7. LEARNING RESOURCES AND STUDENT FACILITIES

7.1 LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

The University of Manchester Library has several sites across the campus, plus the John Rylands Library in the city centre. The Main Building of the University of Manchester Library is situated on Burlington Street. Mathematics books and periodicals are housed in the blue zone. Most books may be borrowed. The library holds copies of books on course unit reading lists, often multiple copies for course units attended by a large number of students. In addition, there is a high-demand collection on the ground floor which holds some additional copies which may be borrowed overnight.

A photocopying service is also provided in the University of Manchester Library.

The catalogue of the University of Manchester Library is accessible from the library webpage. Further details including the opening hours of the library are available from the website:

http://www.library.manchester.ac.uk

You are also allowed to use the Manchester Business School Library, the Manchester Metropolitan University Library, the Salford University Library and the Manchester Central Reference Library.

The University booksellers are Blackwell's situated in the University Precinct Centre, Oxford Road. Blackwell's stocks most of the recommended text books for your programme. Other bookshops, for example Waterstones, are also available in the city.

7.2 ALAN GILBERT LEARNING COMMONS

The Alan Gilbert Learning Commons opened in Summer 2012. It is situated on the corner of Oxford Road and Burlington Street and is close to the University of Manchester Library. It contains 1000 study spaces and 400 computers, with wi-fi throughout. Learning spaces are flexible and include a mixture of individual and open plan with thirty bookable rooms. The building also contains a café. A team of Library staff is on hand to give you all the help and support you need. The building is open twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, so you can use it whenever it suits you best.

Further details are available from the website:

http://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/locationsandopeninghours/learningcommons/
COMPUTING FACILITIES

The School of Mathematics undergraduate computing cluster is located in Room G.105 of the Alan Turing Building and contains 82 Intel Quad Core PCs with 4GB of RAM running the University’s Student Desktop Image (based on Windows 7). A wide range of software is available on these machines, including Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Access and Powerpoint) and Microsoft Visual Studio along with mathematical packages such as Matlab, Mathematica, SPSS and Minitab. Several different web browsers are installed, including Internet Explorer, Firefox and Opera. These browsers also provide access to the University student e-mail service, hosted by Microsoft Office 365. There is also a smaller teaching cluster of 30 PCs running the Student Desktop Image which is usually partitioned off from the main cluster. Both clusters are open-access except when booked for teaching laboratories. The normal opening hours of the computing cluster in Room G.105 on weekdays are 8.30 am to 5.30 pm (although there may be extended hours during the revision/examination period).

Students may also use any of the public clusters on campus. Details of their locations and the facilities available can be found at

http://www.studentnet.manchester.ac.uk/it-services/pc-on-campus/

Undergraduate students in the School of Mathematics are allowed to print a small number of pages free of charge, up to a maximum value of £10. Please note that this ‘free’ printing credit is not usually available in the first three weeks of the First Semester. It cannot be carried over from one academic year to the next.

The University central IT services website

http://www.itservices.manchester.ac.uk

is a great source of information for the wide range of University-provided IT facilities accessible from both on and off campus.

First year students will be introduced to the computing facilities at the start of the academic year. Students must complete the “IT Signup” procedure to register for a computer account that provides access to the university computing facilities, including e-mail, personal filestore, central printing facilities and other IT facilities available within the University.

Every student has 2 Gb of personal filestore on their “P drive”. This should be used to store coursework files. P drive filestore is accessible on any cluster PC, and via the web at

http://www.itservices.manchester.ac.uk/our-services/my-it/file/

Every PC has anti-virus software installed and whilst you are registered as a student, you are entitled to install the campus-licensed anti-virus software on your home PC and/or laptop. This software and information about computer viruses can be accessed at

http://www.its.manchester.ac.uk/secure-it/virusprotection/
University computing facilities should only be used in connection with your course and other normal reasonable use. Hacking, installation of unauthorized software, deliberately spreading computer viruses and disruption to the normal operation of a computer are all criminal offences. Most software installed on the computers is covered by licensing agreements and thus should not be copied or otherwise distributed in breach of the licence. The use of University computing facilities for the downloading, distribution or viewing of pornography, or for the sending of unsolicited (“SPAM”) emails is forbidden.

The IT Service Desk can help you with any questions related to IT services in the University, for example e-mail accounts, usernames and passwords. The IT Service Desk can be contacted by telephone (Tel.: 0161 306 5544) or from the webpage

http://www.itservices.manchester.ac.uk/contacts/

7.4 SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

There is a Mathematics Student Society, MATHSOC, which organises various events and runs teams in inter-school leagues. The success of the Society depends entirely on the efforts of a few individual students and you should consider helping to make it a success. MATHSOC is housed in Room G.116 of the Alan Turing Building. This office has a hatch in the atrium, opposite the main entrance to the building. This counter is used by MATHSOC from time to time for the distribution of information about events and sometimes for booking for these events.

The Galois Group and the Actuarial Society are also run by students in the School of Mathematics. The Galois Group organises a series of Mathematics talks, many of which are given by undergraduate students in the School. The Actuarial Society arranges lectures and other events for students.

The Students' Union has societies to cater for almost every taste, sporting or intellectual. Details can be found in the Students' Union Building on the Oxford Road site. The Students' Union provides an extensive range of facilities, including shops where you can buy food, stationery equipment etc., bars and coffee lounges, and printing and photocopying facilities. Further information may be found at the following website:

http://manchesterstudentsunion.com

The main sports facilities are the Armitage Site in Fallowfield and the Sugden Centre for indoor sports. The Sugden Centre is situated on Grosvenor Street, between the Mancunian Way flyover and the Grosvenor Place Halls of Residence.

The Manchester Aquatics Centre is open to University of Manchester staff and students. It is situated on Booth Street East, close to the Grosvenor Place Halls of Residence. As well as two large pools, it has a sauna and steam room, a fitness suite etc.

Further information on the University of Manchester’s sports facilities may be found at the following website:
8. CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

A full list of members of staff of the School of Mathematics is given in Appendix A of this Handbook. Their telephone numbers, e-mail addresses and room numbers in the Alan Turing Building are also given in Appendix A.

The postal address for the School of Mathematics is

School of Mathematics,
University of Manchester,
Oxford Road,
MANCHESTER M13 9PL.

The telephone number for the School of Mathematics (general enquiries) is 0161 275 5800/5801. The telephone number for the University switchboard is 0161 306 6000 (external) or 100 (internal).

The e-mail address for all enquiries is mathematics@manchester.ac.uk