

Student Handbook

Be part of something...

Bigger



Coronavirus

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus outbreak the Students' Association has moved most of our services and activities online and the Students' Association Building is temporarily closed until at least January 2021.

As the Scottish Government eases lockdown restrictions we will, in a phased approach, restart our in-person services and activities and will keep you informed through our emails, social media and website.

We are here to support you through this anxious time.

For the latest on how we have been affected by the Coronavirus outbreak visit:
www.GCUstudents.co.uk/coronavirus.

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As a GCU student you are automatically a member of GCU Students' Association. Primarily we are here to represent you to improve your GCU student experience. We also provide lots of services and activities that are explained in this handbook.

This handbook is for students on the Glasgow campus. We want you to feel part of the GCU community and **Be part of something...Bigger.**

Use your GCU username and password to login to our website to buy tickets for events; join a club, society or group; volunteer; submit an idea; vote in our elections or to change your email communication preferences.

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hello@GCUstudents.co.uk
0141 331 3886

Full Time Officers

The Students' Association is led by four elected students known as Full Time Officers. They each have a responsibility to represent the views of students from all the academic schools and the wider student body. These roles are full time paid positions. They represent students from: School of Computing, Engineering and Built Environment (SCEBE), Glasgow School for Business and Society (GSBS), School of Health and Life Sciences (SHLS) and GCU London.



Student President
Susan Docherty

E: President@GCUstudents.co.uk
T: 0141 331 8260
@GCUStudents_SP



Vice President SHLS
Tabitha Nyariki

E: VP.SHLS@GCUstudents.co.uk
T: 0141 331 3896
@VP_SHLS



Vice President GSBS
Adil Rahoo

E: VP.GSBS@GCUstudents.co.uk
T: 0141 331 3588
@VP_GSBS



Vice President SCEBE
Zoe Nicholson

E: VP.SCEBE@GCUstudents.co.uk
T: 0141 331 8146
@VP_SCEBE

Student Voice



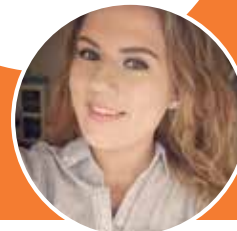
Student Voice meets four times a year to discuss the student experience at GCU and how it can be improved. It sets our priorities as a Students' Association, such as our policy or campaigns. Recent achievements of Student Voice include the creation of the Post Graduate Study Space within the Library and the abolishment of graduation fees.

By getting involved in Student Voice, you will have a say on what happens on campus and meet lots of new people. There are dedicated spots on Student Voice for first year students and postgraduates and in-person meetings are preceded by friendly networking sessions over pizza.

www.GCUstudents.co.uk/voice

“Student Voice has helped me integrate, make friends, feel involved and feel that I'm making a difference.”

MAJA JØRGENSEN
STUDENT VOICE MEMBER



Ideas

The Students' Association mission is to enable you to enhance your student experience. One way you can do this is by submitting an Idea. If other students think it's a great Idea too, it goes to Student Voice where it's discussed, debated and sometimes improved. Then it's voted on. Ideas that pass Student Voice become our policy and an Officer is assigned to make it happen. Ideas can be on (almost!) anything—from the creation of a student-led mental health and wellbeing group, to better signposting of vegan/vegetarian meal options, to abolishing graduation fees. These Ideas all came from students like you.

What's your Idea?

www.GCUstudents.co.uk/ideas



Academic Reps



Academic Reps play a crucial role in shaping the learning, teaching and research experience of their fellow students. Students are at the core of the University and the Students' Association works closely with GCU to ensure students are represented on all decision-making committees. Academic Reps gather student feedback and work with staff to create changes to improve the learning experience.

Class Reps

Every level of every programme should have Class Reps who are chosen at the beginning of each academic year. Your Class Reps will seek feedback on your learning experience and use these insights to address issues with academic staff and in Student Staff Consultative Group (SSCG) meetings. No experience is required as full training is provided and you get to help make our student learning experience better.

www.GCUstudents.co.uk/classreps



“I decided to become a Class Rep to push myself out of my comfort zone and experience something new...”

JAMIE FERRIE
CLASS REP

“Being a Post Grad Rep has allowed me to see what issues affect students on a broader level.”

CHARLIE BEAUMONT
PGT REP



Department, PGT & PGR Reps

Representing students doesn't just stop at the seminar room doors—a valuable development opportunity for Class Reps is to become a Department Rep. Department Reps are involved in the decision-making process for their department and academic school. They are also offer support and guidance for the Class Reps in their department. Postgraduate students are represented at this higher level by PGT Reps and PGR Reps. These leadership roles all receive an honorarium each Trimester.

www.GCUstudents.co.uk/academicreps

Elections

In March, you will have the opportunity to vote and/or stand for your Full Time Officer team—the President and three Vice Presidents dedicated to each of the academic Schools. These Officers are the voice of the student body on University level committees including Senate and Court as well as working on a portfolio of policy remit areas such as wellbeing, careers, sustainability, sports and the international student experience. Any GCU student can stand in the election and you are encouraged to consider it—while it may seem a daunting task, it is also an amazing experience that will help you grow and realise your potential.

www.GCUstudents.co.uk/elections

“It was a very uplifting experience and it boosted my confidence. The elections helped me engage with students and explore my potential.”

2019/20 CANDIDATE



Liberation and Representation Groups

We have a number of Liberation and Representation groups dedicated to community-building, awareness-raising and representing the interests of those who self-define to the group. From Black History Month celebrations to Trans awareness vigil to Christmas Market visits, the groups are a great way to meet new people and get involved. There really is a Liberation and Representation group open to almost everyone!

Liberation Groups:

- ▶ Ethnic Diversity Network (EDN) Students' Group
- ▶ Disabled Students' Group
- ▶ LGBT+ Students' Group
- ▶ Women's Group

Representation Groups:

- ▶ Care Experienced Students' Group
- ▶ International Students' Group
- ▶ Mature and Part-Time Students' Group
- ▶ Mental Health and Wellbeing Students' Group
- ▶ Student Carers' Group

www.GCUstudents.co.uk/liberation

www.GCUstudents.co.uk/representationgroups

Did you know?

We campaigned and got extended opening hours in the Library during the Exam Period.

Advice Centre



The Advice Centre provides a free non-judgemental and confidential service to all GCU students. If you experience difficulties during your studies, whether academic or personal, we are here to help.

We are the only service at GCU that provides independent and confidential advice, guidance and representation to students on academic procedures such as Mitigating Circumstances, Academic Appeals, Student Disciplinary, Complaints, Fitness to Study/Practice and Harassment issues.

We also offer advice on a wide range of issues from accommodation to personal issues. Our Student Advisers will take the time to help you find a solution through confidential listening and support.

- **Representation for Disciplinary:** Information on your rights within the GCU Code of Student Conduct. Support throughout the disciplinary process.
- **Problems on your course:** We can assist to find a solution. We can advise and support you through any formal academic procedures this may involve.
- **Exam Stress:** Help and support is available.
- **Sexual Health:** Access our free condom service and collect a pack of 12 condoms at every visit. For more info, visit: www.GCUstudents.co.uk/health.
- **Free Menstrual Products:** Access free single use and reusable/sustainable period products. For more info, visit: www.GCUstudents.co.uk/freeperiods.



Meg



Kirsty

The Advice Centre is open
Monday to Friday
9am to 5pm

Our two Student Advisers, Meg and Kirsty, can be contacted by phone or email to make an appointment in advance.

The Advice Centre is located in the Students' Association Building next to our Welcome Desk.

www.GCUstudents.co.uk/advice | 0141 273 1650 | advice@GCUstudents.co.uk

LEARN LEAD ACHIEVE

Student Leaders Programme

Develop your leadership skills, enhance your employability and meet new people.

Open to all GCU Students that are actively volunteering on campus or outside of GCU.

It's really straightforward to complete. You'll attend a Core Workshop, identify the leadership skills you want to develop, and attend a Skills Workshop!

Register today and begin your leadership journey...



www.GCUstudents.co.uk/SLP

THE EDIT

The EDIT is the Students' Association award-winning magazine written by GCU students for GCU students. It is published in print and online and you can get involved while you study. The EDIT are always looking for volunteers to contribute, from writers and photographers, to designers and for help with social media.

Topics include fashion, arts and culture, news and features, music, writing reviews, entertainment and culture, sports or any other subject of interest to students.

www.GCUstudents.co.uk/theedit

www.TheEDITGCU.com



“It's a great way to express yourself and switch off from the stresses of uni life.”

MONICA ALLEN
THE EDIT VOLUNTEER
SINCE 2016



Societies

Every society at GCU is run by students. There are around 60 active societies running events and activities throughout the year. There are academic, culture, faith, charity-based, political and hobby-based societies. Many of these societies host weekly activities as well as large end of year events, so there's always something to get involved with.

You can also volunteer to be on a society committee to help with the running of the society and to gain experience. Great for the CV.

If you can't see the society for you, then it's really easy to start your own!

Visit www.GCUstudents.co.uk/societies or email societies@gcustudents.co.uk to find out more.



RADIO CALEY

“Radio Caley is a place where you can make new friends, learn about the ins and outs of radio and just be yourself.”

KATHI MUMME
RADIO CALEY
STATION MANAGER

Radio Caley is the Students' Association online radio station co-ordinated by GCU student volunteers.

There are a number of roles you can get involved in by volunteering, these include: production, presenting, fundraising, music, PR and technical. No experience is necessary and full training is provided.



www.GCUstudents.co.uk/radiocaley | www.RadioCaley.com

Sports Clubs

GCU Sports Clubs are collectively known as GCU Wolves and getting involved can help you to make new friends, have some fun, be active and feel good. There are around 30 different clubs, all organised by GCU students. Most hold weekly activities and participate in competitions throughout the year. You can also volunteer to be on a club committee and could be responsible for co-ordinating activities, leading the team on the pitch or organising social events. If you don't find a club you like then you can start your own.

Sports club membership includes personal accident insurance and where applicable use of club equipment, coaching, facilities, competition entry fees and subsidised transport; however, some sports clubs may make an additional charge for each activity.

www.GCUstudents.co.uk/sport



“ Being a member of a sports club gives you a sense of belonging. You meet new people through the years. Every day at University you'll start to see friendly and familiar faces which will make you feel more at home”

RYAN DEVENNEY
COMMITTEE MEMBER
MEN'S FOOTBALL



Nightline Volunteering



Nightline is a confidential listening and information service for students. It is run by trained student volunteers who respond to information requests but also provide non-directional and non-judgemental listening via phone, text and online chat.

You can call the service on **0141 55 22 555** from 7pm to 7am, Monday to Friday, during term time (Trimester 1 and 2).

Interested in becoming a Nightline volunteer?

Find out more at www.GCUstudents.co.uk/nightlinevol

Sustainability

At GCU Students' Association, we take the ethos of sustainability seriously. We work hard to reduce our impact on the environment and to support student led sustainability campaigns and societies.

Here are some of the ways you can get involved:

- Join the Ethical and Environmental Group. Be involved in developing and implementing this year's green campaign!
- Join a society that focuses on sustainability. For example Extinction Rebellion or Plogging (combines jogging with litter pick up).
- Start your own sustainability-focused society. Bee-keeping society anyone?

Last year, we were one of the first Students' Associations in the country to offer accredited Carbon Literacy Training. In 2019, we successfully campaigned to re-open the outdoor learning space on the roof of the Library, increasing green space on campus by 300 m². With the help of Student Voice and Ideas, we successfully worked with the University on switching to sustainable take-away utensils in catering outlets. Because of this work (and so much more) we were awarded Excellent status from the Green Impact accreditation scheme.

www.GCUstudents.co.uk/eande



Students' Association Building (Glasgow Campus)



LEVEL 0

Social Learning Space: A place to study or meet friends

24hr Computer Lab: 120 computers for student use

3 bookable Group Study rooms:

www.GCUsstudents.co.uk/groupstudyrooms



LEVEL 1—Building entrance

Welcome Desk: For any questions or queries

Advice Centre: The corridor beside our Welcome Desk

Re:Union Bar & Grill: Eat, drink, relax or play pool

Radio Caley Studio



LEVEL 2

Student Involvement Zone: The place for you to engage with our representation and activities team and a space to meet other students

Meeting rooms: NH208 & NH209

Full Time Officers and Staff



OUTDOOR FACILITIES

Take some time out from study and use the outdoor Basketball Court, Outdoor Gym or Traverse Wall next to the Students' Association Building. The areas are free to use and is a great way to relax and be active.

Building Code NH | www.GCUsstudents.co.uk/building



University for the Common Good

GCU Student Accommodation

Applications now available for 2020/21

Prices held at 2019/20 rates

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accommodation@gcu.ac.uk or call into the
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The cheapest and quickest
way of getting around Glasgow



Cycle to GCU and save up £130 a term! Whilst walking is free, once speed is taken into consideration, cycling is the cheapest and quickest way of getting around Glasgow.

Cycling is much more affordable than taking the bus, train, underground or driving to GCU. Here is how it compares:

- Bikes (hired – nextbike.co.uk): from £30/year
- Bikes (reasonable quality, second-hand): under £75
- Bikes (very good quality, second-hand): £100 - £140
- Bikes (new, entry level): £250 - £300
- Bus ticket (1 term): £110 - £132
- Car parking (1 term): £150 (3 days/week for 10 weeks) excl. fuel + other running costs
- Subway: £150 (term) @ £50/month (x3 months)

Cycling is a realistic option to anyone living within 5 miles of the University and to help more students cycle, the University has invested in a range of facilities that make cycling easier. Watch GCU's cycling video to find out how we're making it easier for you to cycle to the University.

E-mail sustainability@gcu.ac.uk to explore cycling to University this year.

gcu.ac.uk/cycling





**Glasgow & Strathclyde
Universities Royal Naval Unit**



GLASGOW AND STRATHCLYDE UOTC
A STUDENT LIFE LESS ORDINARY



MILITARY TRAINING



SOCIALS



Outside of training, Officer Cadets enjoy an active and varied social life with everything from nights out to formal dinners, making friends for life.

ADVENTUROUS TRAINING



Through GSUOTC, there are plenty of opportunities to try new outdoor pursuits, from skiing to rockclimbing, mountain biking to skydiving.

GET IN TOUCH!

Facebook - @GSUOTC
Instagram - @gsuotcofficial
Phone - 0141 339 6611

EARN WHILE YOU STUDY

As a first year Officer Cadet, you could earn £40 per day of training, increasing to £50 in second year. Army scholarships and bursaries are available to those that pass the Army Officer Selection Board. Get in touch for more details.

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University for the Common Good



GCU FRESH ERS 2020

**Tue 29 Sept
- Fri 2 Oct**
#GCUfreshers20

Virtual Freshers Fair

Meet our societies, sports clubs and groups. Sign up and get involved. Get student deals from our partners and sponsors.

TUE 1-4pm:
Focus on Sports Clubs

WED 1-4pm:
Focus on Societies, Media, and Representation and Liberation Groups

Events and Socials

TUE: Comedy Magician Elliot Bibby

WED: Mr Motivator Exercise Class and Drag Bingo with the Bingo Babes

THU: The Big Fresh Quiz with Marvin Humes and Christian Nairn (Hodor)

TUE, WED & FRI 6pm: Yoga with Nicole McMahon

Plus online events organised by our societies, sports clubs and groups to help you meet each other and to introduce you to student life at GCU.

Freshers Pack

Grab your Limited Edition Freshers Pack 2020 from our exclusive online supplier.

What's included:

- GCU navy blue hoodie
- 'We Are GCU' t-shirt
- GCU Freshers tote bag
- GCU Students lanyard
- Student notebook

Only £35 + plus postage, direct to your address. Available from our website.

These events and more at www.GCUstudents.co.uk/freshers





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