

Plan 2020

# BIGGER

The

Be part of something...  
Bigger

## Our Vision

That GCU students will have an outstanding experience that will live with them forever.



## Why do we exist?

To represent and enable GCU students to enhance all aspects of their student experience.

## Our Values

### DIVERSITY

We are proud of our diverse student body and are dedicated to activities that celebrate this diversity.

### COMMUNITY

We foster a welcoming and inclusive environment, allowing students to form and build upon strong, lasting relationships that contribute to an enjoyable and productive University life.

### PARTICIPATION

We promote and provide the opportunity for widespread involvement in all our activities including sports, societies and volunteering.

### FUN

We are dedicated and passionate about working for students in a professional manner, whilst maintaining a fun and friendly atmosphere.

### SUPPORT

We provide a high level of consistent, reliable, confidential and independent support, ensuring the wellbeing of all of our students.

### LEADERSHIP

Throughout all our activities we encourage students to become leaders, to take pride in their University and respect their fellow students, enabling them to be outstanding graduates.

Thank you to each and every one of the hundreds of GCU students who contributed to the development of this Strategic Plan through focus groups, surveys and consultation events.



# Theme 1: Where everyone belongs

Regardless of where you study we want you to feel you belong to an inclusive and diverse GCU community. We want you to **Be part of something... Bigger**. We will continue to promote involvement in our societies, sports clubs and liberation and representation groups and will work to better provide services that appeal to the needs of students who come from college, our part-time students, postgraduates and distance learning students. All students requiring support during difficult times will continue to receive impartial advice, practice guidance and representation through our Advice Centre.



# Theme 2: Where everyone can grow

We recognise we could not do as much as we do without our volunteers and staff. We will support our current and future student leaders through our Student Leaders Programme and support them to become global citizens with responsibility for our environment and its future sustainability. We will demonstrate our commitment to our people by achieving the Investing in Volunteers, Investors in People accreditation and maintaining the NUS Green Impact award. We will work with GCU to ensure students' extra-curricular activities are recognised by the University.

We know that strong student media groups is important for democratic student-led organisations and we will work to ensure a strong positive student media presence.

# Theme 3: Where everyone can work together

We are proud of our strong partnership working with GCU and that we are regularly consulted on the GCU student experience. However, we want to ensure we are seen as the natural starting point for the development of GCU student facing policies and decisions. It's equally important to ensure our members feel their voice is heard in our own decision making so we will review our governance, democratic structures and training and support for student reps. We will also nurture grass root campaigning from our members and work more in partnership with our Campus Trade Unions and NUS on local and national campaigns. We need to ensure we are working together to a make positive change.



# Theme 4: Where everyone can try new ideas

Through our Strategy for Change project, we are working with four European universities to enable students to carry out social innovation projects in the local community. We will meet the outcomes of this project and for it to have a lasting legacy.

We want to be an organisation that is about continuous improvement and trying new ideas. Quality Students' Unions has been developed by NUS to assure the quality, standards and overall effectiveness of students' associations and we will seek to achieve this standard.

*In order to support our Strategic Themes we must ensure long term financial sustainability, effective marketing and communications and welcoming and relevant premises and infrastructure for all GCU students. These are our Strategic Enablers.*