



First Generation

A year of impact

**“FIRST GENERATION IS ABOUT
WAKING UP AMBITION AND
ALLOWING PEOPLE TO ACHIEVE
THEIR PERSONAL BEST.”**

Professor Malcolm Press
Vice-Chancellor



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Our University

With a community of 38,000 students, Manchester Metropolitan is one of the largest universities in the UK. We are also one of the most popular for undergraduate students and consistently rank in the top seven for the number of applications.¹



We are a great, modern university, in a great global city; we have a driving ambition to discover and disseminate knowledge, and to make higher education accessible and beneficial to all those with the passion and ability to succeed.

Over the last year, we have invested heavily in our estate, teaching and research, and much more is to follow. Next year, we will open the country's first public library of poetry to be linked to a university. Situated in the new Arts and Humanities building adjacent to All Saints Park, Manchester Poetry Library will serve not only our academic community, but also work with schools and libraries in some of the city's most deprived wards, ensuring that everyone can engage and benefit from poetry no matter what their social, economic or cultural background.

**To our very core,
we are a civic
University – shaping
and improving the
world around us.**

Widening access and engagement, and ensuring good outcomes for students from disadvantaged backgrounds once they are studying with us, are important objectives for us. Over 50% of our students are from the first generation in their family to progress to higher education² and 44% are from low-income households (in 2017/18 almost 10,000 of our UK undergraduate students came from a household with an income of £25,000 per annum or less)³.

We are proud of our achievements but they are only possible because of the support of our friends and champions. Thanks to donations to the University, we have funded a record number of scholarships for disadvantaged students, improved University facilities and enhanced the student experience and the outcomes of our students.

Thank you for your support.

This report spotlights the impact your generous donation to the First Generation programme has had over the last year.

1 UCAS (2018 Entry)

2 Manchester Metropolitan University's 2020 Access and Participation Plan

3 Manchester Metropolitan University's Office for Students annual return

First Generation: the campaign to transform 1,000 lives

Universities can change lives. They create the active citizens of the future. But too often they remain out of reach for young people from tough backgrounds. The First Generation programme tackles the full range of challenges that young people face.

The programme targets young people who will be the first in their family to go to university. Many will be from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Most will have excelled in their GCSEs (or equivalent) and then progressed to Year 12 at a local college or school. However, they will not have had the funding and support network that makes a crucial difference to what happens next.

The First Generation programme starts with pre-entry (school-aged support) and, for those that choose to accept a place at Manchester

Met, financial support through a scholarship, mentoring and an opportunity to engage in a work-place residential. By 2025, our aim is to have funded and supported at least 1,000 students on this innovative and sector-leading initiative.

Your visionary support for First Generation is funding a number of students' places on the programme. All of these students are first-in-their-family students and all are from Greater Manchester. Here are the thoughts of just some of our First Generation Scholars as they reflect on their first year at Manchester Metropolitan University.



First Generation Scholar

“First Generation has not only broadened my work opportunities by enabling me to make new connections with people I would never have met before, but has also provided the opportunity to develop new friendships that have changed my life.

“The opportunities provided by being on the First Generation programme are endless! I am so much more confident when meeting new people and feel better able to make new friends and professional connections. I feel like I belong to a community who share similar backgrounds and when we first came to the Summer School, we were all in the same boat.

“This programme is life-changing for young people like me who don’t have the support students from families with higher education experience have.”

Katie, BA (Hons) Primary Education

First Generation Scholar



“Being on the First Generation programme has really helped me settle into university life. With no family members having had experience of higher education, going to University was like going into the unknown.

“My mentor has helped me learn about my course, how it works and where it could potentially take me. Having this insight was essential. As the year has gone on, the programme has been crucial for networking and forming many contacts across the legal sector – including the opportunity to shadow a judge and make a prison visit.

“The London work-place residential provided further useful insights, especially when we visited a major law firm. As well as the professional aspects, the trip also provided a fun environment to see amazing landmarks that I never would have been able to do financially on my own.”

Andrew, LLB (Hons)



“The First Generation programme has really transformed my university experience. It has introduced me to people from a similar background, showing me that university can be for everyone and giving me a sense of belonging to Manchester Met.

“Realising that people donating to the campaign believe in my education helps me to believe in myself. I now know that I am capable of achieving everything I want to.

“The role that First Generation plays in my life is massive and I want the same for other young people. Being the first in my family to go to university doesn’t have to be a barrier to progressing. I am very proud to be a First Generation Scholar. Thank you.”

Chyna, BSc (Hons) Psychology

First Generation Scholar

“Having parents and older brothers who did not attend university meant that I didn’t know what to expect, and what was expected from me. First Generation held sessions, which explained what to expect, both academically and socially. The programme helps prepare you for the change from college to University.

“Visiting London was an amazing experience – my first time to the capital. The trip enabled me to expand myself culturally and academically. The whole trip was incredibly eye-opening.”

Lana, BA (Hons) Sociology



First Generation Scholar

“I would like to thank you for donating to the campaign and for believing in First Generation. This whole experience has already made me achieve things I would never have expected to.

“Attending the London work-place residential has given me the confidence to apply to big companies, and, after speaking to employees from Barclays and other organisations who opened their doors to us, I now understand the recruitment process better and feel that I am in a stronger position to apply for jobs.

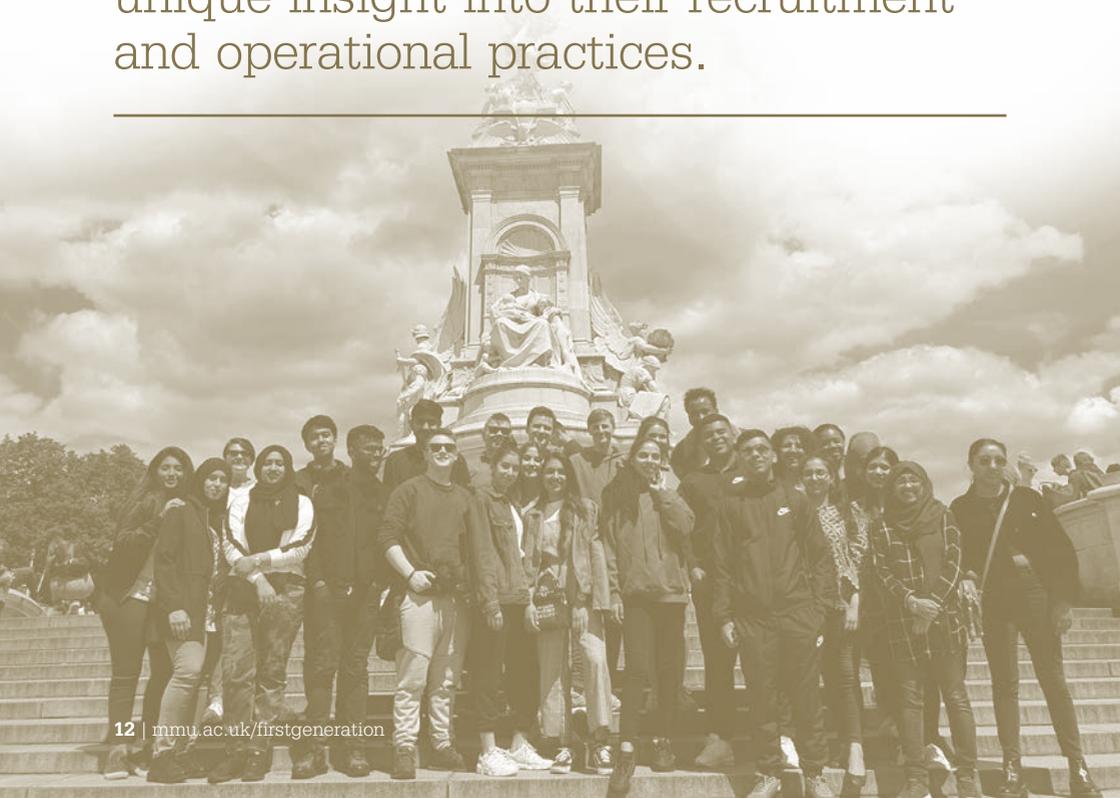
“Since being on the programme, I have developed my networking skills on both a personal and professional level, my employability skills, and, most importantly, gained new self-confidence and resilience.”

Vinita, BA (Hons) Accounting and Finance



London work-place residential

In June, the inaugural cohort took part in a four-day work-place residential in London, marking the end of their first year at Manchester Met. A number of major organisations opened their doors to the Scholars, giving them a unique insight into their recruitment and operational practices.



First Generation

The campaign to transform 1,000 lives

Evidence shows that first generation students often face barriers when progressing in their careers after graduation. The London work-place residential helps address these issues by assisting the students in making informed decisions about their future; raising their graduate aspirations; and giving them the contacts and networks they need to succeed.

During the residential, the students visited companies, such as the National Cyber Security Centre, Channel 4, Barclays, Pinsent Masons, The Guardian, NESTA and Facebook, to gain an insight into a range of industries and widen their knowledge of the types of roles and careers that exist.

The First Generation Scholars were also able to develop their cultural capital with a trip to see *Les Misérables* in the West End, a private visit to the Houses of Parliament hosted by Greater Manchester MP and alumnus, Mike Kane, an open top bus tour around the city, and cultural walking tours.

About the residential, one student said:

“The residential has hugely improved my employability skills. I know what recruiters are looking for and the talks delivered by the businesses have motivated me to go out of my comfort zone.”



Looking to the future

First Generation doesn't just provide an education for students who come here, it also raises aspirations across the community. It powerfully demonstrates that where you start in life doesn't have to determine where you finish.

Your generous support is transforming lives. Our mission now is to transform even more.


61

deserving students received transformational bursaries in 2018

£2k

funds a First Generation Scholarship

£2M

supporting 1,000 First Generation Scholars

We look forward to continuing to update you on the impact of your donation.



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