

Global Recruitment

Guide to Manchester

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Introduction to Manchester

Home to more multi-millionaires than any city outside of London, Manchester is the UK's third largest economy. With many businesses growing or relocating out of London, Manchester now has the second largest UK office market. With the number of businesses growing and a rising population, Manchester is fast establishing itself as a major player in the business world – one that needs lawyers!

The Legal Market

Manchester has been on the crest of a wave in recent years, the centre of the 'northern hub' it has seen. Manchester boasts a burgeoning In-house market whereas the Private Practice market has never offered more choice (and competition!) for career minded lawyers.

Magic Circle Firms

Manchester now hosts two Magic Circle Firms in the city. DLA with a reported revenue of 2.48 billion US in 2013, this international firm is not only successful, but trusted by some of the biggest corporate clients in the world. Freshfields have also established their transactional services office in Manchester offering great employment opportunities for the City's extensive network of paralegals and law graduates

Top 50

Almost half of the Top 50 Law firms in England & Wales are located in the City. The City has long been the home to leading national law firms such as Addleshaw Goddard, DWF, Hill Dickinson & Eversheds.

Regional Firms

The established Manchester regional firms have seen significant growth post-recession and now offer a credible alternative to the national & international firms. Recent success stories include JMW, Turner Parkinson, Slater Heelis and Kuits Solicitors.

New Entrants

Manchester has attracted a number of new entrants in the past few years; BLP, Freshfields and Leigh Day & Co have recently opened in the City, whereas the likes of TLT, Nabarro and Fieldfisher have opened in the City to specifically grow their regional focus.

Alternative Options

Manchester prides itself on its entrepreneurial spirit and the city can provide alternative career options. Lawyers On Demand have opened their first office outside London in the City, whereas virtual firms such as Gunnercooke and ABS firms such as Riverview Law offer genuine alternatives to the standard models.

In-house Opportunities

An area of rapid growth in the region, Manchester is home to a host of SME's, who due to innovation and growth are seeing their legal teams rapidly increase, such as Boohoo.com. Larger companies with In-house teams include Pets At Home, The Co-Operative and Manchester City Football Club.

There are many other firms to consider, but this list should give you an idea of what levels of practice are available. The industry is fairly focused on a few areas, making competition fierce and the demand for quality high.

Lifestyle

As an ever growing city, Manchester is fast becoming known for its vibrant culture and vast career opportunities. Home to two of England's best known and loved football teams, hosting an array of art exhibits and museums, and centre of a widely respected music scene, Manchester has plenty to offer, whatever your tastes.

Shopping

Trafford Centre: As the largest shopping centre in the UK (and Europe's largest food court) you'll be sure to find almost anything you might need at the Trafford Centre. Also playing host to a cinema, arcade, bowling alley, Legoland Discovery Centre and Sealife centre, it's easy to spend a full day out here.

Arndale Centre: In the city centre, the Arndale is where you'll find the majority of your favourite high street brands. You can grab some lunch in the food court, or alternatively walk to one of the hundreds of restaurants the city has to offer.

Spinningfields: If you feel like indulging, head over to Spinningfields located in the city centre. You will find sophisticated shops such as Emporio Armani, Flannels, Mulberry, Oliver Sweeney and many more! Shopping isn't the only quality this area has to offer; they have city spa escapes, luxury hair salons and Manchester's most progressive independent art gallery, it's not one to miss!

Leisure & Local Attractions

There's plenty to do in Manchester, and if you can't find what you want there then you'll almost definitely find it in one of the other nearby cities. Here are just a few of our favourite attractions:

Manchester Museum: Based at the University of Manchester, Manchester Museum is home to some amazing exhibits from the natural world and different cultures, including dinosaurs, mummies and live animals.

National Football Museum: If you're a football fan, then the National Football Museum is not to be missed. Exhibiting items spanning across the history of football there's loads to see, and during the World Cup you'll discover iconic moments of tournament history around every corner.

Chill Factore: Whether you're a snow enthusiast or a beginner, Chill Factore is the perfect destination for a great day out. Get yourself on the slopes, or if you prefer, then take on the 12m climbing wall! With different areas to suit all ages you're sure to have a ball.

Jump Nation: The largest indoor trampoline park in Europe, at Jump Nation you can literally bounce off the walls! A great activity for kids and adults alike, there's even a huge foam pit attached so that you can practice your tricks!

Food & Drink

Manchester is constantly growing, and with its ever growing list of restaurants, bars and clubs, you'll almost certainly find something to your taste. Here are some places (based on the personal experiences of our team here at Douglas Scott) that we think are worth a visit!!

Food

Almost Famous: Well known for their mouth-watering burgers, they really are almost famous in the North of England. You can't book a table, so be prepared for a bit of a wait, but we can assure you that the wait is well worth it. Grab a few cocktails at the bar and check out the menu, and get yourself prepared for what we think could be the best burger of your life.

Artisan: Located in Spinningfields in the Avenue North, Artisan's cooking goes back to basics in the fire, with pizzas, meat and fish served in a sprawling warehouse space with artworks showcasing sculptures, murals, art installations.

The Curry Mile: With more than 70 Indian restaurants and take-aways along this stretch of road, you're spoilt for choice on the Curry Mile. Well known for its vibrant night-time atmosphere, this area is popular amongst students and professionals alike. A few of our favourites here in the Douglas Scott office are Mughli, MyLahore and Shere Khan. And if you're not too full afterwards then we highly recommend a visit to Moonlight for some of their tremendous ice cream!

Greens: If you're vegetarian, or just a fan of vegetarian and vegan cuisine then Green's is known to be one of the best restaurants to try. Based in Didsbury, just south of Manchester City Centre, you'll find a good variety of dishes that are packed with flavour and filled with fresh, locally sourced ingredients – definitely worth a visit!

Bosu Body Bar: Bosu Body Bar is the first 'High Protein' in Manchester with 2 stores located in Chorlton and Didsbury. They offer clean eating, protein packed lunch, dinner and dessert options. From Bosu Body Bar you can expect steak, quinoa, sweet potato mash, apple coleslaw and even healthy baked beans! For something a little more sweet you can choose from smoothies, juices and protein waffles.

Drink

Manchester House Lounge 12: With a dramatic view of Manchester's cityscape and skyline in the Lounge on Tower 12 Terrace you can watch the sun go down and the city come to life with cocktails, friends and a unique atmosphere. With their resident guest DJ you can relax in a laid back environment for a day or night to remember.

Northern Quarter: With some of Manchester's best independent bars and traditional pubs to be found here, the Northern Quarter is quickly becoming the most popular area for young professionals. With new venues seemingly opening up on a monthly basis, you will find anything from live music venues to specialist cocktail or cask ale bars. Have a wander around and check

out a few – you're sure to find plenty of places to have a brilliant night!

The Alchemist: If you're looking for something modern head down to The Alchemist in the city centre to be wowed by their cocktails prepared by the unique highly skilled mixologists!

These are just a few of the areas in Manchester which are popular for drinks, but with bars all over the city, we suggest you and a few friends try different places. Look down the side streets for those hidden favourites and ask around the locals. With new bars popping up on a weekly basis we're sure you'll find plenty of places to have a drink and dance – or whatever takes your fancy!

Quality of Life & Costs

Manchester is well known as one of the cheaper UK cities to reside in, which often makes it a popular choice for professionals. To give you an idea of the relative cost, we've compared a few basic costs to other large cities in the UK. (This data is approximate, collected from an online source).

Item	London	Manchester	Birmingham	Bristol	Leeds	Liverpool
Loaf of Bread	£1.05	£0.88	£1.02	£0.97	£0.96	£1.03
Eggs (12)	£2.32	£2.01	£2.05	£2.31	£2.10	£1.95
Capuccino	£2.54	£2.38	£2.19	£2.10	£2.48	£2.19
Rice	£1.73	£1.30	£1.20	£0.98	£1.38	£1.12
3 course meal - mid range (2 people)	£50.00	£50.00	£32.50	£40.00	£47.50	£30.00
Pint of lager	£4.00	£3.00	£3.00	£3.35	£3.35	£2.75
Cinema ticket	£12.00	£7.50	£7.75	£8.00	£8.10	£8.00
Gym membership	£49.94	£26.48	£23.33	£39.67	£28.17	£32.50
1 bed apartment	£1586.00	£638.00	£683.00	£692.00	£595.00	£542.00
Internet	£20.00	£15.56	£18.10	£20.03	£20.60	£17.50
Standard monthly bills	£148.28	£126.95	£105.11	£148.40	£157.67	£110.00
Monthly transport pass	£130.00	£49.00	£57.00	£68.00	£52.50	£55.00

Some of these differences are marginal, but as we all know it's the small costs that add up so it's good to be able to save as much as possible. With these lower living costs, it's important to be aware that rarely do salaries match those offered in London, where it is much more expensive to live.

Education

Education, much like most of the country, is a mixture of public and private funded options, the merits of which depend on preference and means. One of Manchester's most notable secondary schools is the Manchester Grammar School. The University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University are both based in the city, alongside the University of Law, the largest provider of vocational legal training in Europe, who also have a campus in the city. Jointly, these host more undergraduate law students than any other UK city outside of London.

Safety

Manchester is a fairly safe city, with incidents of crime usually being something like pickpocketing. While incidents of violence or other such crimes is quite low, it is recommended that you take precautions at night. You will find variation according to the area you are in, still do be mindful of your surroundings and you shouldn't have issues.

Weather

Manchester experiences mild summers and cold winters, with rain all year round. We're sorry to say that the rumours are true – it does rain a lot in Manchester. Snow is rare in the city, although some of the outer boroughs, especially towards the Pennines, do often experience larger amounts of snowfall.

The Little Things

With so much to consider it is easy to forget the little things. These are far too many to list so do be thorough in your research! This guide is a great starting point and if you do choose to work with Douglas Scott, we'll make sure that you've got all your bases covered. Otherwise, we wish you luck on this new and exciting journey!



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