

SALFORD STORIES FROM THE SOUTH



University of
Salford
MANCHESTER

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CHOOSING THE UNIVERSITY OF SALFORD WILL BE ONE OF THE BEST DECISIONS YOU EVER MAKE

What is your favourite thing about the course?

It's hard to decide on a single thing that's the best about studying journalism at Salford because there are so many highlights! However, I think getting to go to MediaCityUK every day is probably my favourite. As the northern home of the British media industry, it's the perfect place to learn how to be a journalist (in my humble opinion). Having the BBC and ITV as neighbours is something only Salford can offer, which makes it a really special university to attend.

How do you learn on the course?

One of the main reasons I was drawn to Salford's journalism course was the practical learning. Of course, we have the standard lectures and seminars for each module, but we also get to go out and record video, edit audio and write articles. In doing so, not only is our knowledge of our subject developed, the skills we'll need once we've graduated are too, so I know that once my three years at Salford are up, I'll be confident and ready to take on the world of work.

What are the facilities related to your course like?

I know I'm biased, but for a journalism student like myself I really don't think there's a better place to study than MediaCityUK. From the newsroom to the TV studios, the facilities are clearly industry standard, so rocking up for a workshop feels like arriving to work at the BBC. All the cameras, tripods and microphones we could possibly need are available to hire from the equipment store, as well as books and other academic resources at the MediaCityUK and Clifford Whitworth libraries.

What support is on hand?

The journalism department at Salford is fantastic, in terms of both teaching and general support. In particular, the fact that all of my lecturers have worked or are still working in the media industry is a real enhancement to the course because it's obvious they know what they're talking about! I trust their knowledge and opinion massively and it's comforting to know that they're on hand to help with any problems.

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

So far, being a student at Salford has been everything I hoped it would be and more. There's a real sense of community around the university and I was pleased to find that the days of cliques and judgemental people like there were at my sixth form are long gone. Course wise, the staff, facilities and lectures are all of a high standard and I definitely feel that I made the right choice in choosing to study at Salford.

Are you a member of any clubs or societies?

Unsurprisingly, I joined Quays TV as soon as I spotted it at Salford's freshers' fair. Run by the journalism department, it's a free society which allows students from across the university to create content for various programmes on the Quays TV YouTube channel. Within weeks of signing up, I'd recorded and edited several packages for Quays News, learning to use equipment I'd never touched before with people I'd only just met. Being part of the society has been invaluable for establishing myself as a journalist at university and seeing pieces I've put together online has been a real confidence boost.

What is the social side of university like?

I'm not a big party girl, so the nightclubs most students frequent in Salford and Manchester don't appeal to me at all. Thankfully, though, being friends with commuters has given me an insight into a number of hidden gems in the area, so I'm never short of places to go. During the day, Manchester's Northern Quarter has wonderful coffee shops to visit for cake and a chat (Chapter One is adorable) and, in the evening, I love West Ivy in Bury for dinner and cocktails. There's somewhere for everyone!



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What about living and working in Salford?

For my first year at Salford, I lived in Peel Park Quarter. I moved into a flat in Ranulf building with four complete strangers and quickly felt right at home. Everything I needed was available to me and getting to know my flatmates and the students across the hall meant I never felt lonely, which I thought I might. In fact, one of my neighbours and I were so clearly kindred spirits we swiftly became best friends and are moving in together for second year. Living on Peel Park Campus and studying at MediaCityUK meant we had the best of both worlds and being able to travel between the two for free on the 50 bus was very convenient. I was also especially grateful for the free bus travel as I got a part time job waitressing at Old Trafford and getting the bus to MediaCityUK and then walking to the club was perfect for saving money and avoiding traffic.

How did you find out about Salford?

My parents actually brought me to Salford for the first time for a weekend away when the Blue Peter garden opened. I was an avid fan of the programme, so we travelled up from the south and did all the touristy things in the area like a tour of Old Trafford for my dad and shopping at the Trafford Centre for my mum. Before that, I'd never heard of the city and, afterwards, I didn't have any plans to return. Years later, though, my friend in the year above was looking at places to study journalism and Salford came up in conversation. She raved about the university and an Open Day and Applicant Visit Day later, here we are!

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

Salford was actually the first university I attended an Open Day for, but, at the time, I had my heart set on studying somewhere else. Obviously, I knew I needed to consider my options, but I was convinced that nowhere other than the place I'd researched would be right for me. As such, Salford's Open Day was a bit of a blur. I enjoyed myself, although it wasn't until I'd been to my supposed dream university that I realised how much. I compared everywhere else I visited to Salford and by the time it was Applicant Visit Day season I'd already confirmed my place. Still, I travelled up to take part and it ended up being a day that would make my university experience what it's been so far. Of course, the staff, students and activities were brilliant. However, it was the lunch break which was my highlight. My parents and I just so happened to sit on a table with a man and his daughter, who was also looking to study journalism. We got chatting, spent the afternoon together and then exchanged Snapchats, wholly expecting to never see each other again. But, now, over a year later, that man is my adopted northern dad and his daughter is one of my best friends.

In the end, what made you choose Salford?

In the end, after going to university open days all over the country, I couldn't picture myself studying anywhere but Salford. It sounds ridiculous, but it was the feel of the place that sold it to me. When the time came to look at universities, I was beyond ready to leave my sixth form and, mentally, I think I already had. As a result, the professional atmosphere at Salford, particularly around the MediaCityUK campus, was really exciting to me. Every other university I visited made me feel like I was still at school, which I definitely didn't want, so my mind was made up pretty quickly.

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

A word of advice for anyone moving to the north: bring an umbrella! It really does rain as much as everyone says it does, but the people are also as friendly as everybody tells you so it's not so bad. Coming from the countryside down south, I didn't know what to expect living in Salford, but now I definitely don't have any plans to leave anytime soon. There's a buzz about Manchester. The city has literally everything you could ever want or need, and yet it still feels nice and tightknit rather than big and scary like London or other comparable places.

What would you say to someone considering Salford?

To someone considering Salford I would say choosing the university will be one of the best decisions you ever make. Everyone says your school days are the best days of your life and I was concerned when I finished sixth form as this hadn't been the case. But, now, even after spending such a short period of time at Salford, I'm certain my university days will be the best days of my life. I've made Manchester my home (a particularly exciting step coming from a small village in the south), started studying a subject I'm really passionate about and am doing it all with a bunch of people I never would have had the privilege of meeting otherwise. Life is good.

Just because Salford might not be a university your teachers are telling you about, it doesn't mean it's any less fantastic.



THERE'S A BUZZ ABOUT MANCHESTER. THE CITY HAS LITERALLY EVERYTHING YOU COULD EVER WANT OR NEED.

