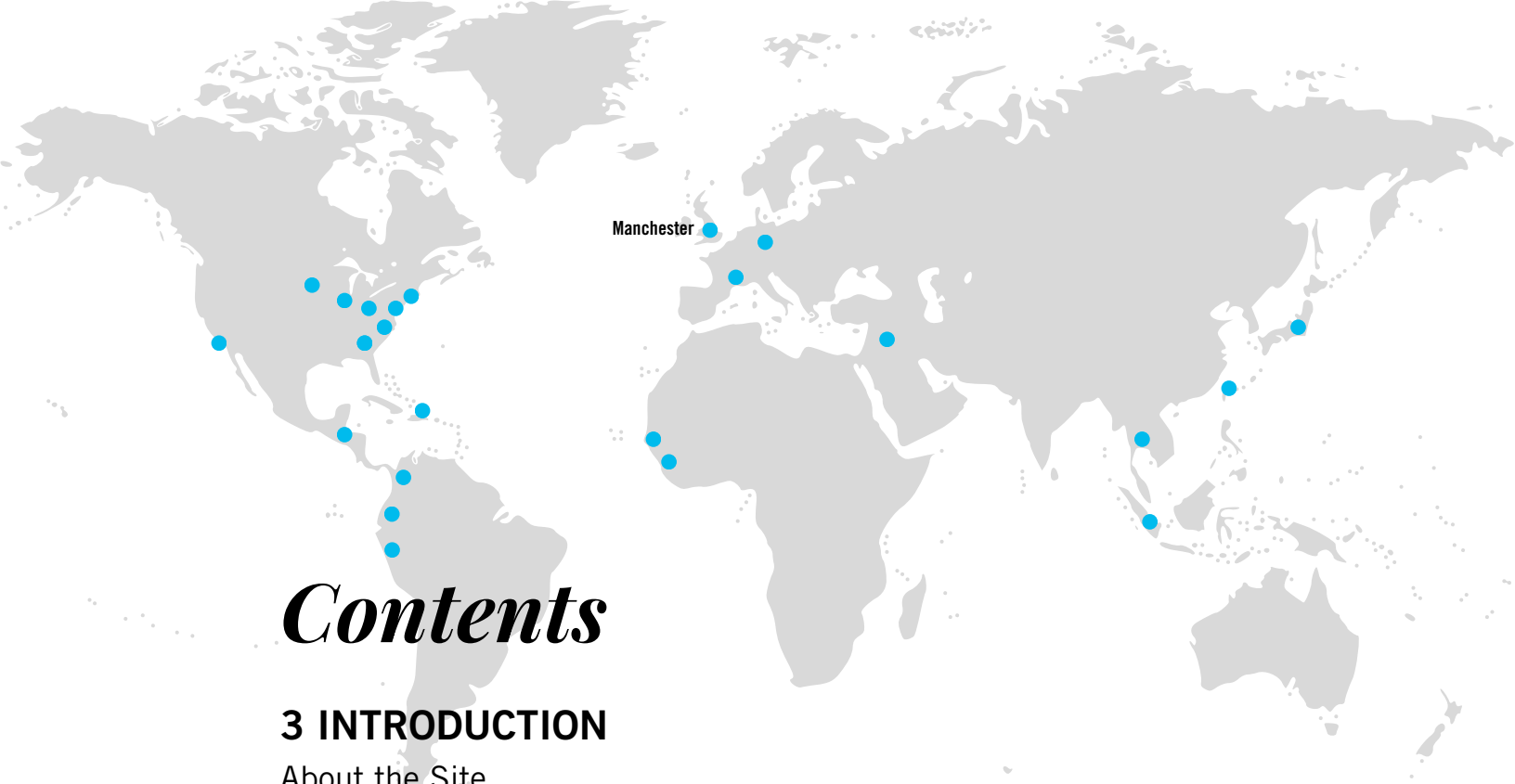




Manchester

ENVISION HANDBOOK





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Introduction

ABOUT THE SITE

Our site was established in summer 2024 after an invitation from the Chinese Alliance churches of the U.S. and the UK to help create pathways for young missional leaders to engage in ministry. In a city of almost three million people with over 200 languages present, Envision Manchester was tasked with building bridges between local ministries while creating opportunities for the local and global church to participate.

Envision Manchester desires to see young and emerging leaders from around the globe be developed while discerning their call to lead Kingdom work in our city and beyond.

Manchester is a hub for university students, new immigrants to the country, and industry and commerce. As the city grows, so does its peoples' desire for belonging. Through café ministries, TESOL, church partnerships, and other outreach partners, we seek ways to be a place for those who are lost and seeking Jesus.

Throughout our work, we place a high value on:

- **Deeper life**
 - Intentional, embodied, relational, and practiced life with Jesus that leads to a passion for God's heart for the world
- **Development**
 - Seeing the next generation become Kingdom leaders through mentorship and strategic opportunities
- **Collaboration**
 - We believe we're stronger together. We see God working through people all around us, and our goal is to support that work by sharing resources and knowledge while bridging networks.
- **Invitation**
 - We believe that people from all backgrounds are equally called to participate in Kingdom advancement. We are passionate about being a place where people feel invited to learn, grow, and be developed.
- **Community**
 - Through generous service and hospitality, we aim to be a place where people can belong, connect, find accountability, and grow together.

For more insight into what we do, check us out on Instagram: [instagram.com/weareenvisionmanchester](https://www.instagram.com/weareenvisionmanchester)



Ministry

Through generous hospitality, community building and strong collaboration with other Kingdom work in the city, Envision Manchester identifies and develops young and emerging leaders from all backgrounds so that they may be mobilized to participate in the advancement of the Kingdom in the context God has called them to. This looks like providing English classes geared toward newcomers to our city or planning an event for university students at our café. Ministry could also mean getting to know a local ministry partner and serving their immediate needs in order for them to effectively declare and demonstrate the gospel in their context.

We have strategically decided to partner with different individuals using coffee, bookstores, English, and musical worship to reach the lost in Manchester. Much of our work is amongst those who have chosen the UK as their new home, whether that be for study or to seek out a better life. This means that our work is often very culturally diverse. We ask that our participants are motivated by a desire to learn from other cultures and witness how believers worship God in diverse parts of the world. Ideal team members should be ready to step outside their comfort zones and embrace new cultural experiences. While no specific skills are necessary, a willingness to work as a team is key.

Spiritually, team members should be eager to grow and be challenged in their faith, seeking to deepen it and their understanding of Christianity through experiences that stretch them beyond their usual boundaries. This may happen through newly formed local relationships or conversations that occur within your team.

Schedule

TEAMS

A day or two in the life of a team here looks something like this:

Day 4: a.m.	Morning prayer and devotions
Day 4: a.m.	Session 02: Gospel in Context
Day 4: p.m.	University student event prep
Day 4: p.m.	University student event at café
Day 5: a.m.	Morning prayer and devotions
Day 5: a.m.–p.m.	Service project
Day 5: p.m.	Evening worship with local community

INTERNS

While our interns may participate with short-term teams, their day-to-day will fluctuate. Each intern will be assigned a local church to attend and invest in. Each intern will also be assigned a ministry partner with whom we will coordinate volunteer work. Interns are expected to attend and participate in Envision Manchester's team meetings, prayer gatherings, and team outings. As an intern, you can expect to spend two-thirds of your time with your assigned ministry partner and the other third engaging with Envision Manchester rhythms.

General Information

HOUSING AND FOOD

TEAMS

Housing is arranged on your behalf by the site staff. Bedding and towels are provided, but air-conditioning is not guaranteed. The cost of all meals are included during your Envision Manchester experience. You will be given a cash per diem to purchase some meals while other meals will be provided by the site staff. If anyone on your team has been diagnosed with food allergies, please indicate such on the registration and inform the site staff in advance.

INTERNS

Interns live in furnished apartments around the city. When there are multiple interns, women may share an apartment and men may share an apartment. You will always have a private bedroom but may share a bathroom, kitchen, and living area with other interns or hosts. You will use your biweekly stipend to provide most of your own meals. This will require buying groceries and cooking most of your own meals, but the stipend is sufficient to eat out occasionally.





AIRPORT AND ARRIVAL INFORMATION

BOOKING FLIGHTS

You are responsible for booking your own flight to and from Manchester International Airport (MAN). Most itineraries are overnight, arriving in the UK the day after you depart from the U.S. Please do not purchase tickets until your specific itinerary is approved by the site staff.

PASSPORT CONTROL AND CUSTOMS

Depending on where you are coming from, a layover in the EU may be necessary. We recommend that you not accept any layover less than two hours. You will go through passport control and customs in whichever airport you first enter the EU and then an additional passport and custom control when entering the UK. At that point, you will be required to show your passport and possibly paperwork confirming the reason for your trip (choose “vacation,” “tourism,” or “internship” as appropriate).

Once you arrive at MAN, follow the crowds to baggage claim to retrieve your bags. When you’ve collected your luggage, follow the signs to the exit where we will be waiting for you just outside baggage claim.

Important note about luggage: Teams will be chaperoned on public transportation (which includes trams, buses, stairs, and long walks) to get to and from your lodging, so pack only what you can carry. Interns will be picked up by car to transport you and your luggage to your apartment.

VISAS

Americans entering the UK will need to apply for an electronic travel authorisation (ETA). These are required for anyone entering without a visa or local passport. It costs ~\$10 and can take up to three working days to receive. You can find out more information and apply for an ETA here: gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-an-electronic-travel-authorisation-eta.

A visa is not required for Americans entering the country for less than six months.

For internships longer than six months, we will guide you through the process of obtaining your visa. Note that this will require an in-person visit to one of the British consulates in the U.S. as well as numerous documents. The cost of obtaining your visa is a one-time expense that will vary based on length and is not included in the monthly cost of the internship.

MONEY

You do not need to bring any extra money; all of your meals, lodging, transportation, and ministry activity is included. You may choose to bring extra money for things like shopping, souvenirs, gifts, or extra snacks. In addition, interns with vacation time may wish to travel outside of Manchester.

Most businesses will use tap-to-pay, and you can conveniently use your mobile device to pay for things. Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted at shops and restaurants, but Discover and American Express are not. Check with your bank or credit card company about international fees, and inform them of your travels prior to traveling. Depending on your bank or credit card, you may also be able to withdraw cash from local ATMs if desired.

COMMUNICATIONS

INTERNET

Internet access will be available to you at no cost at your accommodations and our Envision meeting spaces. You will also be able to find Wi-Fi at many locations throughout the city.

PHONES

We will provide the team leader with a 5G hotspot for the duration of the trip. Team members can use this to connect their smartphones in the event they need to communicate with us while in the city. Interns will use prepaid SIM cards with a local phone number. These can be used with an unlocked phone. If you have any questions about whether your phone will work, please send us an email.

WHATSAPP

WhatsApp is the primary communication tool used in the UK for messaging, voice, and video calls. We recommend installing this free app before you leave the U.S. to communicate with Envision staff and with any locals you meet and want to stay in contact with. WhatsApp also works over Wi-Fi without an international calling plan.

ACCESSIBILITY, HEALTH, AND VACCINATIONS

If you have limited or impaired mobility, Manchester is still mostly accessible if we know your needs in advance. Daily activities often involve three to five miles of walking and occasionally some stairs, so please let Envision Manchester know about different mobility needs well before arrival so we can plan to include longer transportation times as needed. Trams and buses are mostly accessible. Manchester's sidewalks are also very scooter and wheelchair friendly. Some of the streets do not have cement pavement, instead they consist of brick or cobblestone. This may make the ride a little bumpy. Manchester is often accessible for those who are seeing impaired. There are sounds with the crossing lights and guide grooves next to public transportation stops. Manchester can be noisy at times, which may be a challenge if you have a sensory impairment.

Unless you have health restrictions, we highly recommend adding daily walks to your routine beginning a month or more before your trip to prepare well. Your feet will thank you!

Over-the-counter medicine is readily available for purchase at pharmacies, though your favorite brand may not be available. We recommend bringing any medication with you that you might need, especially prescription medication.

The CDC recommends being current on all standard vaccinations.

Packing List

- Activity-appropriate clothing (service projects, worship services, casual cafe events)
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Rain gear (raincoat or umbrella, waterproof shoes)
- Seasonal clothing—jackets, scarves, etc. Our summers are generally chillier, especially in the evenings, so make sure you bring layers!
- Toiletries
- Medication/prescriptions (check that they're allowed; if not, a doctor's note might work)
- Pain and cold medicine, etc.
- Passport +1 extra photocopy of your passport kept apart from the original
- Camera (phone is fine)
- Money for souvenirs if desired
- Water bottle (make sure you don't mind carrying it around all day)
- Bible
- Notebook and pen
- British plug adapter
- Fully close-able bag (for carrying around the city, like a backpack)*

*Particularly in tourist areas, pocket theft is not uncommon. Fully close-able bags help deter theft.

Interns and Residents: Since you'll be in Manchester for an extended period of time, you might want to bring some mementos from home—like a favorite pillow or pictures.

WEATHER

Manchester's weather is often rainy and cloudy. While it can be cold and windy, it rarely gets hot compared to many parts of the U.S. Expect rain during your visit! In the summer, temperatures average around 67–70°F during the day with the nights becoming cool. Most buildings do not have air conditioning. The temperature can change quickly, so it is helpful to dress in layers. Winters are somewhat moderate, with lows often below freezing, but it rarely drops below 0°F. Snow is unusual, but cold, damp air is common, so the real feel from fall to spring is often cooler than the actual temperature. Vitamin D supplements are also helpful to take in the dark winter months.

ELECTRONICS

British electricity is 230v (compared to the U.S.' 110v). All modern phone and computer chargers are capable of handling either voltage. However, the size/shape of the plug is different here than in Europe and America, so you'll need adaptors ([like these](#)) to charge your devices. We do not recommend running U.S. hair dryers through adaptors because they tend to burn out. We are happy to provide British hairdryers when you arrive.

SUGGESTED DRESS CODE

Business casual or nice jeans are perfect for church services and most ministry activities. If in doubt, err on the side of dressing modestly. Do not bring clothing that is distinctly patriotic, religious, or militaristic in nature. If there are specific suggestions for a ministry assignment or project, we will do our best to discuss this with you beforehand.





Cultural Sensitivity

We want to promote a healthy exchange between people of different cultures. Deciding to be a learner instead of a critic opens many doors, both in your heart and in the hearts of those who will be here after you go home. Although there are exceptions to all generalizations, these tips can help teams and interns avoid some of the most common cultural faux pas made by visitors. Additionally, because Manchester is home to so many international citizens, you will most likely see these guidelines broken at some point in time. That doesn't mean they go unnoticed. As believers, we want to be known by our love, and part of this means respecting the host culture we are entering into.

Most British people are quieter and more reserved in public than a lot of Americans are. Shouting across a tram or talking loudly on the phone in a bus are examples of what not to do. Most people don't automatically make small talk or smile at strangers. This is not rudeness; it's a show of respect for each other's privacy in this bustling city. Brits also value discretion in their personal and financial matters, which they consider private. Asking questions about someone's job, income, family status, or background is seen as overstepping. Get to know people gradually and let them voluntarily share information.

The invention of the factory clock happened in Manchester when the Industrial Revolution began. Ever since, punctuality has been expected. Generally, being 5–10 minutes early is about right. If you are invited over to someone's home for a meal or a "cuppa" (cup of tea), make sure to bring a gift. This could be a small box of chocolates, fruit, or flowers.

Manchester has a large Asian (India, Pakistan, etc.) and East Asian (Chinese, Korean, etc.) population. Much of our ministry also takes place near a large pocket of African and Middle-Eastern Arab people groups. While it can feel overwhelming (and it is overwhelming) to try to learn cultural faux pas for each group, remember that everyone in Manchester is trying to fit into British life.

American English and British English are also not the same! Here are some words/phrases you might hear while visiting:

- **Gutted** — If someone is gutted, they are really upset, angry, or sad.
- **Over the moon** — If somebody is extremely happy.
- **Quid** — Used to mean a British pound (£)—this is similar to "bucks" in American English.
- **Dodgy** — If something is dodgy, it means that there is something wrong with it.
- **Sorted** — If something is sorted, it is arranged, organized, ready, finished, or taken care of.
- **Pants vs. Trousers** — Trousers are what you want people to see but pants are what you wear underneath!
- **"You okay?"** — A general greeting. This is our local Mancunian version of the Midwestern "How are ya?" or a Bostonian's "How you doin'?"



Contact Info



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