

Guidance on Face to Face Student Activities for Societies

The Students' Association is getting ready for the start of a new academic year in 2020/21. Full Time Officers and Staff are working hard to give you the best possible experience this year. The health, safety and wellbeing of GCU students and staff will continue to be our highest priority during this Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and as rules around social distancing are eased.

Freshers Week 2020

Freshers Week will be online only this year, we are organising a Virtual Freshers Fair and we will be asking each society to organise their own virtual activity to help welcome and socialise with new students. We will shortly be sending out the booking forms for you to book a virtual stall and to book your virtual event, which will be advertised in our Freshers Flyer. We will be sending our Student Handbook and Freshers Week Flyer to every UK based new student through the post.

Face to Face Activities 2020-21

As you will be aware, Scotland is currently in phase 3 of the route map at the moment, and the Scottish Government has indicative dates for when we will be progressing with the easing of restrictions. Our approach is to have a phased return to face to face activities when it is safe to do so following guidance and advice from the Scottish government, our insurance provider and GCU. This is a fluid situation and we envisage that our approach will need to be flexible. Please begin to have a think about the ways in which you can provide online activities for your members. Our insurance provides stipulates for online events that “no activities should take place which need close supervision to ensure the safety of members” and that “each individual should be aware that they are responsible for ensuring their home environment is suitable and safe for the activity they are engaging in”. **For the avoidance of doubt there should be no face to face activities organised by societies until otherwise advised.**

Preparing to Return to Face to Face Activities

As part of the preparation for the year ahead we will be sending you a Society Pack. In the pack will be documents to help you plan for the year. When face to face events are allowed to go ahead it is likely you will have to complete risk assessments that include COVID secure measures. Preventative measures may include pre-meeting sign up for track and trace and each society may be asked to have a COVID Coordinator. We strongly encourage all Committee Members to attend an online training session and 121 with the Societies Coordinator to learn about new procedures and systems, tasks and roles and what to expect in the year ahead. More info will be circulated about both of these in due course.

Booking a Group Overnight Trip

At this stage we are not authorising any group overnight trips within the UK or abroad, this may change when the Scottish government, our insurance provider and GCU guidance permits this type of group activity to be undertaken safely.

Membership

All society memberships reset on 31st July as normal, however, we have currently suspended memberships on the Students' Association website. We would strongly encourage those of you with a membership fee to have a think about the price of your membership and whether you should/need to still charge this amount given the changing nature of activities. Please confirm the price of your membership by Thursday 20th August at 9am.

Current Scottish Government Guidance

www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/

www.gov.scot/publications/covid-19-framework-decision-making-scotlands-route-map-through-out-crisis-phase-3-update-30th-july-2020/pages/3/

Support and Help

If your society have questions or you would like to arrange an online meeting to discuss any of the above please contact: Lora Addison, Societies Co-ordinator,
Societies@GCUStudents.co.uk (Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm).