

SALFORD STORIES FROM THE SOUTH



University of
Salford
MANCHESTER

HOLLY BROWN

/ BSC (HONS) PHYSIOTHERAPY

STRATTON UPPER SCHOOL, BEDFORDSHIRE



MY EXPECTATIONS OF SALFORD WERE HIGH, BUT ARRIVING TO STUDY HERE STILL MANAGED TO EXCEED THEM.

What is your favourite thing about the course?

I really enjoy the mix of practical elements in the course. They are always finding new ways to get us to understand a topic rather than presenting it as a lecture. Everyone is so bubbly and easy going; it makes the learning so much more fun.

How do you learn on the course?

In physiotherapy we have a combination of learning experiences. We learn all the theory side in lectures and smaller seminar groups. This makes sure that we understand the basics and the physiology behind what we are doing. We also have a large amount of practical based learning including placements throughout all 3 years, this allows us to transfer our skills and learning into the real world.

What are the facilities related to your course like?

We have a very large range of impressive equipment. On my course we use a lot of plinth rooms that have both manual and electronic options. Most rooms are also set up with curtains and hand washing stations to help try and mimic a hospital.

We also use the university simulation suites for CPR and manual handling training which consists of rooms mirrored as a hospital ward with lifelike manikins that can be controlled by your tutors. We also use Podiatry's Gait Lab where we use the force plates and the Human Performance Lab.

The library is really well equipped with all the books you need, including e-books online which you can access from anywhere. If you need a break, they have deck chairs looking out onto an amazing view of campus.

What support is on hand?

Everyone on my course is extremely supportive. We are always told to speak to our tutors if we have any issues and they are always available to answer our emails or texts. The tutors also provide us with mock exams, extra sessions if we aren't understanding a topic, and loads of extra resources to make things simpler. We have also had interactive lectures from the library staff, showing us all the resources that can help us with our learning. The university provide a course called Wordscope that re-teaches you how to write. This aims to increase your academic style of writing, helping to boost your grades for assignments.

In addition, the university have a scheme called the Inspire Fund. This has been really useful for my studies as the money you get from the fund allows you to buy academic books, stationary and other recourses to improve your learning without impacting you financially.

What's it like to be a student at Salford?

Amazing, I love it. My expectations were high but arriving to study here still managed to exceed them.

Are you a member of any clubs or societies?

This year I was part of the Scuba Society (SUDS). The club is great way to get your scuba diving license as the cheapest price. During Freshers Week they set up try drives to let you see what scuba diving is like without committing to training. Throughout the year they organise loads of trips, in this country and abroad, that you can take part in.

What is the social side of university like?

The social life is booming in Manchester, just a few minutes up the road from Salford. There are tonnes of cafes, restaurants, clubs and live music on all the time! Especially look out for the Christmas markets, which are one of the most well-known markets in England! The clubs have a full range of music from indie to house to techno. There is something for everyone.

Salford Quays is a beautiful place and holds the BBC and ITV studios. They have a wide variety of restaurants and even an ice-skating rink in the winter. Also, don't forget The Lowry where all sorts of shows are filmed, including Britain's Got Talent. This is totally assessable by the FREE 50 bus! On campus we also have our very own museum and theatre, where students get to perform their creations! We also have our own Student's Union where you can get food, drinks and even perform karaoke to a live band on a Thursday night.





I FELL IN LOVE WITH THE UNIVERSITY WHEN I ARRIVED, THE GREENERY WAS GORGEOUS, AND THE CAMPUS FELT VERY HOMELY



University of
Salford
MANCHESTER

What about living and working in Salford?

I lived on campus at Peel Park Accommodation during my 1st year and the accommodation was really lovely. I loved the fact that there was a large kitchen space with areas to sit and eat but also a living area space with sofas to socialise. My room was gorgeous with lots of storage, and a beautiful view of Peel Park. As I move into my 2nd year I am renting a house with friends I met during Fresher's Week. The house is in between the main campus and Media City along the number 50 bus route.

I walked to university in my 1st year as it was only a 5-10-minute walk from my accommodation to Fredrick Road campus. To get into Manchester we take the train as the train stop is only a few minutes walk from campus and the train is really cheap! To get to Media City and supermarkets, we take the number 50 bus which is free with our student ID.

I currently work for the universities Ambassador scheme so I'm paid to work open days and applicant visit days. It's a great way to get extra income, but not too stressful to fit in around my timetable and work. UniTemps is a great way to get a part time job at Salford, they help you find a job with the right hours and local to or at university.

How did you find out about Salford?

When looking at universities I discarded Salford as all I knew about it was that it was near Manchester and that seemed a bit scary at the time. I only considered Salford as an option after visiting a different university where I met a lady whose eldest daughter was studying at Salford for Physiotherapy. She told us a story about how supportive and lovely the whole university was, particularly the course and its admissions process and after that we decided that we should check out Salford as it would seem wrong not to after hearing such lovely words about it.

The ultimate thing that made me apply to Salford and eventually choose it as my firm choice was the friendliness and supportive nature of all the staff and students. I felt that I would get through my degree smoothly and come out with the best knowledge and experience due to this constant supportive nature.

Did you come on an Open Day or Applicant Visit Day at Salford?

Yes, I did come to an Open Day and an Applicant Visit Day! I fell in love with the university when I arrived, the greenery was gorgeous, and the campus felt very homely, without being so large that you'd get lost. It was so close to a city so I felt that I would have an amazing nightlife without losing the campus lifestyle that I wanted from a university.

My favourite bit of the visit was just exploring the campus and listening to my course talk. I would 100% recommend visiting Salford. Ultimately you have nothing to lose if you come look around, but if you don't you may miss your dream university without even realising it. Salford have so much to offer and make you feel important as an individual.

In the end, what made you choose Salford?

Just my gut feeling overall! The supportive nature and feel for Salford as a city caught my heart strings and I wouldn't change it, even after hearing other people's university experiences and seeing their campus's. The Northern outlook on life is shown at Salford, and they are always looking at ways to improve and evolve. They very much aim to put the students first in every way that they can. Ultimately, I felt that this university backed me and will support me through my 3 years there.

From the moment I showed interest, Salford made me feel that they cared about my future and my education. This seemed to be very unique as it was something no one else I know experienced.

Best and worst things about living and studying in Manchester / Salford?

Be prepared to always be called posh as anyone who doesn't have a Northern accent seems to stick out like a sore thumb, but this isn't always a bad thing as it is an easy conversation starter!

Getting home is sometimes a bit of hassle, however the trains are super comfy and always a good time to crack on with some university work. If you look at booking travel a good month or two in advance (or smile at your parents nicely) you can get some cracking deals.

Moving to Salford, fully exceeded my expectations. I was a bit worried about moving so far from home without having a big support network close by. Where I am from it is not as normal to be friendly and chatty with strangers down the street. But in Salford, it is the norm, everyone is so chatty and friendly.

What would you say to someone considering Salford?

Come and visit, you really don't know what it's going to be like or how it will make you feel until you do. It is worth coming and having a look around, especially as the open days often host a lot of free food for you to try! Salford was never on my list of universities, and it wouldn't have been unless I gave it a chance. I would back any department or tutor to support you, because I haven't seen anything different yet. Lastly, in the great scheme of things, it is really not that far away!

