

# FULL TIME OFFICER KICK-START YOUR CAREER



Be part of something... **Bigger** 

# WHAT WE'RE ABOUT

Are you looking for a meaningful and enjoyable way to get kick-start your career while receiving above average graduate pay? Look no further than GCU Students' Association your student-led organization committed to social responsibility and the common good.

GCU Students' Association is an <u>award winning</u> organisation, comprised of dedicated staff members and passionate students who share a common goal of making a <u>positive impact</u>. We organize a variety of events and initiatives that <u>support students</u>, <u>promote sustainability</u>, and encourage <u>diversity</u> and <u>inclusion</u>.

Each year we oversee a budget of approx. £875,000. We use this to provide services such as our Advice Centre, Societies, Sports Clubs, Representation Networks, Student Voice, Events, Radio Caley, student magazine The EDIT and to campaign on the issues that matter most to GCU students.

We believe in our core values of being inclusive, community-oriented, student-led and fun. We understand that every student has unique needs and we strive to provide a welcoming and supportive environment that caters to a diverse range of backgrounds and experiences.

We have a welcoming and supportive team that values creativity, leadership and personal growth. As a Full Time Officer, you'll have the opportunity to develop new skills, gain valuable experience, and make a lasting difference.



# A JOB LIKE NO OTHER

### Pay

You'll receive £24,500, salaried for 12 months with 46 days annual leave. The pay is on par with the UK average for recent graduates whilst the annual leave is way more than the standard 28 days.

### Training

The role of Full Time Officer comes with extensive training opportunities. Over the summer, you'll take part in NUS's Lead and Change training where you will get to meet other Officers from all around the UK as well as in-house training and an away weekend with the rest of the Full Time Officer team to Aviemore.

### Mentoring

Throughout your year in office, you'll be mentored by our team of staff who will support, challenge and motivate you to get the most from your experience.

### Agency

In collaboration with the other Full Time Officer, you will create a bespoke remit area. So if you're passionate about societies, sports, or sustainability, for example, you can lead the work in these areas not just make the tea or put together the pitch deck for your boss.

### Values based organisation

Work in an organisation that shares your values and is dedicated to improving your fellow students' lives.

### Experience

Experience will include: leading campaigns and projects, managing budgets, communicating and team building skills.

### **Trusteeship**

In your role as a trustee of the charity you'll not only gain invaluable insight into how our organisation works, you'll also make real decisions that shape our future.

### **Employability**

Leading an organisation with a £700,000 budget, before you've left university, puts you in a great position. Past officers have found their experience in the role of great benefit when applying for graduate careers.

STUDENT DISCOUNTS

30 SPORTS CLUBS & DISCOUNTED GYM MEMBERSHIP

ONSITE CATERING AND BAR
SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

CASUAL DRESS CODE

OVER 50 SOCIETIES

TRAVEL & NETWORKING

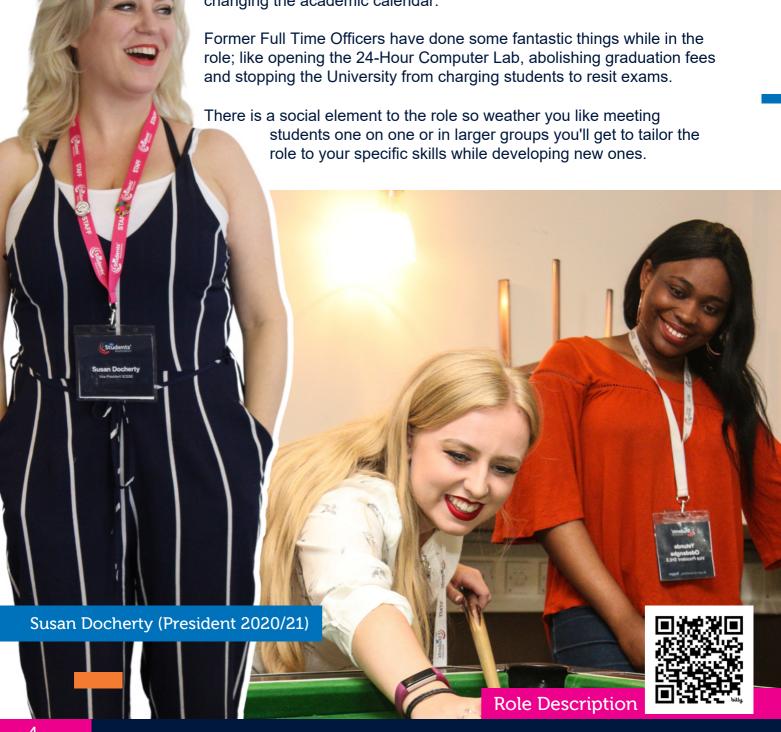
SOCIAL ACTIVITIES



# WHAT YOU'LL BE DOING

We know it's a cliché, but being a Full Time Officer really is a role like no other. Not only will you be the lead representative of the student population, but you'll also get to lead on the areas that matter most to you. If you're passionate about mental health support you can work with the University to make sure GCU Students have the best support possible. If the environment and the impact of climate change are at the top of your agenda you can make it your focus. Sport your thing? If so you can work towards better funding and improved facilities.

> Not only will you be sitting in room with the people at GCU who make the decisions, you'll be one of them. You'll have your chance to speak and influence the University, making sure the student voice is loud and clear when it comes to issues such as Al usage, the campus master plan and changing the academic calendar.



# CAREER LAUNCH

Whether you know exactly what you want to do after university or you are keeping your options open, being a Full Time Officer will help you achieve your career goals.

The skills you gain as an Full Time Officer are invaluable and not typical to your average graduate job. Being an Full Time Officer gives you the skill set for the administrative side that all these organisation have. You might not need these skills until mid-career but once you are there, you will have an advantage over those who went straight into the frontline.

Maybe you're unsure what you want to do after graduation. Did you know university and colleges are a major employer and not just of academics? In 2022 there were over 137,500 "professional service" jobs within UK universities, and being an Full Time Officer will set you up to thrive in this large sector.

## EILIDH'S EXPERIENCE

Eilidh paused her studies and served as an Full Time Officer for two years including one as President. After graduating, she quickly landed the role of Student Engagement Manager for NE Scotland College. She then went on to become an Equality and Inclusion Officer at the University of Leeds. Currently she is a Senior Policy Officer with the Scottish Funding Council. Moving up the career ladder happened very quickly for Eilidh thanks, in part, to the skills and experience she gained whilst a Full Time Officer!

"Being a FTO provided a range of opportunities for me to develop transferable skills and knowledge that I was able to apply when searching for roles after graduating. I am grateful to GCU for enhancing my knowledge of the Higher and Further Education sector and igniting my passion for student experience. From the nomination pack, through the election process and throughout my terms as Vice President and Student President I made connections and gathered experience that I will be able to use and reflect on throughout my career."

Eilidh Fulton (President 2019/20)

# PUT THE BEST YOU FORWARD

We understand that everyone comes with different skill sets and we want to ensure that you can put the best you forward. That's why regardless of your strengths or weaknesses we're here to support you.

As Full Time Officer, you will have lots of opportunity to stretch your skills and grow as a person. You will be supported with this by a staff team that are dedicate to helping you thrive.

During the summer, you will benefit from both in-house training as well as training with other Officers from around the UK at NUS's Lead and Change.

In collaboration with the other Full Time Officer, you will create a bespoke remit area. So if you're passionate about sports, mental health, or sustainability, for example, you can lead the work in these areas not just make the tea or put together the pitch deck for your boss.



GCUstudents.co.uk/candidateresources

# **ELECTIONS ARE SCARY**

Standing in an election can be a daunting prospect but with the right support and preparation, it can also be a rewarding experience; win or lose.

Like any job, there is a selection method for choosing the right person for the role. As this is a leadership position representing GCU students, it is up to GCU students to decide who is best to represent them. Whilst standing in an election can be daunting (like any job interview!), it can also be a rewarding process in itself filled with opportunities to grow.

### "IT'S JUST A POPULARITY CONTEST"

At GCU we use an election method that is designed to be less about one person winning it all and more about getting a team of the right people into the role. There is one election with the top four candidates becoming Full Time Officers and voters can preference their vote. Together, this results in the GCU elections being less about pre-election popularity and offers a more level playing field.

### I CAN'T STAND BECAUSE OF MY COURSE

Full Time Officers have come from a wide range of courses at GCU including courses that have professional registration requirements. You don't have to be at the end of your course to stand and for those who will be joining professional registrations post-graduation, doing a "sandwich" year as a Full Time Officer during your course may be the way to go.

### "I WANT TO GRADUATE WITH MY FRIENDS"

Being a Full Time Officer is a great opportunity to widen your friendship network. You'll not only have those friendships you've already established but you'll be able to make even more friendships along the way. To quote Yeats "There are no strangers here; Only friends you haven't yet met"



Find out more about common misconception here:

GCUstudents.co.uk/electionmyths





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