

Introduction of the New Dalton Building

Transforming lives through the power of education and research

After more than 40 years in the John Dalton East building, the Faculty of Science and Engineering unveiled a significantly transformed site in 2024. With a £115 million capital investment, the new Dalton Building is a bold, vibrant, and world-class facility in the heart of Manchester. This development positions the Faculty as a key contributor to the city's economic strategy, as well as its environmental and societal goals.

The Dalton Building plays a central role in realising the Faculty's and University's shared vision of transforming lives through education and research. It is designed to enhance academic ambition, strengthen support for teaching, foster new partnerships, and expand research capacity and impact. Its cutting-edge, flexible, and interactive spaces enable new and more effective ways of working, researching, and learning within a growing academic community. From dynamic seminar rooms and active learning environments to the state-of-the-art Superlab, the building is a stimulating hub for science and engineering in Manchester.

The Dalton Building now serves as the primary base for the Faculty of Science and Engineering, alongside the Institute of Sport. Colleagues previously based in the John Dalton East building have relocated to this world-class facility, including both academic and professional services staff across areas such as executive support and faculty planning and operations.

Local benefit proposal

We are pleased to confirm that the condition of achieving fifty-one full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs has been met following six months of occupation. As reported in July 2023, the student pipeline had been gradually increasing since 2018 in preparation for the new building. To support this growth and in anticipation of the move, thirty-eight FTE roles across academic departments and professional services were established.

Since that report, the higher education sector has faced significant challenges, with many higher education institutions raising concerns about financial sustainability and implementing redundancy programmes. Manchester Metropolitan University continues to navigate these challenges while maintaining its commitment to recruiting new colleagues and students. The remaining thirteen FTE roles have been added across academic departments and professional services, with notable growth in the Department of Computing and Mathematics, which has expanded by nine FTE since July 2023.

Using postcode data, approximately 48% of hires were Manchester-based. Applying this proportion to the 51 FTE uplift gives:

- Approximately 24 roles held by Manchester residents
- Approximately 27 roles held by individuals from outside Manchester

The new Dalton Building has been instrumental in attracting both staff and students. Demand has been so strong that several six-person offices have been converted into eight-person spaces to accommodate growth.

A great place to work

People are at the heart of everything we do. We are student-centred and people-led, committed to fostering an inclusive and diverse community and celebrating the achievements of our colleagues. We are proud to be the first university in our city region to be awarded member status of the prestigious Greater Manchester Good Employment Charter. This recognition reflects our commitment to being an employer of choice and creating a workplace where every colleague can thrive.

Manchester Metropolitan University is also a Living Wage employer. All staff employed directly or indirectly by the University are paid at least the Living Wage Foundation's accredited rate.

We support the Bridging the Gap Programme, which provides work experience placements in university departments for students with special educational needs. We collaborate with two Greater Manchester schools—New Bridge School and Manor Academy—to help these young people gain experience, develop employability skills, and work towards securing permanent employment.

Local Recruitment

The University uses a range of tools to encourage recruitment from the local community. For example, we partner with the Manchester-based social enterprise, the Growth Company, to provide training for relevant roles wherever possible. This organisation supports local individuals in overcoming disadvantage and personal challenges. We also work with three Manchester-based recruitment agencies—Michael Page, Hays, and Aspire—who maintain strong candidate pools from the local area.

Apprenticeships

We support the development of colleagues, through certified professional development apprenticeships to upskill and boost upward career mobility. Many of providers of our apprenticeships are local, supporting the success of these businesses. Examples in Science and Engineering areas, include:

Trafford College

Manchester College

QA Ltd

Monitoring and Measuring Local Recruitment

Condition 13 requires that this Local Benefit Proposal Framework outlines how local recruitment related to the Dalton Building will be measured and monitored. The University's People and Organisational Development team has developed a series of measures to ensure we are recruiting a diverse range of individuals from the local community. These processes will continue to be reviewed and refined to support our commitment to local recruitment.