	30	Orientation meetings with supervisory team. Preparative directed reading	Written literature report maximum 6,500 words and project proposal 2,500 words

Research Project 2	90	Research	Written report 10,000 words. Poster experience presentation and research performance assessment (25 week duration)

2.04 Modes of study

This is a full-time Masterâ??s course.

2.05 Programme specification

These documents are stored internally within the School**.**

2.06 Course Units

All course unit specifications were reviewed March 2025

MEDN69921: Research Methods

Course unit information | MyManchester

BIOL66111: Laboratory Skills

Course unit information | MyManchester

BIOL72021: Genetics, Genetic Epidemiology, Transcriptomics and Functional Genomics

Course unit information | MyManchester

BIOL72031: Proteomics and Metabolomics/Metabolic Profiling

Course unit information | MyManchester

BIOL66121: Research Project 1: Literature Review Research Proposal

Course unit information | MyManchester

BIOL66132: Research Project 2

Course unit information | MyManchester

2.07 Information on the way in which a student can progress through the programme

Please be aware this programme has some higher requirements to the University degree regulations and details of these are outlined below:

- The programme will not permit compensation rules to be applied to the following units:
    - Research Project 1 (BIOL66121)
- Reassessment will be permitted in up to half of the taught units plus Research Project 1 (50% of total number of taught units (60 credits) + Research Project 1 (30 credits) = 45 credits)

The University Postgraduate degree regulations can be found online:

- Postgraduate Degree Regulations

In order to progress to the dissertation/research project you must have satisfactorily achieved the relevant pass mark in taught course units, including by use of resit and/or compensation as outlined in the degree regulations, in order to continue to this element of the programme.

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2.13 Degree Classification algorithm

During your degree programme, you will complete 180 credits; which will comprise of both Taught (teaching-based) course units and two larger Research-based course units. Each course unit carries a weighting in credits and an average is calculated at the end of your degree programme of the marks you have achieved and this serves as your final degree mark out of 100. Course units are counted in to your degree mark based on their weighting in credits, so a 60 credit course unit would be counted in to the average 4 times, whilst a 15 credit course unit would be counted in to the average once. All degree marks are rounded to 1 decimal place. Please see below an example degree mark calculation:

Unit 1 (15 Credits): 67

Unit 2 (15 Credits): 55

Unit 3 (15 Credits): 78

Unit 4 (15 Credits): 70

Unit 5 (30 Credits): 75

Unit 6 (90 Credits): 66

The calculation would be:

67 + 55 + 78 + 70 + 75 + 75 + 66 + 66 + 66 + 66 + 66 + 66 = 816 / 12 = 68

Please note that in cases where students have approved mitigating circumstances for some of their marks, the final mark may be calculated differently, at the discretion of the exam board, for example a 15 credit unit where the student has under-performed may be excluded from the final calculation.

Degree Classification

For Masters Programmes, students must achieve an overall average of at least 50 to be eligible for an MSc award. If you achieve an average below 50, you will not be awarded an MSc award, but may be eligible for a lower exit award of a Postgraduate Diploma or a Postgraduate Certificate.

Degree classifications are awarded as follows:

Final mark of 50 â?? 59.9: Pass

Final mark of 60 â?? 69.9: Merit

Final mark of 70 or above: Distinction

Classification Review:

For final degree marks which fall within the boundary zone; within 2 marks of the higher classification (68 â?? 69.9 for a Distinction or 58 â?? 59.9 for a Merit), the examination board will consider whether there is a case for the student to be awarded the higher classification and in some cases students will be awarded the higher classification where their final degree mark falls in the boundary zone.

PLEASE NOTE: There is no guarantee if your final degree mark falls in the boundary zone that you will be awarded the higher degree classification. This will only be awarded automatically if you have achieved a degree mark above the degree classification boundary (e.g. 70 for a Distinction).

If your mark falls in the boundary zone; you will be awarded the higher degree classification in the following situations:

- If two thirds or more of the credits you have completed during your degree programme (120 credits or more) are marks at the higher degree classification, you will be automatically promoted to the higher degree classification (so 120 credits with marks above 70 would be needed to be promoted to a distinction)
- If you do not have two thirds of credits at the higher classification but are in the boundary zone, there will be an independent review of your final research project by the external examiner who will make a recommendation to the board as to whether or not there is a case for the student

being awarded the higher degree classification. The board will then make a decision based on this and on the mark profile whether or not to promote the student to the higher classification. This is at the discretion of the examination board, is not a guarantee, and is a decision that cannot be questioned or challenged.

There is no classification review available for the classification of Pass; any degree mark below 50 cannot be awarded an MSc degree under any circumstances.

3. Assessment and academic standards

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[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•19015â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? 3.03 Examinations and coursework (PGT)â?•]

3.04 Laboratory work and practical reports

This is covered in the relevant unit specifications.

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18788â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Examination Boards and release of marks 25-26â?³]

3.06 Programme-specific assessment requirements

Not relevant to programme.

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18663â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Prizes and awards 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18661â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Statement about the use of Turnitin 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18665â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Plagiarism and academic malpractice 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18795â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Referencing and Proofreading statement 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18667â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Artificial Intelligence (AI) statement 25-26â?³]

3.12 External Examiner

External Examiners are individuals from another institution or organisation who monitor the assessment processes of the University to ensure fairness and academic standards. They ensure that assessment and examination procedures have been fairly and properly implemented and that decisions have been

made after appropriate deliberation. They also ensure that standards of awards and levels of student performance are comparable with those in equivalent higher education institutions.

The External Examiner for the MSc Precision Medicine programme is Dr Jia Li, Imperial College London.

Please note that it is inappropriate for students to make direct contact with External Examiners under any circumstances, in particular with regards to a studentâ??s individual performance in assessments. Other appropriate mechanisms are available for students, including the Universityâ??s appeals or complaints procedures and the UMSU Advice Centre. In cases where a student does contact an External Examiner directly, External Examiners have been requested not to respond to direct queries. Instead, External Examiners should report the matter to the School contact who will then contact the student to remind them of the other methods available for students.

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4. Student Voice

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[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18677â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Role of the Student Voice Committee (PGT) 25-26â?³]

4.03 Role of the Programme meeting

The PGT Programme meeting meets three times a year. The committeeâ??s functions and responsibilities are to maintain the standards of teaching, to evaluate and revise the programme in the light of feedback, to monitor student progression and to provide a forum for discussion between the University and the students.

The meeting reviews the annual monitoring report and acts on recommendations arising from the annual monitoring process.

The membership of the meeting includes: the Programme Directors; the Programme Administration Team; Teaching Staff and Student Representatives. The PGT Programme meeting reports to the PGT Programme Committee.

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18679â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Mechanisms for collecting and 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18681â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Use of University unit surveys and 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18683â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Student Complaints 25-26â?³]

5. Attendance requirements, interruptions and mitigating circumstances

5.01 Attendance Requirements

Monitoring your attendance is part of our commitment to providing a supported learning environment in which students are encouraged to develop knowledge, understanding and the range of skills and attributes expected of a Manchester Graduate. It encourages your active participation in all learning activities through regular attendance. Further information is provided in our Policy on Recording and Monitoring Attendance and Engagement and Regulation XX Monitoring Attendance and Wellbeing of Students.

You should ensure that you are familiar with your programme attendance requirements and make sure that, if you have any difficulty in following them, that you inform your School.

You are expected to log your attendance at all timetabled on-campus sessions using the Student Engagement and Attendance System (SEAtS). You can download the SEAtS app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. If you are unable to access SEAtS on your phone or do not have a smartphone, you can log your attendance using the SEAtS webpage. Your academic or teaching staff will provide a QR or PIN code so you can check-in to your timetabled teaching session.

If you cannot attend an on-campus timetabled session you must log your absence on SEAtS. Absences in timetabled sessions will only be authorised by submitting an absence form via SEAtS.

For further information on SEAtS including top tips, video guides and frequently asked questions, please visit the student support page at: https://www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/study-support/seats/.

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18689â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Student Engagement 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18691â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Consequences of paid employed 25-26â?³]

5.04 Procedure for reporting ill health

Absence from examinations due to ill health

You should make every effort to participate in all examinations. It will not be possible to make special arrangements to take the exams in an alternative location, unless this has been arranged through the Disability Advisory Support Service.

If you are so ill you are unable to take an exam, you **must** contact the SBS Hub â?? email **sbs.hub@manchester.ac.uk** or telephone **0161 275 1387** as soon as possible, and certainly **no later than the day and start time of your examination.** You should complete a Mitigating Circumstances application which must be accompanied by appropriate evidence.

Illness not resulting in absence from examinations

You may be unwell but able to proceed with an examination but feel that your performance will have been impaired. If you wish this to be taken into account, you must follow the same procedures as stated in the earlier Section Absence from Examinations due to Ill Health by applying for mitigation. Note that typical levels of exam stress that are not diagnosed as a long-term condition, would not normally be considered a mitigating circumstance. If you anticipate or experience high levels of stress related to your exams, or studies in general, we strongly recommend you contact the Student Support and

Wellbeing team (sbs.wellbeing@manchester.ac.uk), who will be able to support you.

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18693â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? How to change, interrupt or 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18695â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Mitigating circumstances 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18697â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Policy on Supporting Health 25-26â?³]

6. Support for students

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6.02 The role of the Programme Director, Academic Advisor and Student Support Hubs

Your Programme Director

Programme Directors lead the academic development of the programme and Chair Programme Committee meetings. They also attend relevant Teaching and Learning Committees, and Examination Boards. They act as one of your key contacts and will liaise with student representatives. Programme Director also monitor the delivery of the programme and will act proactively on feedback to address any emerging issues to ensure a positive student experience.

Your Academic Advisor

Academic Advisors are members of academic staff associated with your degree programme and/or School, who are here to support you throughout your time at university. Your Advisor will make contact with you at least once a semester, so look out for their emails and respond to any invitations to meet, or to share with them how youâ??re getting on.

Through a combination of scheduled meetings and ad hoc communications your Advisor will get to know you, in order to help you to make the most of your academic potential and your time at university. Manchester is a big place â?? your Advisor is a point of contact for you and can signpost you to resources and opportunities you may not otherwise have been aware of.

Student Support Hubs

The Student Support Hubs are here to provide you with help and guidance. Whether you need career advice, wellbeing support or help with course information, the Hubs team will be able to point you in the right direction. There are nine Student Support Hubs located across campus. Youâ??ll be able to access the same University support services from every Hub, no matter where youâ??re usually based or what subject youâ??re studying. If you have a query about your particular study programme, you can visit your â??homeâ?? Hub, which will be located within your School.

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18703â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Studentsâ?? Union and SU Advice Service 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18705â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Counselling and Mental Health Service 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18707â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS -Disability Advisory and Support Service 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18709â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? Student Occupational Health Service 25-26â?³]

[intense_snippet snippet_id=â?•18711â?³ snippet_title=â?•SBS â?? PASS (PGT) 25-26â?³]

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