

Student Voices That Shape Us: Building an Inclusive Blog to Amplify Aspirations

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Introduction

Established in 2018, the F&E Blog is an **inclusive digital platform** that showcases student achievements, shares lived experiences and promotes opportunities.

The F&E blog has become a key communication space, **strengthening engagement and belonging** across the F&E department (Lemon et al., 2025) and aligning with Manchester Met's commitment to inclusive, high quality student support (Manchester Metropolitan University, 2026).

Analytics

2025 OVERVIEW

-  Published 55 posts
-  Featured 30 student contributors
-  Attracted 210+ subscribers
-  Received over 7,200 views
-  Generated strong engagement on professional platforms such as LinkedIn

References

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Amplify Aspirations Through Student Voice

Empowering student voice:

Students control their narratives and share lived academic and professional experiences. This visibility **validates diverse identities, normalises varied pathways** and **builds belonging** across programmes (Lemon et al., 2025).

Student partnership and representation:

Reflections on internships, study trips, Collaborative Online International Learning, and STRIVE mentorship positions **students as co creators of knowledge**, sharing diverse experiences, that **make learning and opportunities more accessible** for others (D'Alton, 2024).

Supporting equity and outcomes:

Extending academic and peer guidance beyond the classroom **supports confident decision making**, student satisfaction and **positive graduate outcomes**, aligning with departmental priorities (Ipsos, 2026).

Amplifying Aspirations:

By making student experiences visible, the blog supports students to recognise what is possible, **increasing confidence and ambition** (Thomas et al., 2017; Hunt et al., 2023). Seeing real pathways, challenges and successes shared by peers **transforms abstract goals into achievable futures**, encouraging students to aspire, persist and progress (Yang, 2009; Gravett and Ajjawi, 2022).

Showcase Examples

STRIVE Spotlight – ANJALEEN KHAN



Student Spotlight – Matthew Chadaway



A Student's Journey: Insights from a Barclays Trip



Future Focus

- Introduce optional **audio, video and visual posts** to reflect GenZ/Alpha communication styles, while maintaining reflective depth.
- Involve **students as interviewers and curators**, strengthening representation, agency and shared ownership.
- Showcase **non linear career routes** so aspirations feel realistic, attainable and relevant.
- **Embed selected posts in induction and early year modules** to ensure new students encounter relatable student voices.



Please provide your take away points from this poster.



View the F&E Blog here: mmufande.blog