

1. The Bigger Plan 2020

The Students' Association launched its new Strategic Plan, called The Bigger Plan 2020, in August 2016. We conducted extensive research with our members, potential prospective students and key stakeholders within the University to develop the plan. More information is available from www.GCUstudents.co.uk/strategicplan. The outputs, outcomes and impact of the Students' Association are outlined within this report under the strategic themes within our Plan.

Strategic Theme 1: Where everyone belongs

2. Freshers Week

The Students' Association offered interactive classroom workshops to all programmes in Glasgow within Trimester 1. A total of 60 workshops (2015/16, 53) were delivered in Trimester 1 that engaged with 1,450 students (2015/16, 1,108). In addition the Full Time Officers completed 10 School Induction Talks in SEBE, GSBS and SHLS and around 3,000 goodie bags were distributed through these talks. The Full Time Officers also welcomed new students at the Freshers Address with the Principal.

To introduce new students to the Students' Association 7,000 Handbooks were produced of which 3,800 were posted to new students, with the rest being available for existing students. In addition to our Video and Handbook which can be viewed at www.GCUstudents.co.uk/aboutus, we revised our [Part Time Student Leaflet](#) and [leaflet for articulating students](#) to target communications to distinct groups of students.

Students had the option to buy the Nightclub Wristband or the Active (U18s and non-alcoholic) Wristband in Glasgow. The Active Band remained popular but there was a significant decrease in sales of the Nightclub Wristband. A total of 198 wristbands were sold (2015/16, 431). Increased market competition, students seeking value for money and creating the right offering are challenges during Freshers Week.



Postgraduate School Challenge



President Crowd Selfie with Boogie Storm

Our Sports Clubs and Societies ran many events during Freshers Week to welcome new students and encourage them to get involved. 14 Sports Clubs ran Come and Try sessions with 309 students participating. 27 Societies ran taster events with 800+ students attending. School Socials were arranged for SHLS, SEBE and GSBS. The attendance across the three events were lower than last year with 12, 13 and just over 60 attending the three events compared with 35-40 for SHLS and SEBE and around 80 for GSBS last year. We will reflect on the value of organising School Socials and, if they continue, how the numbers can be improved. There were three events organised specifically for postgraduate students, namely: Postgraduate School Challenge, Afternoon Tea and Film Night. The postgraduate events had 81 attend in total. A Love Food Save Money Cooking Workshop was run during Freshers Week to show 21 students how to make meals with leftover food and to reduce food waste.



Brain Buzzing with Psychology



Come and Try Drama

The Freshers Fayre was held over two days in Glasgow in the ARC with 74 stalls each day. Both days were extremely busy. Freshers Week could not have been delivered without the 45 invaluable student volunteers (2015/16, 36).



Fashion Society Stall



Freshers Volunteers 2016

The Students' Association ran a programme of events to support new students at GCU London including a Freshers Fayre, Tour of Spitalfields, Induction Talk and welcome activities.



Welcome Activities at GCU London



Tour of Spitalfields

3. GCU Open Days

The Students' Association annually supports the GCU Open Days. Working with the Global Recruitment and International Development Office at GCU we held two stalls at two GCU Open Days (7th September and 8th October 2016). The stalls were run by 8 students from Radio Caley and various societies. They were interactive, engaging and fun, and received good feedback from the event organiser. In addition the Student President delivered talks to prospective students.



Student President at GCU Open Day



Stall at GCU Open Day

4. Societies

4.1 Societies and Society Numbers

Diagram 1 shows that during Trimester 1 there was a total of 66 societies in Glasgow, an increase of 4 societies on the same period last year. Our strategic priority within societies is to increase the diversity of members involved to better match the demography of the student body at GCU. Disappointingly there were no societies operating at GCU London within Trimester 1, compared to 5 student-led societies running at GCU London in with 80 memberships in Trimester 1 the previous year. This is an identified as a high priority area for Trimester 2.

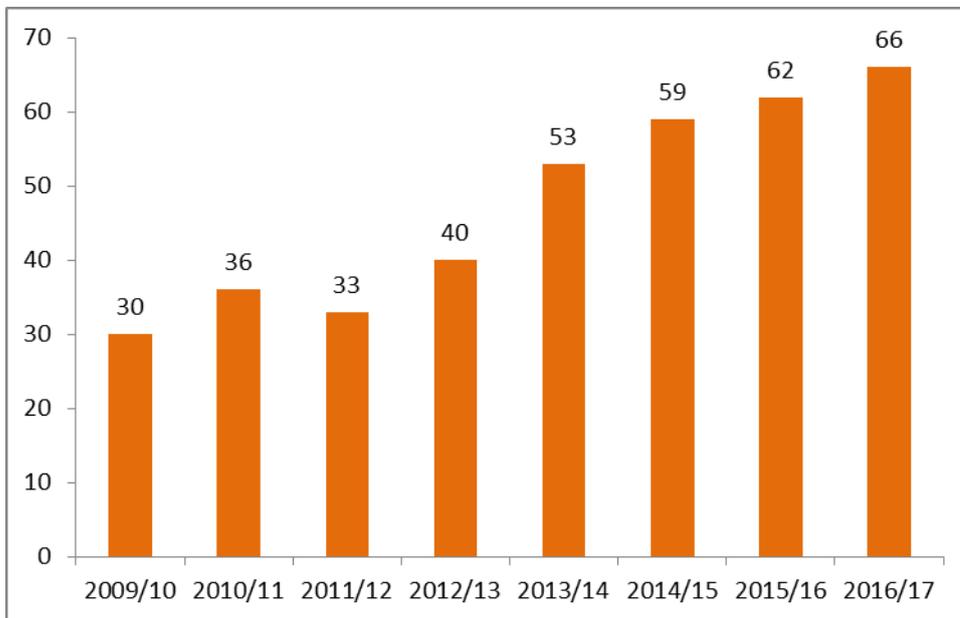


Diagram 1 – Total number of societies within Trimester 1 by year

Diagram 2 shows that in Trimester 1 there were 1,939 society memberships in Glasgow. This is 1,640 members buying one or more memberships. Societies can start without students being charged a membership fee.

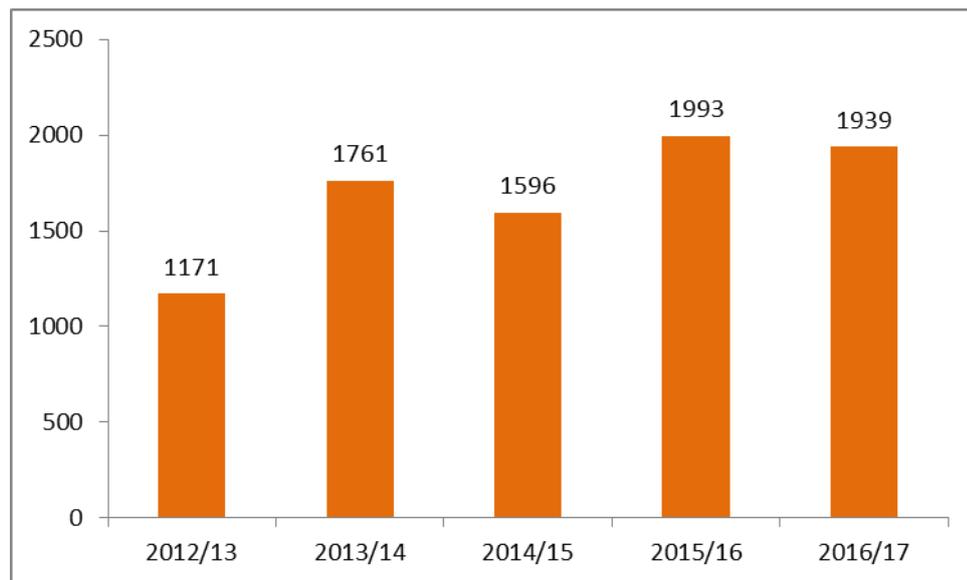


Diagram 2 – Total number of society members broken down by year

The Societies Council approve new society affiliations, set society funding distribution and decide society policy. Affiliated Societies are able to obtain support from the Students' Association, for example through committee training, advice, minibus training and funding. The Glasgow societies are run by 329 GCU student volunteers and the Students' Association trained 144 society committee members over Trimester 1. During September 2016, Committee Bootcamp a day-long training conference which integrated societies and sports clubs' volunteers was piloted. In addition Bootcamp Express sessions were delivered to support those unable to attend Committee Bookcamp.



Photos from the Sports and Societies Committee Bootcamp

4.2 Society Highlights

Societies Showcase week celebrated and promoted the achievements of our societies. A successful week of engagement included seven interviews with society presidents published online, lecture shout-outs, a stall on campus, tweets and over 19,000 views on Facebook posts. There was a targeted outreach to SEBE students which had been highlighted as an area of lower engagement. Lecture shout-outs alongside working with academic staff and School Officers proved effective as both engineering and audio societies started.

There were a lot of positive stories in Trimester 1 for societies and they continue to promote the common good and inclusivity. Our Erasmus Student Network has over 50 members and continues to provide opportunities for students from different cultures to learn about other countries. They also have organised weekly social activities with other ESN Societies, including a speed-meeting event, ceilidh and scavenger hunt.

One of our Freshers Team volunteers stayed involved in volunteering during term time and started a Sign Language Society this trimester. With over 40 members already, it looks to be a great success and will be championing deaf awareness along with teaching sign language skills. They have been collecting used stamps to raise money for deaf awareness.

After the success of our Language Café last year, three students have continued this social language exchange by forming a society and the society has held a successful first event.



Radiography Fundraiser



CUMSA Celebrating Their Charity Week Success

CUMSA continued their good work with a jam-packed charity week in October, including a quiz night, bucket collection and bake-sale. They contributed to the Glasgow Muslim Societies total of £41,000 and were the first team to ever win the quiz three years in a row!

The Allister Boyd Legacy Group held its eighth annual Charity Ball on November 17th 2016 in the Hamish Wood Building with over 200 people in attendance in memory of GCU student Allister Boyd, who passed away in 2009 following a three-year battle with cancer. Their efforts raised over £5,000 for Teenage Cancer Trust and CLIC Sargent.



Allister Boyd Ball 2016



GCU Sign's First Society Meeting

GCU Optics has been holding fortnightly talks with optical companies and also started monthly socials for students to mingle across year groups. Their first fundraiser was 'Wear Dots Raise Lots' for RNIB, including a bake sale and Twister Tournament, raised £140. Psychology teamed up with seven other societies for a collaborative Halloween Event and they also held academic talks, a movie night and stress relief stalls ahead of the exam period.

Our Radiography Society visited the Science Centre to talk to school children about their vocation and have already raised £225 for their chosen charity for the year, Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland. President, Laura, was recently awarded the Society of Radiographers' Plaque at their AGM. Our Foodbank Society assisted in organising the Santa Sack Challenge, which gather donations to give out to elderly people in the community. GCU Marrow had a popular first donor drive with twenty-five new sign-ups for the Anthony Nolan charity.

On World AIDs Day, our LGBT+ Society held a stall to raise money for the Terrance Higgins Trust, while the Podiatry Society supported the Greater Glasgow and Clyde Homeless by collecting 80 pairs of shoes, socks and sanitary products.



LGBT+ Stall for World AIDs Day



Podiatry Society with their donations

5. Sports Clubs

5.1 Sports Clubs and Sports Membership

Led by an enthusiastic group of student volunteers, Sports Clubs continue to provide an outstanding extra-curricular opportunity for GCU students. Diagram 3 outlines the membership figures for Trimester 1 at 611 members. Again our strategic priority within sports clubs is to increase the diversity of members involved to better match the demography of the student body at GCU.

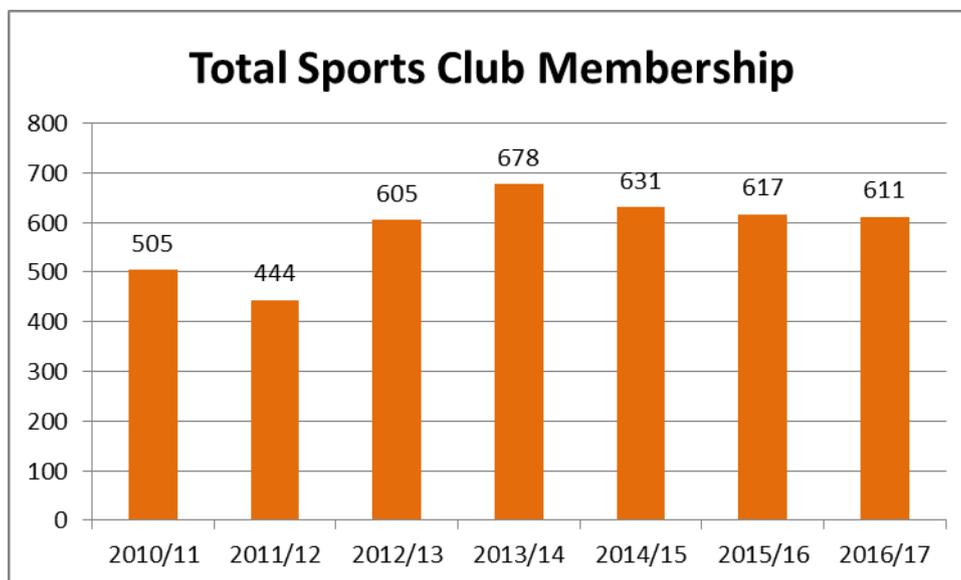


Diagram 3 – Total number of sports club members in Trimester 1

The number of Sports Clubs in Trimester 1 is 33. Due to that fact that the clubs are student-led some do not continue each year and this year we lost the Kayaking and Curling clubs. There appears to be interest in restarting Kayaking and starting Skateboarding, 8-ball Pool and Lacrosse but this has not yet come to fruition in Trimester 1. Of the 33 active clubs 27 of these clubs hold weekly training sessions at various locations throughout the city. Other clubs hold regular meetings and other activities throughout the Trimester.

All Sports Clubs are run by GCU students and are affiliated to the Students' Association. The Sports Clubs are run by 142 volunteers of whom 51 have been trained by the Students' Association. Affiliated Sports Clubs are able to obtain support from the Students' Association, for example through committee training, advice, minibus training and funding. The Students' Association also held one to one meetings with 19 out of the 33 Sports Clubs in Trimester 1. The Sports Council approve new Sports Club affiliations, funding for Sports Clubs and Sports Club policy.

5.2 Competitive Sports and Sports Representation

Whilst competitive sport is not the primary focus of our Sports Clubs there are 24 Sports Clubs that participate in competitive weekly fixtures within British Universities & Colleges Sport (BUCS) and Scottish Student Sport (SSS) leagues. In total these Sports Clubs have participated in 120 fixtures achieving 45 wins (37.5%), 68 losses (56.7%) and 7 draws (5.8%). Men's Rugby and Badminton remain undefeated and at top their respective league tables and are keen to carry this momentum into the new Trimester.

This Trimester saw several notable GCU student representations in sport. Firstly we had 3 representatives in the SSS Shinty Squads (2 men, 1 woman) who were part of the traveling tour to Belfast where they faced Queens University in an exhibition match. Three members have been selected for the SSS training squad for Netball. Furthermore one of these athletes also obtained International Caps with the Northern Ireland Youth Netball Team while competing in the World Youth Qualifiers, another great success. Finally a member of our Athletics club was selected to represent Scotland at the British qualifiers for the European U23 cross country championships.

Craig Girvan, committee member and player for the Men's Volleyball Team, was awarded the honour of SSS Volunteer of the Year for his commitments and efforts for student volleyball throughout the previous year. Cliona Ferguson, committee member and athlete for the Athletics Team, was awarded with Triathlon Scotland's Young Volunteer of the Year award, for her volunteering efforts within the sport. Emma Hale, committee member and player for the GCU Golf Team, was awarded the prestigious R&A Scholarship to aid in her continued development and performance at the high level of golf in which she already plays.

5.3 Sports Club Events

The Glasgow Taxis Cup Freshers Intervarsity took place in September 2016. This is an annual competition against Strathclyde and Glasgow University. This event included friendly competition across 6 sports at 5 different venues across Glasgow, giving newly fledged GCU Sport members their first taste of University sport and competition.

In November 2016, GCU Dance held a 12 hour Danceathon in the Hamish Wood Foyer as a fundraiser for Cancer Support Scotland. The total raised was an impressive £1,356.67.

GCU Netball held the annual Jaggy Thistles Tournament in December 2016 in the ARC. The friendly Netball tournament was attended by 74 students. GCU Netball hosted a Halloween Party at Malone's which was used as a club fundraiser and very well attended on the night by sport members.

During this Trimester the Sports Council hosted two nights, a Launch Night and Alternative Christmas, in Malone's to raise funds to contribute toward the Sports Ball. Both were well attended and raised a combined total of over £600.



GCU Dance Danceathon



Men's Rugby at Glasgow Taxis Cup Fresher's Intervarsity

6. Advice Centre

The Advice Centre operates a service for students seeking confidential support, advice and guidance. This is staffed by three Student Advisers in Glasgow. Students at GCU London are supported by the GCU London Co-ordinator.

6.1 Student One Off Enquiries

Table 1 shows that the Advice Centre in Glasgow dealt with 496 one off enquiries in Trimester 1 of which 228 were academic related and 268 were non-academic related. In addition to this there were another 159 visits for free condoms in Trimester 1 (2015/16, 142).

Glasgow One off Interactions/Enquires	Trimester 1 2012/13	Trimester 1 2013/14	Trimester 1 2014/15	Trimester 1 2015/16	Trimester 1 2016/17
Total number of unique enquiries:	389	436	422	452	496
Males	171	194	187	204	231
Females	218	242	235	248	265
International Students	78	124	79	109	93
Part Time	03	08	03	07	04
Academic	191	193	188	217	228
Non Academic	198	243	234	235	268
Referral made - Internal	94	113	67	71	106
Referral made – External	09	15	09	18	13

Table 1 – unique enquiries broken down by type and demographics in Glasgow

Table 2 shows that the GCU London Co-ordinator dealt with 11 one off enquiries in Trimester 1 of which all 11 were academic related.

London One off Interactions/Enquires	Trimester 1 2015/16	Trimester 1 2016/17
Total number of unique enquiries:	63	11
Males	21	4
Females	42	7
International Students	63	11
Part Time	0	0
Academic	48	11
Non Academic	15	0
Referral made - Internal	43	04
Referral made – External	02	01

Table 2 – unique enquiries broken down by type and demographics in London

6.2 Student Casework

Depending on the type of enquiry then case files are opened for students who require on-going advice and support. These students would see the Student Adviser on more than one occasion and a detailed record of every meeting would be recorded.

There were a total of 89 casework files in Trimester 1 in Glasgow. This is broken down to 46% male, 54% female, 25% international students, 60% starting their course over 21 years old, 9% part time and 91% full

time and 73% undergraduate and 27% postgraduate. A total of 44% were from SHLS, 25% from GSBS, 22% from SEBE and 1% from SWBE. A breakdown of casework by type is outlined in table 3.

Area	Trimester 1 2014/15	Trimester 1 2015/16	Trimester 1 2016/17	Trimester 1 2016/17 Outcome
Mitigating Circumstances	11	26	19	2 - Accepted 17 – Ongoing
Retro Mitigating Circumstances	17	11	15	10 – Accepted 5 – Rejected
Academic Appeals	8	6	9	7 – Upheld 2 – Rejected
Suspected Plagiarism	1	6	3	1 – Major upheld 1 – Minor upheld 1 – Poor academic practice
Senate Disciplinary	9	9	8	2 – Ongoing 3 – Allegations upheld 1 – Allegations partly upheld 2 – Allegations dropped
Fitness to Practice	1	5	4	Pre-FtP: 3 – First & final warning Full FtP: 1 – Ongoing
Complaints	5	13	8	Frontline: 2 – Upheld Formal: 2 – Upheld 2 - Ongoing 1 – SPSO complaint appeal ongoing 1 – SAAS complaint appeal upheld.
Harassment	2	1	2	1 – Advice only 1 – Ongoing
Other	12	11	21	Various (personal/non-procedural academic, financial, accommodation, personal relationships).
TOTAL	66	88	89	

Table 3 – casework broken down by type in Glasgow

6.3 Student Testimonials

Your guidance and help really made sense. Thanks so much for your help I don't know where I would be without your guidance.

Thank you again for your advice and support at a difficult and stressful time. I'm glad to let you know that I'm also feeling much less stressed in my new job and I am now looking forward to my graduation ceremony in November.

Thank you for all your help and assistance, without it I would not have progressed. I really do appreciate everything you have helped me with.

Thank you so much for all your help with the MITS process and with my complaint about the initial decision. I very much doubt I would have been able to get through the process without your advice and patient listening.

Thank you again for the meeting we had it was very helpful and a great relief to talk about my problems.

Thank you so much for your help. The Uni are refunding all alumni the additional fees and administering the 20% off of the top line. This was the best outcome I could have hoped for.

Talking to you was important to put me on track again, I was so disappointed because of my grades and I felt that I needed someone to listen and address all my worries. I really appreciate your advice and that you really listened and supported me during the most stressful time.

Student Testimonials from Trimester 1 for the Advice Centre

There were a total of 8 casework files in Trimester 1 for GCU London. This is broken down to 38% male, 63% female, 100% international students, 100% full time and 100% postgraduate. A breakdown of casework by type is outlined in table 4. Due to the small numbers of casework students at GCU London casework this is broken down by processes, as outlined within table 4. Please note that 2 students have gone through two processes, within Trimester 1. The location of the Students' Association Office has been identified as a barrier to general student engagement and with arrangement from the Dean of GCU London was moved to within the Student Library in February 2016.

Area	Trimester 1 2015/16	Trimester 1 2016/17	Outcomes
Academic Appeals	6	2	1 – Upheld 1 - Ongoing
Retro Mitigating Circumstances	6	2	1 – Accepted 1 – Rejected
Suspected Plagiarism	0	1	1 – Allegation Dropped
Senate Disciplinary	0	1	1 – Allegations Upheld

Complaints	3	2	Frontline: 1 – Upheld Formal: 1 – Information only
Harassment	0	0	
Mitigating Circumstances	0	2	1 - Upheld 1 – Ongoing
Other	1	0	Various (personal/non-procedural academic).
TOTAL	20 Processes	10 Processes	

Table 4 – casework broken down by process in London

6.4 Emergency Hardship Payments

In total the 18 students accessed the Emergency Hardship Fund in Trimester 1. The main reason why students accessed the fund was for basic living expenses and to pay for travel costs to University or placement. Many students had difficulty with their SAAS in the first few weeks or they had personal issues requiring some financial assistance. As this is the only emergency cash fund available on campus and it can be a lifeline for many students. The majority of referrals come from Campus Life, Library and academic staff.

7. Postgraduate Events

In addition to the postgraduate events held throughout Freshers Week in Glasgow we held a further Film Night and Postgraduate Quiz Night in November. We are continuing to monitor the success of the postgraduate events and adapting to ensure we meet the needs of this cohort.

At GCU London there is a range of events for postgraduate students. In Trimester 1 this has included a Ghost Bus Tour, Games Night, Lunch Time Meet and Christmas Party. In total, 38 attended these events.

8. Liberation Groups

The Students' Association supports the student-led liberation groups, namely: LGBT+ Group, Women's Group, Black or Minority Ethnic Students' Group and Disabled Students' Group. In Trimester 1 there were 28 students involved across the four groups. At present we have all liberation officer posts filled with varying levels of activity in each campaign. Through our Equality and Diversity Committee a consultation is currently taking place on how liberation groups of the future will look and operate within the Students' Association.

Caledonian Women have been focusing their efforts in making the group more sustainable by implementing a committee system so that everyone can contribute to the running of the group and support the Women's Officer.

Our BME Officers have changed the name of the campaign (previously Ethnic Minorities) to reflect the rest of the sector and so the cause of the group is more recognisable to get membership involved. Once in position they ran activity during Black History Month with support from VP SEBE which included a fayre, movie screening of Goodbye Bafana and food night serving food of African and Caribbean origin.

The LGBT+ Group with support from the VP SHLS have been involved in the NUS Scotland LGBT+ campaign called Bin the Blood Ban. Currently, men who have sex with men, trans women, non-binary people and cis women who have had sex with men who have also had sex with men are banned from giving blood. This campaign wants to move to a system based on individual risk rather than discriminating against a whole group of people.

Our Disabled Students' campaign with support from the VP GSBS ran activity during UK Disability History Month by providing information on the university's Disability Services and screening short films around perceptions of disability in the Bistro. The Disabled Students' Officer is keen to increase membership of the group so that both seen and unseen disabilities are represented at GCU.

Strategic Theme 2: Where everyone can grow

9. Leadership Programmes

The Student Leaders Programme is run on the Glasgow Campus and the London Leadership Programme is run at GCU London. Both programmes develop students' leadership competencies. The Student Leaders Programme is open to students who volunteer within GCU, the Students' Association and the local community and the London Leadership Programme is open to all GCU London students.

9.1 Programme Structure

The Student Leaders Programme has two levels: Student Leaders Development and Student Leaders Advanced. Students must complete the Development level before continuing onto the Advanced level. Each level will take one academic year to complete. However, undergraduate students in their final year or postgraduate students are able to complete two levels in one academic year. At all stages of the programme students are working on developing leadership competencies. The Leadership Record allows students to reflect on their experiences as a volunteer and identify practical ways in which they can improve and progress chosen competencies. The London Leadership Programme follows a similar approach.



Diagram 4 – Requirements for completing the Student Leaders Programme

9.2 Numbers Registered

Diagram 5 shows that in Trimester 1 318 students registered to take part in the Student Leaders Programme (268 at Development Level and 50 at Advanced Level). There are two reasons for the reduction in registered participants, firstly it was decided that the pilot in 2015/16 to open the programme to all students and not just volunteers was not strategically right and changed again in 2016/17 and secondly the focus within our strategic plan is on improving completion rates and not registration numbers. However, achieving the right numbers of students registered is important to achieve completion targets. There are 5 students registered onto the London Leadership Programme in Trimester 1.

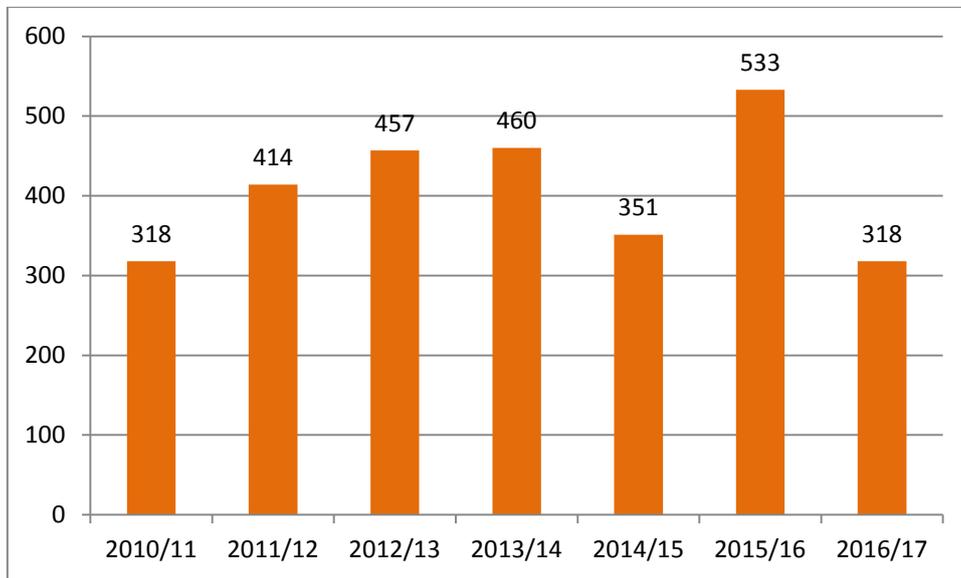


Diagram 5 – Student Leaders Programme registrations in Trimester 1

In terms of demographics of registered Student Leaders Programme participants, this is 31% male, 69% female, 27% international students, 1% part time and 99% full time and 89% undergraduate, 10% postgraduate taught and 1% postgraduate research. A total of 48% were from SHLS, 32% from GSBS, 20% from SEBE.

9.3 Student Leaders Programme Welcome Evening

The Student Leaders Programme Welcome Evening was held on Thursday 6th October 2016. The Scottish Institute of Enterprise spoke to students about current projects and the Strategy for Change (Social Innovation) project was launched. About 60 students were in attendance.

9.4 Leadership and Personal Development Seminars

In Trimester 1, there were 34 workshops held for the Student Leaders Programme, taking place across a variety of times including evenings and weekends. The workshops are delivered directly by the Students' Association, GCU staff, external organisations and employers. There were 2 workshops delivered for the London Leadership Programme.

10. Volunteering

10.1 Nightline Volunteering



Strathclyde and Caledonian Nightline is a service run jointly with the University of Strathclyde Students' Association. It is a confidential listening and information service for students from 7pm to 7am, Monday to Friday, during Trimester 1 and 2. The service is run by trained students and is available to GCU, Strathclyde and City of Glasgow College students. Strathclyde and Caledonian Nightline have been accredited under the national Nightline body's Good Practice Guideline scheme (approved by the Helplines Association).

Diagram 6 shows that the number of Nightline volunteers remains the same as Trimester 1 last year. The current number of trained volunteers is 38 students (19 from GCU and 19 from University of Strathclyde).

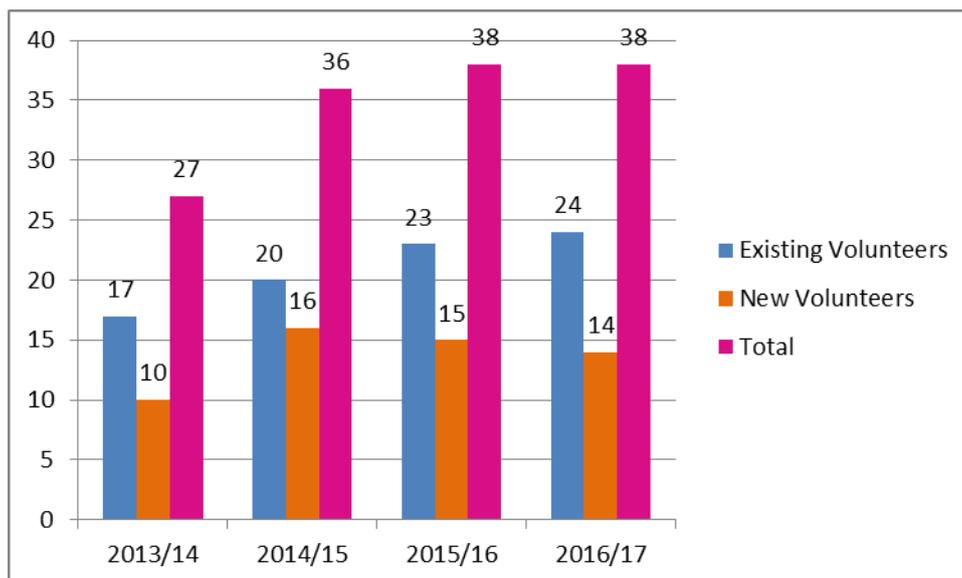


Diagram 6 – Nightline Volunteers in Trimester 1

Diagram 7 shows that the number of interactions (number of online chats, texts and calls) is higher than the same period last year. A total of 33% of the interactions in Trimester 1 were online chat, 61% by phone and 6% by text message. There has been a higher than normal number of silent calls, where users may be 'testing' the service. The main themes of interactions include mental health, academic issues, sexual health and sexuality. Out of the possible 70 shifts, 50 have been covered in Trimester 1.

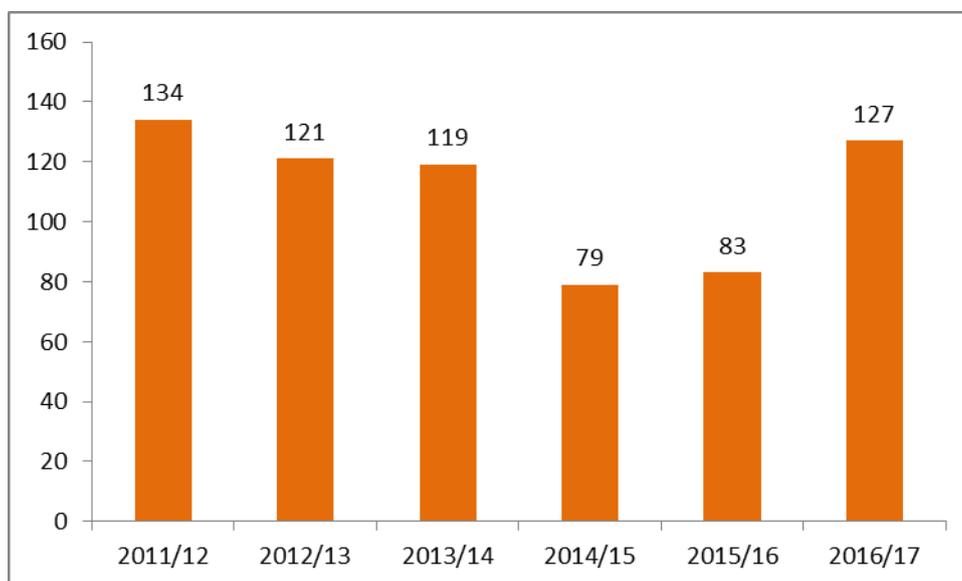


Diagram 7 – 'interactions' taken in Trimester 1

10.2 Wellbeing Volunteering

There are 23 registered volunteers on the Wellbeing Volunteering Programme in Trimester 1. Volunteers receive introductory training and then training from external organisations prior to each campaign. Campaigns this trimester have been on General Wellbeing, Homesickness and Sexual Health.

1st Campaign: Fresher's Event – 12th and 13th September 2016

AIM	OUTCOMES
<p>To promote the Advice Centre and the services which it offers to our students.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 223 student engagement • 50 advice centre leaflets + pens • 100 sperm key rings and 150 single measure wine pourers • Free condoms, information on drugs, alcohol, safety, sexual health.

2nd Campaign: Homesickness - 25th & 27th October 2016

AIM	OUTCOMES
<p>To raise awareness of homesickness, share coping strategies and foster a sense of community at GCU.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 868 students student engagement • 450 homesickness leaflets were handed out • 94 postcards were filled out • 130 Advice Centre Leaflets were distributed

3rd Campaign: Sexual Health - 15th & 17th November 2016

AIM	OUTCOMES
<p>Raise students awareness of STIs, testing and prevention.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 673 student engagement • Promoted free testing by Terrence Higgins Trust testing at the Caledonian Clinic on 17th Nov • 250 choice cards given out to promote the Free Condom service in the Advice Centre, 100 Advice Centre Leaflets distributed • Provided 500 free condoms and information on STIs, testing and prevention on display board

10.3 Investing in Volunteers Accreditation

We are delighted to announce that the Students' Association has gained the Investing in Volunteers (IiV) accreditation. IiV is the UK quality standard for all organisations which involve volunteers in their work. The Students' Association has been working over the past 12 months to develop the infrastructure, information, support and training for all its 425 volunteers. To achieve the accreditation 40 volunteers and 7 staff were interviewed by Volunteer Scotland about their experiences of volunteering.

11. Student Media

11.1 Radio Caley (Radio Station)

RADIO CALEY

Radio Caley is a 24/7 internet radio station which broadcasts during Trimester 1 and Trimester 2 from www.radiocaley.com. Members broadcast live from 9am to midnight Monday to Friday from within the Students' Association Building and music plays at other times. Radio Caley is run by an elected student committee and supported by the Students' Association. There were a total of 25 different shows in Trimester 1 (2015/16, 58) and 94 involved members (2015/16, 97), with the bulk of these being presenters. Students also undertake other roles within fundraising, multimedia, events, audio technology, music and news. All presenters must complete training before going live. Radio Caley has seen challenges within its committee structure, including the resignation of the Station Manager and their website has been 'under construction' since Summer 2016 which has led to additional problems of presenters and volunteer recruitment.

Whilst having fewer volunteers, Radio Caley have been very active on campus in Trimester 1. They have organised two acoustic gigs, were involved in audio support during Freshers Week and organised all station social, called SAAS-mass.



Radio Caley SAAS-mass Party



Radio Caley Studio



Radio Caley All Station Social

11.2 The Edit (student magazine)



The Edit, the student magazine, is run by a student committee and supported by the Students' Association. The Edit produced two online issues in Trimester 1, with one edition being printed and distributed across campus. In addition to the 500 copies of the magazine distributed across campus there were 45 online articles during Trimester 1 (2015/16, 45) on www.theeditgcu.com. In total 24 students (2015/16, 37) were involved in The Edit during Trimester 1.

The Edit held a Welcome Event, All Student Meeting and Print Party in Trimester 1. In addition The Edit invited two former GCU students Mark Cunningham and Connor Gillies to talk about working in radio industry.



The Edit Printed Magazine



The Edit Print Party



The Edit Working in Radio Seminar

12. Ethical and Environmental: Green Impact

The Students' Association is working to achieve the NUS Green Impact accreditation. The accreditation has undergone a review and accreditation standards are now based on the total number of points achieved after marking and auditing. There are 50 criteria: 47 defined criteria, plus 3 open-ended criteria that you can define yourself, with a total of 500 points available: 270 from specific criteria, 100 from the campaign section, 100 from the outcomes section and 30 from the open-ended section. The new toolkit focuses on the Students' Association maintaining sustainable operations and creating transformational opportunities for students to create change. Previously we achieved the Gold (Excellent) award but due to the new criteria and our strategic focus, our target is to maintain the Good Award.

The Green Impact accreditation is student-led by the Ethical and Environmental Committee. In Trimester 1 there are 6 students involved in the Ethical and Environmental Group. In Trimester 1 the main focuses of the campaign have been to improve productivity and membership of the Ethical and Environmental Committee, gathering information within the organisation and GCU, creating a Sustainability Campaign Plan and adding a cyclist mileage rate in our expenses policy. To date we have completed 3 out of 7 Mandatory Good criteria and have amassed 66 out of the necessary 100 points to achieve our target.

Strategic Theme 3: Where everyone can work together

13. Student Representatives

Our mission is to represent and enable GCU students to enhance all aspects of their student experience.

13.1 Class Representatives

The Students' Association continues to work with the Department of Academic Quality and Development and the Academic Schools to elect and support the GCU Class Reps, Programme Board Reps and appoint School Officers. Table 5 shows the breakdown of registered Class Reps by School. Receiving the details of Class Reps from some programmes and schools has been challenging this year. No class reps details have been provided by INTO. Students are able to find out the contact details of their Class Reps through the Students' Association website. We have started a discussion with the School of Work Based Learning on how representatives on some of the distance learning programmes undertaken by TNE students.

Year	Trimester 1 2011/12	Trimester 1 2012/13	Trimester 1 2013/14	Trimester 1 2014/15	Trimester 1 2015/16	Trimester 1 2016/17
SEBE	118	156	131	106	189	89
GSBS	133	176	135	185	194	166
SHLS	179	214	169	216	230	228
INTO	0	9	11	0	0	0
Unknown	3	0	1	0	0	0
Total	433	555	447	507	613	483

Table 5 – Registered Class Reps by School

Training is offered to all Class Reps and is run by the Students' Association with a total of 25 sessions offered in Trimester 1. Table 6 shows the breakdown of Class Reps that have been trained in Trimester 1 against the total numbers trained in previous years. The lower number of Class Reps details being passed to the Students' Association has a knock on effect to the numbers training. In total 224 students were trained in Trimester 1, 177 classroom based and 16 online. Around 97% of attendees at the Class Rep training said they found the training useful or very useful. Further training is organised for Trimester 2.

	Trimester 1 2013/14	Trimester 1 2014/15	Trimester 1 2015/16	Trimester 1 2016/17
Attendance at Class Rep Training	165	204	259	193
Total Class Reps Trained (including those formerly trained)	198	316	323	224

Table 6 – Numbers of Class Reps Trained

At GCU London there were 12 Class Reps recruited and 9 Class Reps were trained over two sessions.

13.2 School Officers

School Officers have the responsibility to ensure that the views of students, via Class Reps, are considered at School Board level. The School Officers also act as a two way link between the School and the Students' Association on the student learning experience. We have recruited 9 School Officers, one for each department within each school in Glasgow. All Officers are supported by the Students' Association and are provided with training. School Officers have primarily been involved in the academic portfolio review in Trimester 1.

13.3 Postgraduate Taught Representation

Working with the Department of Academic Quality and Development and academic schools new positions of Postgraduate Taught Representatives have been created, one for each Glasgow School. All positions were filled in Trimester 1. These new positions are trained and supported by the Students' Association. Within GCU London there is the elected GCU London Representative.

13.4 Postgraduate Research Representation

Working in conjunction with the Graduate Centre and academic schools, this is the second year we have recruited Research Student Leads. There are 4 school level Research Student Leads for SEBE, GSBS, SHLS and GCU London and 9 departmental Research Student Leads for the three Glasgow schools. All positions were filled in Trimester 1. In addition to empowering the Research Student Leads to undertake their role through training and ongoing support, we developed a series of School based leaflets that the Research Student Leads can use in the future to promote themselves and their role to their fellow Postgraduate Research students.

Here to represent you

GCU Students' Association is here to make sure that the University hears and acts on the needs of its Postgraduate Research Students!

Your representatives...

Research Student Leads help drive improvements to your student experience by making sure that both the University and the Students' Association know about and take action on the issues that are affecting Postgraduate Research Students. If you have any issues that you want raised, get in touch with your Research Student Lead to let them know!



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Run by students like you...

GCU Students' Association is led by four elected students known as Full Time Officers. In addition to being members of the Students' Association's Board of Trustees, the body ultimately and legally responsible for the running of GCU Students' Association, each of the Full Time Officers are responsible for taking a lead in campaigning to improve the student experience at GCU.

You can find out more about your Full Time Officers and their campaigns to improve your student experience at www.gcustudents.co.uk/execute.

This leaflet has kindly been funded by GCU's Graduate School. Visit www.gcu.ac.uk/graduate-school to find out more about how the Graduate School can support you.




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Postgraduate Student Leaflets

13.5 Student Action Group for Engagement

The Student Action Group for Engagement (SAGE) is a joint committee organised with the Department of Academic Quality and Development. This group plays a similar function to the GCU Learning, Teaching and Quality Enhancement Network (LTQEN) and provides student input into the development of GCU learning, teaching and quality enhancement policy. In Trimester 1 this group has discussed the Student Partnership Agreement, Teaching Awards, Student Summit, Common Good Curriculum, student engagement in quality enhancement and planned education campaigns by the Full Time Officers.

13.6 Student-led Programme Review in SEBE

It was agreed between the Vice President SEBE and the Dean of the school that programmes could invite the Students' Association in to do a Student-Led Programme Review. Four different programmes were identified within the School and the process involved meeting with 10 cohorts of students (91 students) to discuss their student experience on issues identified within the National Student Survey, namely: Programme Organisation, Teaching, Feedback and Assessment. For each programme, a report was produced summarising the thoughts of all cohorts who had been involved including both elements of good practice and areas where students felt their expectations had not been met. All reports have been submitted to the School and this project has formed part of the School's engagement plan this year.

13.7 Transnational Students

The Students' Association has joined a sparqs (student partnerships in quality Scotland) project with other Scottish institutions looking into the experience of transnational students. The project seeks to identify common challenges as well as good practice and intends to produce guidance to assist with achieving genuine student engagement in shaping their own learning as well as quality and governance processes. We have engaged with the Department of Academic Quality and Development, School of Work Based Education and academic schools to take this forward.

13.8 Community Councils

The Full Time Officers regularly represent the student body at local Community Council meetings. Our local meetings are Merchant City and Trongate Community Council and Townhead and Ladywell Community Council. The Full Time Officers have attended 7 meetings in Trimester 1. Local residents and councillors attend.

The Student President and the Vice President School of Engineering and Built Environment have taken part in the first ever Townhead Community Clean-up Event on 27 October 2016, where primary school children, local residents, community councillors, and students were involved.



Townhead Community Clean-up Event



Santa Sack Challenge

GCU students took part in the University Challenge: 100 Santa Sacks Appeal, organised by Woodside Community Council and a project led by Jodie Waite, Vice President GSBS. The project was about collecting food and toiletries for elderly residents. It was announced on STV Glasgow #LiveatFive programme that we won the University Challenge: 100 Santa Sacks Appeal 2016 against Glasgow University. We raised 1,114 non-perishable items to give to the elderly.

The Full Time Officers are in initial discussions about restarting the currently defunct Dundasvale Community Council, the Community Council area where GCU is situated. This would be a partnership project with the University. There have been initial meetings with Glasgow City Council and local councillors but it is uncertain at this stage whether it is likely to proceed. It may be that a Residents' Association is instead formed.

13.9 Glasgow Student Forum

Members of the Glasgow Student Forum (GSF) met on Monday, 28 November 2016, at GCU Students' Association, for the first meeting of 2016/17. The GSF was created to discuss and provide solutions for issues that affect students specifically based in Glasgow rather than on an institutional or national basis and to collectively represent the students of our region, to run region-specific campaigns and to share knowledge/best practice.

Members of the Glasgow Student Forum include: GCU; Glasgow University; Strathclyde University; University of the West of Scotland; Glasgow Clyde College; City College of Glasgow; Glasgow School of Art; Glasgow Kelvin College; and the Royal Conservatoire.

13.10 NUS Engagement

The Students' Association continue to play an active role within the National Union of Students (NUS). In Trimester 1 our Officers attended NUS Scotland's annual The Gathering event and the NUS Scotland Zone Conference. The Chief Executive is a member of the NUS UK Charitable Services Talent Direction and Oversight Board.

We held our elections for delegates to the NUS UK and NUS Scotland Annual Conferences in November 2016. In total 258 students (2015/16, 298) students voted in these elections. The decrease in turnout is most likely down to the fewer number of candidates. We have full delegations attending both conferences in Trimester 2.

GCU students attended the NUS/UCU National Demo in London on Saturday 19th November 2016, demanding free, quality further and higher education that is accessible to all. They were joined by students' associations/unions from across the UK,



GCU students attending NUS/UCU National Demonstration

The Students' Association has encouraged students to participate in the NUS Scotland #SupportUs campaign where we secured signatures and statements from hundreds of students at GCU about how the Scottish Government budget could better support them in their studies.

14. Governance

14.1 Trustee Board

The Trustee Board focuses on the strategic direction and legal and financial health of the Students' Association and is comprised of the four annually elected Full Time Officers, four annually appointed Student Trustees and four appointed External Trustees, who are all charity trustees. The Trustee Board continues to meet four times a year. More information about the Trustee Board is available: www.GCUstudents.co.uk/trusteeboard.

The Students' Association has started a full Governance Review. To date a review has been conducted on the Trustee Board and Sub-Committees. The Students' Association used the NUS Good Governance Toolkit and the NUS Strategic Support Unit verified the self-assessment. The NUS Good Governance Toolkit is endorsed by Universities UK, GuildHE, the Committee of University Chairs, the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education and the Association of Heads of University Administration. Within Trimester 2 2016/17 a review will take place of the Full Time Officer model. Within 2017/18 a Democracy Review will be started and will review Student Voice and its sub committees. Finally there will be a Constitutional Review in 2018/19.

14.2 Student Voice and Ideas

Any student can submit 'ideas' on how they think the University or Students' Association can be improved on our website or Feedback Postcards. The Executive Committee have the power to make any straightforward or 'quick win' ideas happen and more substantial ideas are taken to Student Voice for discussion and approval. Table 7 shows that there were a total of 12 ideas received in Trimester 1.

Year	Trimester 1 2014/15	Trimester 1 2015/16	Trimester 1 2016/17
Ideas submitted by members	18	18	12

Table 7 – Ideas submitted

Student Voice is the Students' Association's main policy making body, which consists of 45 representatives, of which 39 places are currently filled. Student Voice has elected representatives from all of the academic Schools, liberation Officers, minority Officers and representatives from each of our involvement areas to ensure that any decisions made are legitimate and representative. Student Voice is where 'ideas' are taken on how the University or Students' Association can be improved or what our members want us to campaign on. The 'ideas' are discussed and 'improvements' can be suggested. These 'ideas' become our policy. Student Voice is also the body that holds the Executive Committee to account. A total of 6 ideas were discussed at Student Voice in Trimester 1, including expanding our Equality and Diversity Committee, providing more spaces for postgraduate students on Student Voice, redefining usage of our Social Learning Space, lobbying MPs to protect the rights of EU students after Brexit. Members have also held discussions about exam regulation changes, changes to university catering provision and access to specialist computer software on campus.

14.3 Executive Committee

The Executive Committee are our four Full Time Officers, elected to take a year out from their studies, and includes our Student President, Vice President School of Engineering and Built Environment (SEBE), Vice President Glasgow School for Business and Society (GSBS) and Vice President School of Health and Life Sciences (SHLS). The Executive Committee discussions focus on how to improve the student experience at GCU and take forward the majority of the internal and external representative and campaigning work. More information about the Executive Committee is available: www.GCUstudents.co.uk/executive.

In Trimester 1 we continued with our Full Time Officer Student Engagement Plan. The main components of the plan include Lecture Shouts and 'Coffee on Campus'. The rationale for this plan is to encourage the Officers to get out from behind their desks and meet with members outside of formal structures or events, in order to listen to students' feedback on their student experience at GCU. The Officers also have the opportunity to communicate key messages to the membership from the Students' Association. The Plan is shaped by the Full Time Officers, with officers annually selecting the methods they wish to use to engage with the membership.

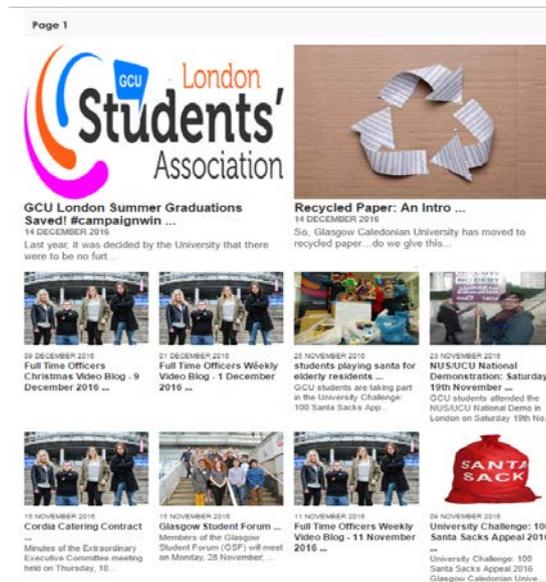
Table 8 outlines that in Trimester 1 the Full Time Officers delivered 40 lecture shouts to 6,841 students and held 6 Coffee on Campus events that engaged with 135 students. An Officers Blog Section has been created on our website at www.GCUstudents.co.uk/blogs. The Full Time Officers uploaded 6 video blogs and wrote 12 blogs. The Full Time Officers also send out an impact email to all students explaining what they had achieved in Trimester 1, available from www.GCUstudents.co.uk/impact, and this was read by 3,588 students.

	Lecture Shouts		Coffee On Campus		Blogs
	Number	Engagement	Number	Engagement	
2013/14	23	10,125	5	Not Recorded	29
2014/15	55	10,923	4	677	12
2015/16	84	13,142	5	450	5
2016/17	40	6,841	6	135	18

Table 8 - Student Engagement Plan statistics



Photos of the Full Time Officers engaging with students across campus



New Full Time Officers Blogs

15. Campaigns

The Students' Association continues to be active in representing the needs of our members and improving the lives of GCU students. The following is a summary of our campaigning work in Trimester 1:

The Student President has worked with the University to form an agreement which allows student events to take place on our new and improved campus, following the Heart of Campus Project. As a result, our students no longer need to look for external venues to hold high profile events. So far, the Allister Boyd Ball has taken place on campus.

The Student President has established a partnership with the University to create 2020 Student Experience Action Plans. The aim of this action plan is to improve and focus on student satisfaction in order to enhance the overall student experience.

Last year, it was decided by the University that there would be no further GCU London graduation ceremonies taking place during the summer and instead, there would only be one graduation ceremony in London during November each year. The GCU London Rep worked with the Student President and after a successful campaign this decision was overturned and graduations would remain in London in the Summer and November 2017. Communications have been put into place by the University for new students to confirm future arrangements.

After lobbying by the Vice President SEBE, the Global Buddies' Scheme has been re-introduced to GCU. The aim of the scheme is to both create a better international student experience and help increase home student internationalisation.

The VP SEBE has worked with GCU IT to upgrade 27 of the computers in our 24 hr Computer Lab to support specialised software for engineering students. This will improve lab access for students within the school and allow students to access their labs 24hrs on campus.

Working with the University the VP SHLS has developed and introduced a brand new GCU Community Partnership Agreement, outlining the kind of university environment that students and staff all want to live, work and learn in, highlighting the values of partnership working between the University and Students' Association. The Partnership Agreement is progressing through the University and Students' Associations committees for approval.

The VP SHLS working with the School of Health and Life Sciences has organised a Volunteering Fayre allowing students the opportunity to undertake volunteering as part of their curriculum, gaining vital skills and experience to enhance their employability.

The VP GSBS has been working with the University on promoting the positive message of the new recycled paper on campus and on the roll out of online submissions for all courses, where possible.

The Full Time Officers have also worked closely with the Campus Trade Unions on issues such as Prevent, and most notably in the campaign for equal pay for university staff and an end to casualised contracts.

The Full Time Officers have been working with the School Officers and academic schools on the portfolio review. This has involved comprehensive discussions through academic committees.

The VP SEBE has been working with University IT and Facilities Management to launch new concept classrooms that create flexible learning environments for students. A review of best practice from across the sector was undertaken and a test room was created in W305.

Strategic Theme 4: Where everyone can try new ideas

16. Quality Students' Unions

NUS have developed [Quality Students' Unions](#) to assure the quality, standards and overall effectiveness of students' associations and unions within the UK. The Committee of University Chairs, Universities UK, GuildHE and the Leadership Foundation have all endorsed the quality mark. We currently hold the Good Award and our Steering Group have developed an Action Plan to achieve the Very Good Award. Our Strategic Plan outlines that through continuous improvement we will aspire toward Excellent. The quality mark is broken down into three core areas:

1. Governance, leadership and management

How the association manages, plans, controls and monitors its activities. Threshold standards are set in line with good practice and statutory requirements. The components within the areas include Strategic Planning, Relationship and Partnerships, Governance, Democracy and People.

2. Activities

How well the association does what it sets out to do. How well the association aligns its activities to the needs of its members and how effective these activities are. The components within the areas include Communication, Services, Participation and Representation and Campaigning.

3. Outcomes

The positive impacts the association has on its members. The components within the areas include Review and Evaluation, Context and Impact.

Quality Students' Unions is based upon a self-assessment model and uses a combination of qualitative and quantitative measures. Each students' association undertakes a self-assessment. Part A is a series of annual quantitative indicators (e.g. election turnout, candidate numbers) that is designed to measure the basic health of an association. Part B is a qualitative self-assessment in the form of statements on the association's performance against each of the 12 components.

To date 50 have completed Part A and 9 have completed Part B (Leeds, Cardiff, Coventry, UEA, Kent, KCLSU, Newcastle, Bristol and DeMontford). There are 7 booked to complete Part B within Trimester 2 (Stirling, York SJ, Liverpool Hope, Derby, UCLAN, Huddersfield and GCU). We will be the first Scottish association to be audited for Part B on the 27th and 28th March 2017. The audit will verify our self-assessment and provide a quality rating of 'Excellent', 'Very Good', 'Good' or 'Working Towards'. To date on Leeds University Union have achieved the Excellent award and the Excellent award will remain aspirational as a target for the Students' Association based on the current Impact criteria.

17. Strategy for Change

The Students' Association is working in partnership with the GCU European Office after winning a bid to be involved in the Strategy for Change Project, funded by the Erasmus+ Programme. This project aims to establish a formalised transnational training programme to prepare students for carrying out effective

social innovation projects in the local community. GCU is working with 4 other partner organisations from Portugal, the Netherlands, Dublin and Sweden, with the GCU European Office leading and co-ordinating the project. Each institution will take on a different area of work for the three year project according to their specialities. The Students' Association is involved due to the already well-established Student Leaders Programme. Although there will be no drastic changes to the structure of the Programme, the biggest difference will be the ability to send students out into the local community to deliver social innovation workshops and projects. This is Year Two of the project. Year One of the project focused on planning and preparation of training materials, developing case studies, and building a network of community groups. Diagram 8 outlines the agreed Strategy for Change: Student Social Innovation model.

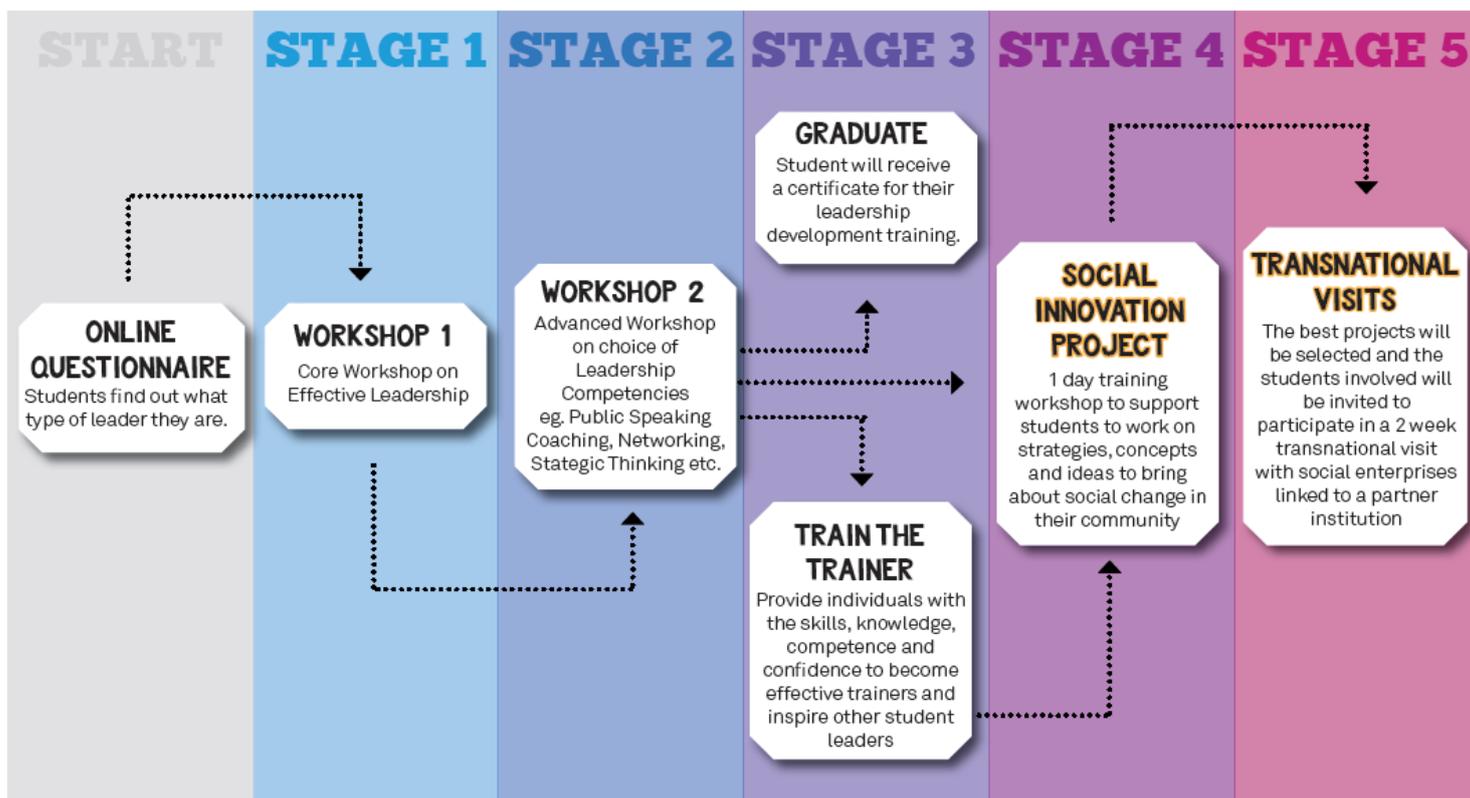


Diagram 8 – Strategy for Change, Student Social Innovation Best Practice Model

Year Two of the project is about delivery of the newly devised Social Innovation Training and worked with our partner institution, Dublin City University, to develop the training which lasts a full day. A total of 126 participants on the Student Leaders Programme expressed interest in attending the social innovation training in Trimester 1. One training session took place in Trimester 1 with 17 students attending and two further training sessions are planned within Trimester 2. In terms of the demographics of the students attending there was 91% Female and 9% Male, with 4% from SEBE, 16% from SHLS and 80% from GSBS. The target is to have 40 students trained to meet the outcomes of the Project. The participants said that the training met their expectations (60% Met All, 33% Met Most). Feedback included: "A lot about social entrepreneurship and social innovation, and especially the competencies associated with it" and "I learned about entrepreneurial skills, how to correctly structure my arguments, and consider different perspectives and what is understood as innovative and necessary".

The training comprised of two segments. The morning comprised of students being introduced to the project aims and presentations were delivered from partner organisations: the Caledonian Club, Common Good First and Enactus GCU. The presentations were intended to provide a wider social context of how the training could be applied. Students then proceeded with two activities, these focussed on asset based community development and problem solving. The afternoon session involved a mini-hackathon where

students were guided towards the development of ideas, through critical appraisal, and were introduced to the concept of design thinking and how this could be applied in a social context. Students were encouraged to develop their ideas into projects drawing from the day. Students were introduced to the concept of persuasive presentation and project planning. The purpose of these tasks was to develop ideas into tangible projects. The training concluded with students presenting their project proposals to the group, and in doing so demonstrating their learning, and ideas from throughout the day. Students with the best ideas will be invited to attend the transnational trip to Eindhoven.

As part of this project we have developed relationship across GCU and within the third sector, including The Bike Station, Common Good First, Who Cares Scotland, Caledonia Alvion, Crops and Pots, Volunteer Glasgow, Enactus GCU, Caledonian Club, GCU U Hatch, Wivdeo Media, Inside Out, R.U.T.S and 2nd Opportunities. The Students' Association has entered into a formalised Partnership Agreement with Enactus GCU. The nature of this partnership involves collaboration on the project aims and to offer practical support to Enactus. The President of Enactus was selected to sit on the Advisory and Evaluation committee for the Strategy for Change Project.

GCU Students' Association are responsible for producing two case studies as part of the Strategy for Change project outputs. The first case study will be on the Enactus GCU project, the Missions Kitchen. The Missions Kitchen is a social enterprise which works with Glasgow's homeless community to create chutney and jams that are then sold by the service users. The value in providing individuals furthest removed from society with employability, mentoring and support is a valuable student led initiative. Our second case study follows the work of our Advice Centre, and the Home Sickness campaign, a unique collaborative effort between staff and students to raise awareness, and offer support to students who are studying away from home.