# Fallowfield retains student appeal despite city centre shift and new university developments



Fallowfield, a neighbourhood in Manchester, remains a pivotal location for university students, despite ongoing efforts by local authorities to shift this demographic towards the city centre. Historically recognised as a student haven, the area continues to attract a significant number of learners from institutions including the University of Manchester.

Between 2016 and 2022, there was a notable 42 per cent increase in the number of students opting to reside in the city centre. Conversely, Fallowfield saw a decline of approximately 20 per cent in its student population from 2018 to 2022. This decline has been welcomed by some long-term residents, who have expressed concern about the noise and disruptions associated with student life.

The University of Manchester is actively investing in Fallowfield, with multi-million-pound plans to build new halls of residence. These developments aim to replace older accommodation blocks that are set for demolition, thereby preserving the area’s student-centric identity. The university's vision includes creating five ‘neighbourhood clusters’ that reflect a community-oriented atmosphere, which many students find appealing.

Interviews with students revealed a strong connection to Fallowfield. Alex Machell, a 21-year-old Business student, emphasised the social dynamic that drew him to the neighbourhood. He stated, “The social life is alright... There’s lots of stuff going on. Lots of pubs. And there are good house parties.” Machell also highlighted the cost disparity, noting that living in the city centre would incur significantly higher expenses, which is a concern for students on tight budgets.

Ruby Searle, another student, reinforced this sentiment, describing Fallowfield as a community where residents know each other. “It feels like a community… we know a lot of people who live on our road,” she remarked. Searle expressed concern over the isolation she perceived in the city centre, bringing attention to the vibrant social life in Fallowfield, especially during Freshers’ Week when the area is known for its lively gatherings.

The ongoing development in Fallowfield coincides with the demolition of the historically significant Owens Park tower, which has long been a landmark of the student experience. As the structure has now been reduced to rubble, plans for newer purpose-built accommodation are being discussed, suggesting a significant evolution in Fallowfield’s landscape aimed at catering to the upcoming generation of students.

Despite city council initiatives aimed at integrating students into the city centre, many believe that Fallowfield’s allure will persist. Students appreciate the unique blend of amenities, the sense of community, and the overall affordability compared to city centre living. Luned Evans, another University of Manchester student, articulated that “there’s always something going on in Fallowfield,” reinforcing its appeal as a social hub for student life.

With the backdrop of Fallowfield’s rich culture, historical connections, and evolving student accommodation landscape, it appears that the suburb will continue to maintain its legacy as a beloved student village for the foreseeable future.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

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2. <https://www.manchester.ac.uk/about/news/university-of-manchester-unveils-plans-to-redevelop-student-accommodation-site/> - The University of Manchester has unveiled plans to redevelop the Fallowfield campus, aiming to provide more high-quality, modern student accommodation to meet increasing demand.
3. <https://www.manchester.ac.uk/about/news/plans-for-fallowfield-campus-redevelopment-approved> - Manchester City Council has approved the University of Manchester's proposal to redevelop the Fallowfield campus, which includes replacing existing accommodation with 3,300 new bedspaces.
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