

THE GUIDE

2025-26

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Welcome

Hello! I'm Duncan, this year's President of the Students' Representative Council – also known as the SRC. Welcome to Glasgow! You're about to embark on a journey full of unforgettable experiences, excitement, and many learning opportunities, both inside and outside of class. This is a pivotal time in your life, and we encourage you to make the absolute most of it.

We know that university can sometimes be a daunting experience – whether you're here as an undergrad or pursuing further study – but it doesn't have to be! We've put together this handy guide to the UofG student experience to provide you with some tips on life in Glasgow, answer your questions on all things academic, and explain the support available to you.

You'll find the SRC all through this guide, and the same will be true throughout your time at university. That's because the SRC is here to make your student experience as fair, stress-free, and enjoyable as possible! As the elected representative body on campus, we exist to amplify your voice at all levels of the University structure.

We also provide a number of services, independent of the University, including our Advice

Centre who can offer you informed advice on anything from accommodation to cost-of-living support. Our volunteering service, alongside the support to our 300+ affiliated clubs and societies, is here to help you enjoy and make the most of your university experience.

Before I leave you to it all, I have one piece of advice for you: just go for it. University life can feel quite intense at the beginning. After all, you're starting a new chapter with limitless possibilities.

However, truly take the time to get stuck in and try many new things: be it a club, a sport or academic interests – even just exploring everything this great city has to offer. Try lots, find your niche, and fully enjoy your time here. It'll be over before you know it!

We'll be here when you need us – good luck!



Duncan Calvert
GUSRC President 2025–26



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YOUR LIFE

Using The Guide

This page has a few quick tips on how to use The Guide. Use these as your key for getting the most out of the book.

As you'll see on the contents page, there are four sections in this book: Your Campus, Your Studies, Your City, and Your Life – each of which cover various aspects of what it means to be a student at the University.

If you are super keen to be clued up, then powering through all 140 pages in your first few weeks may prove useful. There are plenty of useful tips that you may want to know as soon as possible. However, if just reading this far is already tiring you out then it's worth bearing in mind that The Guide is always here when you need it.

One month, two months, six months from now you might want to come back to it, so keep it safe. You never know when you might find yourself in a tricky situation and want some honest advice from those who have been there and lived it already. If you aren't sure what a word means then there is a handy glossary on page 136, and if you want to get in touch with any of the student bodies or University staff mentioned throughout, then there is a page of contacts on page 138.



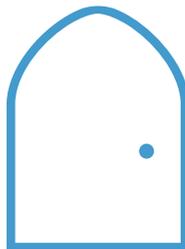
Throughout The Guide you may also spot a few top-tips from the SRC: the publishers of this book and all-round supportive good folks. Be sure to check out their website glasgowunisrc.org.





YOUR
DOOR
TO
CAMPUS

Your Campus



This short chapter should give you an introduction to the organisations and spaces that make up the University of Glasgow, including: how they operate, what makes each of them unique, what services they provide, and how you can get involved in running them.

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Student Bodies

The University of Glasgow is totally unique in having not just one association caring for the needs of the students, but rather having four distinct and independent student bodies who share this responsibility. Sounds strange? It is – but it works, and here's why.

Most of you will have undoubtedly read about, heard of, or experienced Glasgow's unique four student body system by the time you read this document. Maybe you met someone shouting about how it makes the University special at an Open Day. Or perhaps you found out during Welcome Week when the brightly coloured shirt-wearing helpers tried to convince you how great it is.

A quick recap for those still struggling to figure it out – start by getting acquainted with the following four important acronyms: SRC, GUU, QMU, GUSA. While most universities will have one, all-encompassing student union, association or "guild" (be glad you didn't go to Birmingham) responsible for every aspect of representation and activities on campus, at Glasgow the responsibilities are split between four different and distinct organisations.

The system is a throwback to less enlightened times, when men and women each had their own social unions, while another organisation took care of representing the students, and another did sports. Although these gender barriers were torn down decades ago, the four-body system remains at UofG, with individual bodies each asserting the notion that their role and services are unique and super-valuable to your time as a student.

It's a system that has worked for Glasgow for hundreds of years – while the QMU and GUU can focus on their bars, venues and social activities, the SRC gets down to the business of representing and supporting students whilst keeping the University in check, and GUSA looks after sport and physical wellbeing.

Furthermore, each body has its own elected student governance board, so while universities with a student association usually end up with their bars, shops and club-nights run by middle-aged people in suits, Glasgow benefits from students being in at the ground level for every single aspect of student services.

When you've had a chance to experience it, you'll soon agree that, though the system is a little archaic, it's absolutely for the greater good; just be prepared for funny looks from your non-Glasgow pals when you try to explain the difference between them all.



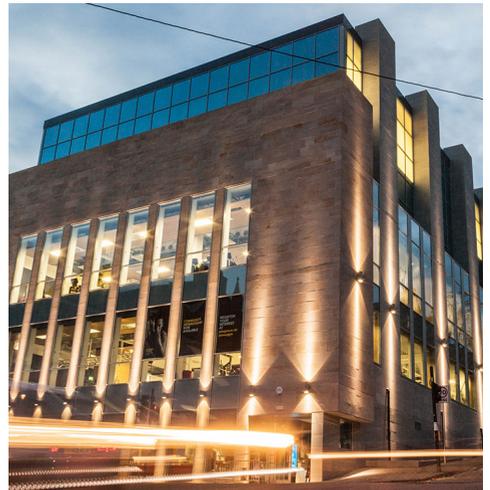
SRC

QAU



GUU

GUSA



STUDENT BODIES

SRC



The Glasgow University Students' Representative Council (GUSRC or just SRC) has a significant role to play, not only in the lives of all the students that attend the University, but also in the University itself. From free advice to student media, from sitting on University Court to supporting clubs and societies, the SRC is involved in just about every part of student life – and the best part? Almost all of it is free.

Whether you're in Gilmorehill, Garscube, Dumfries or beyond, the SRC's work extends to every corner of the University's campuses, including this book, which they commission every year. So, it's useful to get familiar with them quickly by reading the introduction below in handy FAQ format.

WHAT IS THE SRC?

The Students' Representative Council is the only one of the four University student bodies of which every new student is automatically a member. Why? Because what they do is important, and they do a lot. Their work falls into three broad categories. **Student representation** – they represent all students to the highest levels of the University, and importantly, are completely independent of the Uni so can challenge them on issues that matter to students. **Student support** – they have a range of welfare and advice services to help students in need. **Opportunities and community development** – they support student clubs and societies, the student media and connect students with volunteering opportunities throughout the year.

WHAT IS THE STRUCTURE OF THE SRC?

The SRC is made up of a full and part-time staff team, and around fifty student officers who are voted into Council at elections which take place in Spring and Autumn each year. The SRC Council includes academic representatives, welfare reps, general reps and the sab-batical officers – a team of four students, including the President, who have taken a year out from studying to help run the organisation. Feeding into the work of the Council are a community of over 1,300 Class Representatives [page 52] to whom the SRC provide support and training each year.

HOW WILL YOU INTERACT WITH THE SRC?

The SRC is there to help you as much as you need them to. In reading this book and attending Welcome Week (organised by SRC) you have already interacted with them, and throughout the year will no doubt see more of their events and campaigns around campus, such as Black History Month, Halloween, and, uniquely, the only student body with alpaca access (see their Exam De-stress campaign in Spring 2026!)

First year can be tricky so keep in mind that the SRC can help with everything from directions to academic appeals, making new friends to finding a flat. You can find a full directory of what they do at glasgowuniversitysrc.org, or download their app (just search "My SRC" in your app store). Not

sure where to start? Just pop into their Welcome Point in the McIntyre Building – the staff are always happy to help.

WHAT MAKES THE SRC UNIQUE?

The SRC is the only legally recognised representative body on campus (the clue is in the name). They get a say on what goes on in every part of the University and with influence at the highest levels of governance all the way up to University Court. In recent years they've successfully campaigned to the University on a number of issues like better support for disabled students, increased scholarships for student refugees, and the rising cost of living, as well as giving students a voice on important issues such as the University's ethical investment policies and environmental record.



WHAT SHOULD YOU LOOK OUT FOR FROM THE SRC THIS YEAR?

In their most recent strategic plan, the SRC outlined their plans to become more supportive, collaborative, inclusive and sustainable as an organisation. To put it less formally, the SRC aims to continue to do its best to provide support, services and opportunities for all students. Whether through the support they give clubs and societies [page 26], the volunteering opportunities they provide [page 34], or the vital work the SRC Advice Centre does to protect the rights of students [page 56], you can trust the SRC to have your back whilst at university.

Outside of the day-to-day, there are a few projects to keep an eye out for. In the past few years, the SRC has invested considerably in improving support for their affiliated clubs and societies and volunteers, including a website and societies portal, their own dedicated mobile app ("My SRC"), an online Lending Library for event equipment, a podcast studio, and a University-recognised award scheme for volunteering.



CAN YOU GET INVOLVED WITH THE SRC?

Absolutely. Whether it's running for a student rep position, volunteering in the local community, starting your own club or society, or taking part in campaigns, the SRC is powered by students like you. It's a great way to meet people, build experience, and make your voice heard.

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

You'll likely get a handful of emails from the SRC across the course of the year and, of course, you can find the latest news and information on their website and across social media [@glasgowunisrc](https://www.instagram.com/glasgowunisrc) (Instagram, Bluesky, X, Facebook, LinkedIn and TikTok).

STUDENT BODIES

The Unions



In addition to a representative body and a sports association, Glasgow has two separate social unions with buildings at opposing ends of University Avenue, and chances are you've been to, or at least heard of, both.

This unique setup might be a hangover from the days when male and female students weren't encouraged to hang out with each other after hours, but in modern times it's a beneficial system that allows students more choice about how to spend their time and cash on campus.

Whether you end up spending your days in the 1930s opulence of the GUU at the bottom of Gilmorehill or the 1960s concrete brutalism of the QMU on University Gardens, both unions are managed by a team of students eager to help make your time here as much fun as possible.



WHAT ARE THE QMU AND GUU?

The primary remit of the two social unions of the University is to provide students with places to socialise: inside each building you'll find catering outlets, bars and rooms for clubs and societies to use, and both provide weekly events programmes including quizzes, open mic nights and club-nights. Additionally, both the QMU and GUU go beyond social functions to offer you the chance to develop skills and give back to other students.

HOW WILL YOU INTERACT WITH THE UNIONS?

For most students, the unions will be a convenient place to eat, drink and meet up with people. The QMU contains two bars (the newly renovated Jim's Bar & Games Bar), an authentic Asian restaurant (Peko Panda) with separate takeaway, a café, meeting rooms, study spaces and a renowned live music venue. The GUU offers numerous bars including the famous Beer Bar, two cafés (G12 and the Drawing Room Café), a catering outlet (The Union Kitchen), a debates chamber, two libraries,

a billiards hall and two purpose-built nightclubs (HIVE and The Well).

Day-to-day, both are good places to go for cheap, good quality food, and if you're looking for something to do in the evenings, the quizzes, open mics, gigs and club-nights that they offer are generally a solid choice as they're not only designed for students, but they're also actually planned and managed by them too.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED BEYOND THE SOCIAL SIDE OF THE UNIONS?

The first thing you'll probably want to do with the unions is sign up for membership – each union offers exclusive discounts and loyalty schemes for those who sign up at the start of the year, and membership is free, so it's definitely worth your while (you can sign up for both). Membership tends to open in the first week of term after Welcome Week.

Both the QMU and GUU offer the chance to have a say in what they do through student committees – ongoing focus groups for students who want to invest a bit more time in improving the unions and what they do. Each union’s committees and how they operate are different. The QMU has six committees, five of which are open to all and one which requires students to apply, while the GUU’s five committees all operate on an application-only basis. Details of the committees can be found to the right.

If you’re really into the unions, both of them have elections each year (QMU in October and March, GUU just in March) for positions on their Boards of Management – the 20ish-student team that are the governing body of each of the organisations. Holding a position on the board is a lot more responsibility, but also offers the chance to have a much stronger say in how the organisations are run. Check each of the unions’ websites for election dates.



QMU COMMITTEES:

- **Campaigns & Charities (@qmucampaigns):** responsible for developing campaigns on behalf of students and working to raise money for local and national charities.
- **Events:** responsible for large-scale events that happen in the QMU’s spaces, including monthly themed club-nights, gigs and more.
- **Publications (@qmunicate):** responsible for the QMU’s regular student-led magazine ‘Qmunicate’, and other union publications.
- **Social (@qmusocialcommittee):** runs the QMU’s weekly social calendar, including the weekly Thursday night pub quiz, open mics, movie nights, and more.
- **Welfare (@qmuwelfare):** dedicated to all things student wellbeing, including mental health awareness and more.
- **Tech Team (@qmutechteam):** helps set up and run sound and lighting for all student events in the union. The Tech Team offers full training for beginners, as well as paid tech shifts for students looking to get hands on experience.

GUU COMMITTEES:

- **Debates (@guudebating):** a committee charged with continuing the union’s long history of success in debating, the GUU having won the World University Championships 5 times, the British and Irish championships 16 times, and having hosted the European University Debating Championships in 2024.
- **Games (@guugamescom):** responsible for the smaller-scale social events of the union including the ‘Monday Beer Bar Quiz’, snooker tournaments, darts leagues and the Big All Day Games Event (BADGE).
- **Libraries (@guu_libraries):** responsible for maintenance of the GUU’s Library facilities and events within them, as well as producing the union’s in-house publications: Magazine of the GUU (MoGUU), creative writing journal Fleet, and two academic journals, the undergraduate and postgraduate editions of Groundings.
- **Entertainments (@guuents):** organises all live music in the union such as Friday Open Mic and Battle of the Bands, plus the events that happen in the GUU’s nightclubs, HIVE and The Well.
- **Communications:** responsible for all the promotion of the GUU both online through social media and around campus.

STUDENT BODIES

The Unions

WHAT MAKES EACH UNION UNIQUE?

While the GUU prides itself on its highly successful track record of debating, counting many of the UK's top politicians amongst those who cut their teeth in the debates chamber, and continuing to nurture students in the art of political arguing, the QMU's history of campaigning for various types of equality and supporting charities is amongst its key features, which it continues today through the Campaigns & Charities Committee. Recent years may have seen the unions converging in some of their facilities, services and events, but each retains a unique atmosphere and feel that means that they appeal to different students.

If you've spent a bit of time in each union already, you'll probably have noticed that each organisation has a different vibe and we'd recommend continuing to spend time in both until you figure out which catering facilities you prefer, which bar you feel most comfortable in, and which one you and your friends eventually want to sign up to (although to reiterate you can join both, despite what you may hear to the contrary).



WHAT BENEFIT DO THE UNIONS OFFER OVER GOING OFF CAMPUS?

Not only do the QMU and GUU try to beat local businesses on price, but any money that they make on the coffee, pints, sandwiches or anything else you buy, goes back into making the unions better for you.

It's pretty simple really – they're closer than most other options, they're cheaper than most other options, and it's you and your fellow students who'll benefit from spending your money there in the long run. If there are services you feel are missing from the unions then you can get them to change that. Not a bad system, right?

WHAT SHOULD YOU LOOK OUT FOR FROM EACH UNION THIS YEAR?

Each year in September the GUU and QMU team up to organise their own start of year welcome activities AKA Freshers' Week – a packed schedule of events including headline musical acts, themed club nights, sporting showcases, ceilidhs, and tribute acts.



The biggest date in the GUU's calendar is Daft Friday. Started in 1908 and this year marking its 116th year, it's a Christmas ball that takes over the whole building with activities, entertainments, big name bands and DJs. Held on the final Friday before the end of the first term (this year 19th December 2025), each year's 12-hour event is themed around something from pop culture.

Previous incarnations have included Doctor Who and Pixar, with life-size props and wall-scaling murals adding to the impressive spectacle. Make sure your kilt is dry-cleaned, and your best dress is ready as it really is the biggest event of the year at the bottom of the hill. Keep an eye on their Instagram ([@guunion](#)) for details on how to get tickets.

Meanwhile, keep an eye on the QMU's website and Instagram ([@qmunion](#)) for their busy events calendar. Highlights through the year include Oktoberfest, the St Andrew's Day ceilidh, St Patrick's Day celebrations, themed club nights and more. They also run a popular Thursday night bar quiz during term time, with prizes up for grabs. The QMU's long-standing reputation for live music is still going strong, with a mix of student-run festivals, gigs and visiting acts from across the world taking to their stage. You can find a full list of upcoming shows at [qmunion.org.uk/listings](#).



WHO CAN I GO TO FOR MORE INFORMATION?

If you've read this, checked each union's website ([qmunion.org.uk](#) and [guu.co.uk](#)), social media accounts, and still have questions about how it all works, don't be afraid to get in touch with the unions and ask them directly.

STUDENT BODIES

GUSA



Sport glorious sport. The University is so into it that they gave it its very own student body: GUSA – the Glasgow University Sports Association. Think of them as your go-to team for all things physical, from gym memberships to dodgeball tournaments and everything in between.

Why do students need sport representation? Read on and it'll all start to make sense.

WHAT IS GUSA?

The Glasgow University Sports Association is the oldest of the 4 student bodies. Their mission? To make sport and physical activity as welcoming and accessible as possible, while championing student wellbeing along the way. Whether you're a total beginner, a gym regular, or just want to meet people and try something new, chances are you'll find your place here.



HOW WILL YOU INTERACT WITH GUSA?

You might already have met some of the gold-shirted GUSA helpers during Welcome Week (they're hard to miss). They'll have introduced you to UofG Sport and its many benefits – gym access, fitness classes, facilities, and of course, sports clubs.

GUSA help all sports club committees to make each of the 51 sports clubs as welcoming as possible. They also put on various events throughout the year, such as varsity competitions, ceilidhs and quizzes to give as many opportunities as possible for you to meet like-minded people through sport. And if you ever have an issue with the gym, facilities or clubs, GUSA is the group that wants to hear from you.



WHAT IS THE STRUCTURE OF GUSA?

Like the other student bodies, GUSA is led by students for students. At the top is the GUSA President – a sabbatical officer with an office just across from the Stevenson Building (a.k.a. The Stevie). They're backed up by the GUSA Council: 11 elected students who look after everything from events to finance, travel to welfare. New officers are elected each March, and any student can run.



HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED IN GUSA?

Start with the Sports Fayre – it's your chance to meet the clubs, ask questions, and sign up to try things out. The committee members know exactly how to get you started.

You'll need a UofG Sport membership to take part in club activity. The full-year membership is £185 [see page 22 for details], and most clubs charge a small fee to help cover things like travel and competition entry.

GUSA have their own pages on the University Sport website (gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/sport/gusa) and can be found on all the usual social media channels including Instagram (@[gusa_gram](https://www.instagram.com/gusa_gram)). For any more info on anything GUSA, just get in touch with Karl, the GUSA president at: gusa-president@glasgow.ac.uk.

WHAT SHOULD I LOOK OUT FOR FROM GUSA?

Most clubs run their own events, but GUSA also organises major highlights open to all students. Keep an eye out for Fight Night, Dodgeball, and most importantly the legendary Glasgow Taxis Cup – a city-wide showdown where UofG takes on Strathclyde and Glasgow Caledonian in 16 different sports. Whether you're competing or cheering from the sidelines, it's one of the biggest days of the year (and the afterparty's not bad either).

To wrap up the sporting calendar, there's the GUSA Ball – a black-tie awards night and end-of-year celebration hosted at the DoubleTree by Hilton. Think speeches, suits, sparkle and some very tired feet by the end of it.



STUDENT SPACES

Postgraduates

Unions not your scene? Library too busy or hard to work in? If you're a postgraduate student, the SRC has you covered with a growing network of venues and events designed specifically for postgrads.

At the heart of this is the Gilchrist Postgraduate Club, a welcoming café-bar and social space located in the Main Building. Run in partnership between the SRC and the University's hospitality team (UofG Food), the Gilchrist is designed with postgraduates in mind. It's part study space, part coffee shop, part low-key bar – ideal for meetings, writing sessions, or post-seminar catch-ups.

During the day, it serves up great coffee, paninis, soups and traybakes. In the evening, the lights dim, the bar opens, and the space regularly plays host to relaxed social events like quizzes, mixers, and networking nights. Societies and student groups can also book the Gilchrist in the evenings for events. It includes a flexible seminar room, known as the Wee G, which is perfect for workshops, talks or smaller meetings.

But the Gilchrist is just one part of a wider postgraduate experience. The SRC is now expanding its postgraduate programme across campus, including events in the Advanced Research Centre (ARC) and other venues, creating more opportunities for postgrads to connect, unwind and build community.

You can follow the Gilchrist on Instagram [@TheGilchristPG](#), or visit glasgowunisrc.org/post-graduate to find out more about SRC activity for postgrads. If you have questions or suggestions, pop into the Welcome Point in the McIntyre Building or get in touch online.





Mature Students' Association

The Mature Students' Association (MSA) is charged with offering a bit of extra support for those embarking on a University career a little later in life. Membership is open to all students aged 21 and over at the start of their programme, whether they are studying through short courses and lifelong learning, on access courses, or at undergraduate or postgraduate levels.

With its own building on Oakfield Avenue, the MSA provides its membership with study spaces and facilities, a communal kitchen and lounge space, and lockers for use during the academic year. In recent times, the MSA has added a members' community pantry which is stocked with basics and essentials, to help any members who are struggling.

For those seeking a more chilled out atmosphere than is available elsewhere on campus, or those wanting to meet with other students with a bit more life experience than your traditional undergraduate, the MSA is the ideal spot. They hold regular socials and events, including an annual end of year ball, and offer a chance for mature students to socialise. Overall, the MSA aim to provide a sense of community and belonging for mature students, continually advocating for their needs on campus, linking in with the wider local area, and fundraising annually for worthy causes.



STUDENT SPACES

The Library

The University of Glasgow has dozens of designated study areas to work in if you need to get your head down and want somewhere away from doom-scrolling in your bedroom or visiting the fridge every ten minutes.

Procrastination can take many forms, so finding a space where your options are limited can be hugely beneficial to your studies if you're the type of person who struggles to concentrate on one thing at a time.

As well as having an ample supply of books, the University Library also happens to be the largest of the study spaces on campus with room for 2,500 students. It is currently open from 07:15 - 02:00, 7 days a week. You will need your campus card to enter, check out books and use the printers and photocopiers, so try not to leave it in your flat / in a taxi / on a bus / in an exam hall (you will do all of these at least once).

There are 12 floors and 7 annexe floors where you can quietly study or do group work. Warning: during exam times the Library can get extremely busy. Seeing poor souls wandering around trying to find a plug socket or desk is not a rare sight, so be prepared to regularly traipse around every floor desk-hunting at this time, even with the tools provided to help find empty desks. Most students bring their own laptop these days, but if you don't, the Library has over 800 PCs available – though don't count on them being free during peak hours. Wi-Fi is fast, free and works everywhere (eduroam is your friend).

The busiest times in the Library are usually from 09:00 – 19:00 as students do a morning or



afternoon shift, leaving evenings free to head to the unions, clubs and societies, volunteering or part-time jobs. Try to avoid peak times or at least arrive out of peak hours for the best chance of securing a desk space. Queues have been known to form before opening time, but there's nothing quite like an early morning walk up the hill to secure a prime study space (equidistant between toilets, windows and vending machines).

In all likelihood you won't be in the Library as much in your first year as you will in later years, due to a comparatively lighter workload, but it is a great resource; dig a little deeper beyond the academic journals and books and you'll find classic children's stories, rare vinyl records and a whole host of weird and wonderful stuff. Make the most of it while you have free, unrestricted access – you might miss it once you graduate.

The Library is sectioned into different areas, some exclusively for silent study and others for

group work and discussion. You'll come across the handy coloured zone system, each with a different set of rules: green is for group study, conversations and phone calls (levels 2 and 3), amber for individual quiet study (level 1 and 4 – 7) and up on level 8 – 11 is the red zone for silent individual study. Level 12 houses the University's Special Collections – so special in fact that you need an appointment to visit. Booking available on their website: gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/archives-specialcollections/bookanappointment.

Unfortunately, some people tend to either forget or ignore the system, leading to stressful working environments and potential conflicts – don't let that be you, and make sure you know the rules of the zone you're in. For a bit of escapism and down time with study buddies, the Level 3 café (open 08:00 – 17:00, Monday – Friday in term time, but may vary in the summer) and social area surrounding it is the best shout.

The Library Top-Tips:

1. DESK HOGGING

Don't do it. Including leaving your laptop on with a 'gone to lunch' sign; putting your coat on the chair next to you to 'save it for a mate'; placing a few random books on the next table to give yourself more space; all bad form.

2. MALODOROUS LUNCHES

Only permitted in green zones, food in the Library can be contentious, especially if those on the other side of the floor can smell it. Be considerate.

3. LOUD NOISES

Most people work best in a quiet, relaxed environment so try and keep the peace by avoiding crunching, sniffing, blaring music or chatting to your mum on the phone.

4. NAPPING

We all know that when you've got to nap, you've got to nap. It's a normal part of student life, but if you're doing it in the library, you're either working too hard, or have been there too long.

5. AMATEUR DJ

You might still be bopping along to the sound of the summer, but that doesn't mean your friendly Library neighbours are. Use your headphones and use them at a reasonable volume.

STUDENT SPACES

The Gym

Whether you're into weights, swimming, spin classes, or just fancy sweating out a deadline, the Uni gym is a genuinely great shout. It's inexpensive, well-equipped and open to all students – and for most people, it'll be the best-value gym membership you'll ever have.

JOINING

Joining is straightforward. Everyone is welcome at UofG Sport, whether you're a complete beginner or the type of person who has very strong opinions about pre-workout drinks. There are two types of membership. If you want to join a GUSA Sport Club, you'll need a Sport Membership. It costs £185 for the full year and gives you access to all the gym facilities.

If you're not into club sport but just want to use the gym, pool or take part in classes, you can go for a Fitness & Wellbeing Membership, which starts at just £13 per month by direct debit. You can sign up and check all the options online at gla.ac.uk/sport.

FACILITIES

The main gym, known affectionately as The Stevie (short for the Stevenson Building), has just about everything you'd expect and more. Inside you'll find a 25-metre swimming pool, saun

na, steam room, strength suite with more platforms than anywhere else in Scotland, a new Technogym cardio suite, squash courts, a spin studio (called Revolve), sports halls, exercise studios, showers, lockers, vending machines and a kit shop.

The Stevie isn't the only place with facilities. Over at Garscube Sports Complex, there's another sports hall, more pitches and astroturfs, a smaller gym, and a regular schedule of classes for those based nearby or looking for something less central.

CLASSES

Classes are included in most memberships and run all week. You can try BoxHIIT, Kettlebells, Flow, Super Circuits (harder than it sounds) and plenty of others. Popular classes can fill up quickly, so you'll need to book in advance using the UofG Sport app. One booking per person, no sneaky reserving for pals. There's something





for everyone spread across the seven-day schedule, the latest version of which can be checked out online.

ADD-ONS & EXTRAS

Extras include squash courts, badminton courts and the activity hall can be booked for a small cost, and equipment hire is available if you don't have your own. There's also a kit shop if you fancy picking up some black and gold training gear. Every member is entitled to a free gym induction session, and personal trainers are available too. You can find their details and booking info on the app, or ask at The Stevie front desk.

OPENING HOURS

Opening hours for The Stevie are 06:30 to 22:15 Monday to Thursday, 06:30 to 21:00 on Friday, and 09:00 to 17:30 at the weekend. Garscube Sports Complex is open 10:00 to 22:00 Mon-Thu, 10:00-20:00 Friday, 09:00-17:30 Saturday and 10:00-17:30 Sunday. For the latest schedule, app bookings and everything else going on at UofG Sport, head to gla.ac.uk/sport or download the UofG Sport app.



STUDENT SPACES

Study Spots

If you've slept through your alarm and can't face the struggle for a space in the Library or want a change of scenery every now and then, there are plenty of other spaces to use for quiet study or group work.

Many of you will likely head to the James McCune Smith Learning Hub (also known as the JMS or 'Jimmy') to study. Opened in 2021, the JMS is a great spot for solo or group work and has bookable working spaces as well as lots of the services you'll find in the Library, plus a few extras such as cafés, printing stations, a prayer space and even cycling lockers. The Round Reading room (pictured, right) is another decent (though smaller) spot to check out if the JMS and Library are full.

Most schools also have designated study spaces or offices within their buildings for use by students of the school, or those with the pluck to blag their way in. The Joseph Black Building (Chemistry), Adam Smith Business School, Hetherington Building (Modern Languages), and the Rankine Building (Engineering) all have excellent facilities for those intrepid enough to go looking. These will usually include printing facilities and they're generally conveniently close to essay drop-off points for that last minute hand-in rush. For a full list of University study spaces visit: gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/reachout/studyspaces.



There are also libraries, common rooms and committee rooms in the student unions which can be booked and used for group work or individual study during busy periods. These smaller spaces are often forgotten in favour of the main study areas and can therefore be significantly quieter, with a much better chance of getting a PC. Though not as quiet, and lacking facilities such as printers, many of the catering outlets on campus also make good study spots – especially when it comes to group projects. Despite often being busy, the Fraser Building can be a good spot to get those finishing touches done on an essay, as can the canteens in each of the unions.

If you don't want to travel into campus, or just want a change of scenery, then the Hillhead Li-

brary on Byres Road also has spaces to use, as does the Mitchell Library in town. Maryhill Library is only a 20-minute walk from Murano Street if you are out that way, and Partick Library on Dumbarston Road is surrounded by wonderful eateries and watering holes and is also very close to campus if you have lots of books to carry around with you.

To use public libraries, you have to become a member. This is pretty simple and can be done online via the Glasgow Life website which is also a great resource for museums and galleries in the city (see more on these in the Your City section): glasgowlife.org.uk.



Clubs & Societies



UofG has a thriving clubs and societies scene, with over three hundred on campus. Joining a society (or ten) is a no brainer: it's a case of thinking of something you like, finding the relevant club and going along to their meeting, and if you can't find a society that suits you, make one! It's probably the easiest way to meet new people on campus, with the added benefit of knowing you have a shared interest.

But don't just take our word for it, we caught up with Anoushka (Challenge for Change), Andrew (E-Sports Society), Evie (Jazz Society), Deya (Kazakh Society), Suzi (Mature Students' Association) and Emilia (Pop Girl Society) for their take on the clubs and socs scene in Glasgow.

HOW DID YOU FIRST GET INVOLVED IN YOUR CLUB / SOCIETY?

ANOUSHKA (CFC): I became part of the Everest Base Camp Team fundraising for WWF UK after seeing the challenge on social media.

EVIE (JAZZ): I was interested in improving my jazz playing and meeting new people so when I attended the Freshers' Fair I went straight to the Jazz Society stall and started attending what was on offer.

DEYA (KAZAKH): My friend and I started the society in February 2025, because we thought that there needs to be a place for people to learn and be around Kazakh culture.

SUZI (MSA): As a mature student I felt isolated owing to the age gap with my peers. I found out about the MSA and

decided to join so that I could be around others who understood how I was feeling.

EMILIA (POP): I decided to create the society last year after realising there were no clubs at Glasgow Uni centred around pop music. Due to my love and interest in female pop icons I created the society and recruited other students to be on the committee and help to establish it. We ended up gaining over 300 members within the first year and won 'Best New GU Society' at the SRC awards this year which was incredible.

DO YOU THINK THAT BEING INVOLVED IN A CLUB / SOCIETY IS WORTHWHILE?

ANOUSHKA (CFC): Absolutely! I have met so many incredible people while taking on life changing challenges for charity. I have within the past two years gained valuable experience through fundraising that is great on my CV, and I have visited some of the most beautiful places on the planet. I cannot imagine University without the friends I have made either.

ANDREW (E-SPORTS): Most definitely, almost all the friends I've made at University have been through societies. My University experience would have been completely different without them.

DEYA (KAZAKH): Yes definitely, I've made many great friends through it and connected more closely with my culture.

SUZI (MSA): Absolutely! I am around students who have had or will likely have similar experiences and issues, and many have now become firm friends. Getting involved in the committee has been rewarding both personally and academically.

EMILIA (POP): Definitely! I have made so many new friends with similar interests through this society and achieved so many things I never would have before through it. I have organised many events and raised money for charity, something I would never have had the opportunity to do before being involved within the society.



WHAT KINDS OF THINGS HAVE YOU DONE AS PART OF YOUR EXPERIENCES IN CLUBS / SOCIETIES?

ANOUSHKA (CFC): I have completed the Everest Base Camp Trek and climbed Mount Toubkal in Morocco, raising £2,400 for WWF and £1,170 for the Meningitis Research Foundation. I have gone to so many different fundraising events and helped run the first-ever fundraising Gala. We have run bake sales, ceilidhs, and glitter stalls, all while raising awareness on campus about our charity partners.

ANDREW (E-SPORTS): In the E-sports Society, I have competed against other universities all across the UK. I've also played in the battle for Glasgow – our in-person tournament we setup between the three Glasgow universities. The atmosphere is unlike anything else.

EVIE (JAZZ): I have played numerous gigs with the jazz society as well as the Big Band, done pub crawls and quizzes as well as board games nights and even a residential trip with The Big Band in January 2024.

DEYA (KAZAKH): We mostly have game nights and drink tea together, which is a common practice in Kazakhstan (me and my grandparents could sit and drink tea for hours taking about our day). This coming year we want to expand that to include practicing Kazakh language and many more!

SUZI (MSA): I have attended and arranged events, found a place to study, made many friends, shared experiences, found support from and supported other mature students, raised awareness to the wider university community, gained experiences that my degree cannot offer, and found out that I am more capable than I believed myself to be.



Clubs & Societies

WOULD YOU RECOMMEND SIGNING UP TO GLASGOW UNI CLUBS / SOCIETIES?

ANOUSHKA (CFC): Definitely. Clubs and Societies are one of the best ways to meet other people and enjoy everything that the university has to offer. There is something for everyone plus it can be a great way to learn new things.

ANDREW (E-SPORTS): I certainly would, you'll be missing out on a huge part of the University experience without it

EVIE (JAZZ): I would 100% recommend joining any society as it is a great way to meet new people and explore different passions you may have at university.

DEYA (KAZAKH): Yes definitely, it's fun it gives you an opportunity to meet like-minded people, maybe people from your culture or people who like the same thing as you, it's great!

EMILIA (POP): Definitely, you can meet so many people you may have never met before. It can sometimes be an isolating experience at University for some people so being able to meet and interact with people at fun and interesting events can improve a student's experience whilst studying drastically.



VOLUNTEERING, CLUB & SOCIETY AWARD WINNERS 2024–25:

- **CLUB OR SOCIETY OF THE YEAR:** Muslim Students' Association
- **NEW CLUB OR SOCIETY OF THE YEAR:** Pop Girlie Society
- **CLUB OR SOCIETY EVENT OF THE YEAR:** Filmmaking Society: Biannual Film Premiere
- **CLUB OR SOCIETY FUNDRAISING AWARD:** Challenge for Change
- **ACADEMIC CLUB OR SOCIETY OF THE YEAR:** Earth Sciences Society
- **CLUB OR SOCIETY COLLABORATION OF THE YEAR:** Nerd Collab
- **CLUB OR SOCIETY COMMUNITY & INCLUSION AWARD:** Pole Dancing Club
- **CLUB OR SOCIETY SRC CAMPAIGN ENGAGEMENT AWARD:** African Caribbean Society
- **GU AWARD FOR CAMPUS VOLUNTEERING:** Olivia Lalieu
- **GU AWARD FOR COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING:** Hayley McIntyre (Amina MWRC)
- **GU PRINCIPAL'S VOLUNTEERING AWARD FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT:** BrightHer

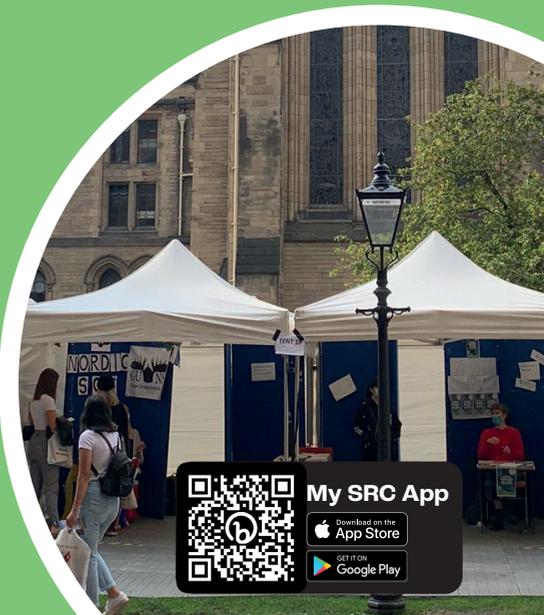
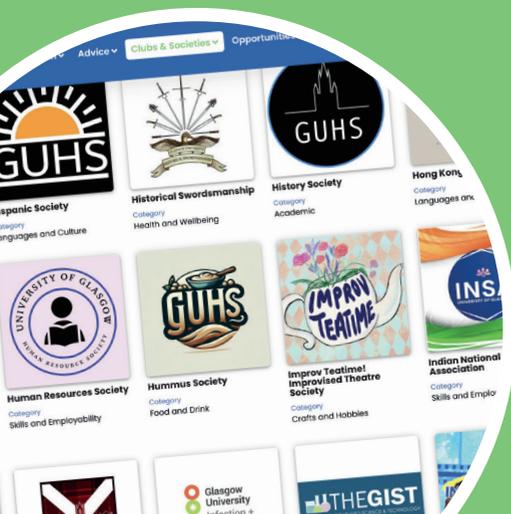
THE SRC SUPPORTS CLUBS & SOCS



Scan to
visit our
website!



Glasgow University Students' Representative Council has over **300 affiliated clubs and societies** to join and get involved with. From Academic to Social societies - **there is something for everyone**. The SRC provides training, grants, promotion and event spaces for societies.



@glasgowunisrc My SRC App glasgowunisrc.org/clubs-socs

Student Media

SUBCITY RADIO

Subcity Radio is the University of Glasgow's student radio station, run by and for students for more than 30 years. It's an independent, creative platform where students can produce shows, explore music and culture, and build skills in broadcasting, events and media production. Whether you're passionate about music, curious about radio, or just looking for a creative outlet alongside your studies, Subcity is a great place to get involved.

The station broadcasts online at subcity.org and features a wide range of student-produced, eclectic content. Subcity DJs have had full control over music selection since the station first went on air in 1995. That spirit continues today, with a diverse mix of shows built around genres, themes and ideas that don't always get space elsewhere. Tune in at 2am on a Wednesday and you might hear something strange, brilliant, or both.

Subcity's open and welcoming structure has helped it nurture new talent, giving students and community members the

space to hone their skills. DJ and producer Hudson Mohawke is among the station's alumni, and many others have gone on to success in music, media and creative industries after getting their start at Subcity. The station also has a strong reputation for live events, regularly hosting club nights, film screenings and live shows at venues like the Poetry Club, Stereo and Nice N Sleazy.

If you'd like to make a show, you can apply online any time at subcity.org/get-involved. You don't need any experience, just an idea and a bit of enthusiasm. The team provides training and support, and your first show could be live within a few weeks.

Glasgow has one of the most active student media scenes in the country, with four student-led outlets affiliated to the SRC, plus more opportunities at the social unions. Whether you want to make a name for yourself in student journalism or just catch the occasional article, podcast or playlist, there's something here for everyone.

You don't need to sign your life away to get involved. You can contribute a one-off piece, attend an open meeting, or go all in and help run one of the organisations. However, you engage, student media is a great way to tap into what's happening on campus and beyond – and a brilliant place to meet people who are passionate about writing, broadcasting, design or just having something to say. Give it a go early in the year. You never know what you'll end up reading, watching or creating.



If you're more interested in behind-the-scenes roles like production, events or media support, team applications open twice a year. There's usually a round in the weeks after Welcome Week, and you'll find Subcity at the Welcome Fair if you want to chat to someone in person.

GUST

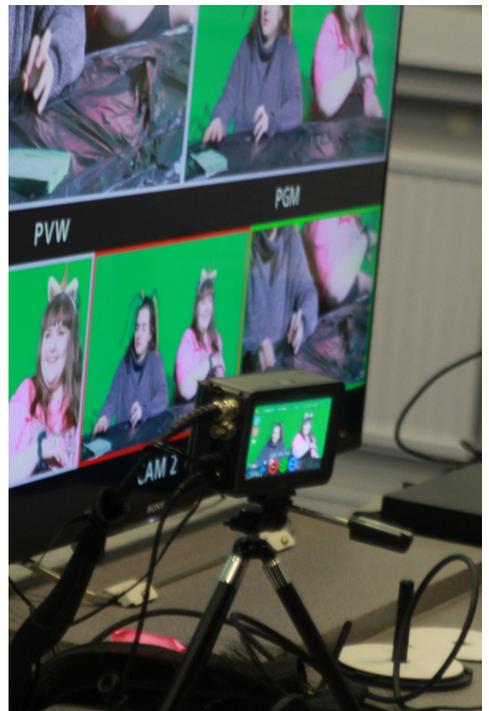
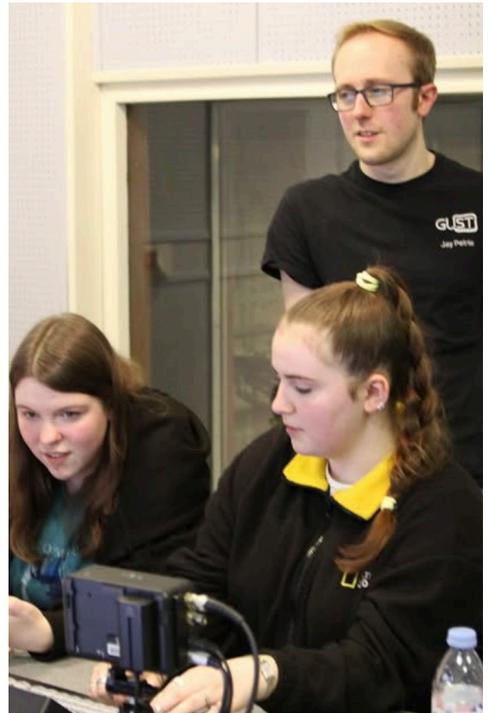
Glasgow University Student Television make, erm, television programmes. They're quite good at it too, having picked up numerous nominations and awards at national competitions in the 60 years they've been going. The organisation has grown in size, respect and stature since its inception, integrating itself not only into campus life, but into the wider Glasgow community by covering high-profile events and taking on filming projects for organisations across the city.

This year marked GUST's 60th anniversary, which they celebrated with alumni visits, special projects and a feature in The Herald. They also produced five days of Welcome Week content, including a live stream of the University's official Welcome Address. Highlights from the year included a full-day shoot and screening of a BBC Traitors-inspired video, weekly productions ranging from dating shows to debates, and a packed schedule of music, documentary and fiction content.

GUST's content is streamed via gust.tv and spans a highly diverse range of themes and genres – from high-art documentaries to telenovela-style fiction. The full archive is indexed on their website, and you can follow them on Instagram and TikTok [@gustglasgow](https://www.tiktok.com/@gustglasgow).

GUST functions similarly to your standard club or society, holding elections each year for positions including the top roles of Controller, Head of Programming and Technical Coordinator. Getting involved is pretty straightforward: if you didn't already hear from one of their members during Welcome Week, they hold open meetings twice a week.

Drop in, meet the team, and even pitch your idea for a show – no prior experience needed. If you reckon you've got the winning smile for being on camera, they'll be happy to help you put it to good use.



Student Media

PRINT MEDIA GLASGOW GUARDIAN

glasgowguardian.co.uk

Though print media might be in decline in the real world, the University's student newspaper, Glasgow Guardian, has gone from strength to strength. The award-winning, free newspaper is published at intervals throughout term time, covering campus news, opinion, high-profile interviews, reviews and sports. In 2024–25 the paper received national recognition at The Herald Student Press Awards and Student Publication Association Awards, including being shortlisted for Best Student News Brand of the Year and Highly Commended for Best Newspaper (Scotland).

The paper's reputation and output are bolstered by a strong online presence. The Guardian's website and social media channels are updated regularly with exclusive articles, commentary and breaking news throughout the year. If you want to stay on top of campus politics, local news and what's really going on across the University, bookmark their website and follow them on Instagram (@theglasgowguardian) and TikTok.

The team meets weekly in the SRC's McIntyre Building to pitch articles, assign features and bring together each edition. Around 30 editors and dozens of writers, photographers and designers contribute throughout the year, so if you're at all interested in journalism, publishing or design, head along to a meeting and see what you can get involved in.



Keep an eye out for the Guardian's work on the student elections in March, where the team behind the paper go into overdrive to cover the four separate democratic exercises taking place across campus.

GUM

glasgowuniversitymagazine.co.uk

Glasgow University Magazine is the oldest student magazine in Scotland, but thanks to regular reinvention, it stays sharp, creative and relevant. Today, GUM is a glossy, design-led publication covering fashion, art, politics and culture – all from a student perspective. The team includes writers, editors, designers and illustrators from both Glasgow University and Glasgow School of Art, with over 100 contributors involved each year. The magazine is usually published three times annually and can be picked up around campus, with extra content on their website and social media (@gumagazine).



QMUNICATE & MoGUU

qmunicatemagazine.com

guu.co.uk/g-you

Each of the two student unions publish their own student-run magazines and journals, organised through their committee systems – Publications at the QMU and Libraries at the GUU. These magazines serve the dual purposes of offering experience to students interested in learning journalism skills, as well as promoting the latest news and events of the organisation, alongside articles covering a wide range of subjects in both news and editorial. In addition to their magazine, GUU also publishes a creative writing journal, Fleet, and an academic journal, Groundings. Look for each of them around campus and to find out more about getting involved visit the unions' respective websites [page 13].

Volunteering

Glasgow's a big place, full of brilliant people, cultures and communities – and plenty of ways to get involved. Volunteering is one of the best things you can do at uni: it's a great way to meet people, boost your mental health, build your CV and, most importantly, make a difference. The SRC's Volunteering Service is here to help you do exactly that.

They run the University's only dedicated volunteering programme and work with charities, social enterprises and community groups across the city to connect you with opportunities that suit your interests, availability and goals. Whether you're after something regular or one-off, on-campus or out in the city, solo or with a group – they've got you covered. All their volunteering opportunities fit neatly into the following categories:

- **Sports & Activities**
- **Befriending & Mentoring**
- **Environment**
- **Children & Young People**
- **Community Development**
- **Refugees & Asylum Seekers**
- **Charity Shops**
- **Health & Wellbeing**
- **Student Media**
- **One-Off Volunteering**

If you're unsure, need advice or can't find what you're looking for, the SRC Volunteering team are on hand to support you online, in person and at events. Volunteering is fun, flexible and genuinely makes a difference – and it's packed with benefits for you too. But don't just take our word for it. Read on to hear from some of the students who've given it a go.



JUAN – SMART WORKS SCOTLAND, CANCER RESEARCH UK

“Volunteering is one of the most valuable experiences a student can have. It offers an opportunity to make a real difference in people’s lives while developing important skills such as communication, teamwork, and problem-solving. Through volunteering, you’ll meet inspiring individuals, gain confidence, and uncover strengths you didn’t know you possessed.”

“Supporting causes like women’s empowerment and cancer research is deeply important to me. Volunteering allowed me to make a positive impact, develop practical skills, and connect with people from different backgrounds. Even small contributions—like helping someone prepare for a job interview or organising donated items—can make a real difference in someone’s life.”

Smart Works Scotland helps women into employment by providing interview clothing, coaching and confidence boosts to help them land the job. Cancer Research UK funds vital work to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer. Volunteers can do everything from sorting stock in charity shops to helping at events or working directly with service users – so whether you’re a people person or prefer behind-the-scenes graft, there’s a way to get stuck in.



RAHILA – Amina MWRC

“Volunteering with Amina’s Helpline isn’t just about giving your time, it’s about becoming part of a family. You’ll join a supportive team that empowers women through some of the most difficult and isolating times in their lives. Our volunteers are valued, trained, and supported throughout their journey with us ... The helpline couldn’t run as smoothly as it does or reach as many women without them.”

Amina MWRC supports Muslim and BME women across Scotland, offering confidential advice and signposting through their national helpline. Volunteers take calls, listen without judgement, and help connect women with the right services – with full training and support every step of the way.

RUTH – OVER THE WALL CAMP

“Volunteers make camp possible because without them, we wouldn’t be able to make our camps free for these young people. Our volunteers from Glasgow Uni are instrumental in bringing our camps together. They look after our young people with great care, lead activities and group discussions with great skill, and bring so much infectious enthusiasm which brightens our camp spaces!”

Over The Wall runs free residential camps for young people living with serious illness. You’ll get training, food, and a place to stay while you help campers try new things, make friends and have the best week of their year. Bonus: it’s great fun and looks amazing on a CV.

Volunteering

LUCY – WISE MENTORING CIC

"Without [our student volunteers] we would not be able to provide the transformational mentoring service we provide with WISE. I cannot understate the impact that they have on their P6 and P7 mentees ... We also get a lot of comments not only on the growth of the P6 and P7 children, but also on the growth of individual volunteers as well ... They are fundamental to our vision of creating safe spaces where children develop their wellbeing, grow in their confidence and resilience, explore their personal identity and purpose, and learn to care for others and the world around them."

WISE (Wellbeing, Inspiration, Support & Empowerment) pairs student mentors with primary pupils aged 9–11 for after-school sessions. You'll help build young people's confidence, curiosity and character – whilst also sharpening your own leadership skills in the process.



ANA – VARIOUS ROLES

Ana's volunteering CV is... well, packed. She's proof that not all volunteering happens with external community partners – the SRC also supports students who give their time in representative roles, like Class Rep, or on club and society committees. These roles keep campus life running and can be just as rewarding and beneficial as traditional charity volunteering.

"Through volunteering I've found my passion: taking on management roles in technical and engineering societies ... What I've enjoyed most is definitely the sense of community and the impact I've been able to make. I love being able to help or inspire others, whether it's through mentoring, sharing knowledge, or simply being there for someone who needs support."

Ana's worn more hats than the QMU cloakroom: Class Rep, GIC mentor, GU Rocketry volunteer, GU Orbit Vice President, Treasurer and Business Development Team Lead; plus Sponsorship and Outreach Leader, Marketing Volunteer, and Event Organiser for the European CubeSat Symposium (co-organised with the School of Engineering).

ADAM – NINTENDO SOCIETY

Adam's time on a society committee shows exactly why these roles matter. Committee members run events, keep clubs ticking over, and make sure students have spaces to connect and have fun – all without it being "officially" their job. It's volunteering, even if you're not wearing a hi-vis vest.

"I loved being part of such a friendly and welcoming society and wanted to use my skills and ideas to make it better and more enjoyable for everyone ... the society has made a tremendous impact on the lives of our members where they have been able to form new friendships, feel included and have fun together. Being a part of the committee for the past few years has made me into a happier and more sociable person ... my advice is to absolutely go for it!"

Whether you're running socials, managing budgets or designing flyers, you'll pick up leadership, comms and organisational skills you won't get from lectures alone – plus you'll meet friends for life and leave your stamp on campus life.



GET IN TOUCH

If you're not sure where to start, SRC Volunteering are here to help. You can register as a volunteer on the MySRC app to browse what's available, track your hours, and build your own volunteering profile as you go.

You'll get support from the team throughout, and your contributions won't go unnoticed – volunteers can be recognised through schemes like the Saltire Awards and the SRC's own UofG Volunteering Awards. For more info or to get involved, just head to the website.

- volunteering@src.gla.ac.uk
- glasgowuniscrc.org/volunteering
- [@glasgowuniscrc](https://twitter.com/glasgowuniscrc)

Accessibility

Everyone deserves to feel confident navigating campus, accessing teaching, and getting involved in uni life. Whether you're facing access barriers of any kind or just trying to find the best route between classes, there's support to help you navigate things more easily – and people to help if you're not sure where to start.



Should you be disabled and need support, the University run a dedicated Disability Service – find out more about them at gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/disability or get in touch by emailing disability@glasgow.ac.uk.

The main Gilmorehill campus is lovely, but not always the easiest to get around. Built on a great big hill (the clue's in the name), some buildings take a bit of effort to reach. The campus is also fairly spread out – and only getting bigger – so it helps to know the best routes, shortcuts and accessible buildings to make life easier.

The UofG Life app is a good place to start. It includes building-to-building directions, info on accessible routes and entrances, and even tells you which services are in each building. You can check your timetable, get class updates, and sync everything to your calendar too.

For more detailed information, the AccessAble guides are also worth a look. They cover over 100 locations on campus, from the Library and gym to cafés, museums and accommodation. Each guide gives a breakdown of physical access features – like ramps, lifts, door widths and accessible toilets – so you can plan ahead with confidence. You'll find them at accessible.co.uk.

One of the best bits of advice we can give for getting around campus is: ask for help! The University Security team, based at the Main Gate, are friendly and approachable, as are the folks in the SRC Welcome Point.

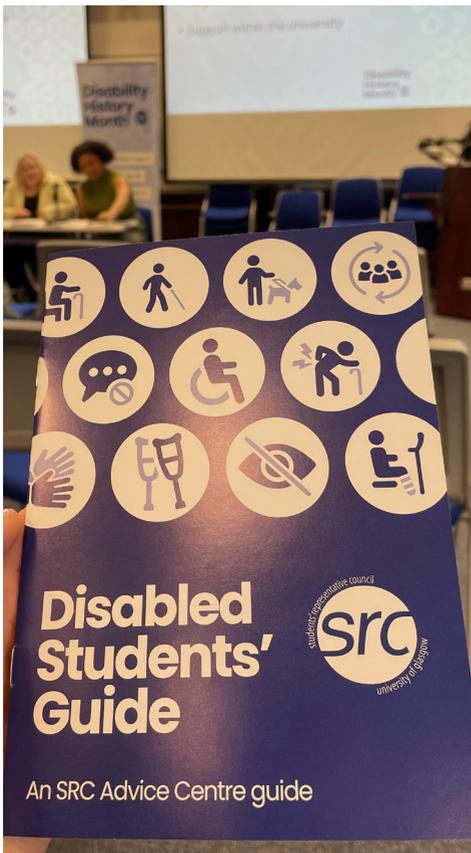
SUPPORT FOR DISABLED STUDENTS

If you're disabled or think you might benefit from adjustments, the Disability Service should be your first stop. They can assess your needs and put support in place – from exam accommodations and assistive tech to help with housing or transport. Find out more at gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/disability or email them at disability@glasgow.ac.uk.

There's also a growing network of student groups and communities on campus. A new Disabled Students' Society now offers peer support and events, and the Neurodiversity Society is open to students with ADHD, autism, dyslexia, and related conditions.

DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY

Digital accessibility has come a long way in the past few years. By law, the University must make sure online content is usable by everyone – this includes closed captions on videos, flexible file formats for readings, and websites designed to work with assistive tech. It's still a work in progress, but if something isn't working for you, ask for alternatives – you have the right to access your learning in a way that works for you. More info: gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/digitalaccessibility.



The Rules

The University has a lot of rules – and it's probably wise to follow them if you want to keep your nose clean. The big one to know about is the Code of Student Conduct, which covers not just academic matters, but your behaviour across campus and beyond.

With over 35,000 students enrolled each year, the University needs a lot of rules to make sure everyone stays safe, everyone is treated with respect and, vitally, that everyone can get on with the important business of getting a degree. In the Code of Student of Conduct, everything from plagiarism through to use of illegal drugs is covered in great detail, and if you're keen, you can read it all online, but below you'll find some straightforward advice for staying on the right side of the rules.

Different types of misconduct are handled at different levels of the University, so if you've been accused of misconduct, or feel the need to talk to someone about another student breaking the code, go and see the SRC Advice Centre, who know the list of rules like the back of their hands and can help point you in the right direction.

Every year the SRC Advice Centre sees students who have been found to have notes or a phone in their exam, or who have failed to reference their work properly. The University deals very strictly with such cases. For some students, the penalties mean they cannot get their degree. Don't believe anyone who says you can cheat and get away with it. It's just not worth the risk.

At the end of the day, the rules come down to this: be decent, don't cut corners, and you probably won't need to worry about them.

- **Be respectful regarding characteristics like gender, sexual identity, age, race and religious belief.**
- **Be aware of discrimination, harassment and offensive, threatening or violent behaviour: don't do it, and call it out when you see it.**
- **Be honest. Take credit only for your own work and bring only items you are allowed into exams.**
- **Check the rules on plagiarism and exam conduct, and if you are unsure, get advice at an early stage from the academic staff.**
- **Look after all University property and participate in University events peacefully, without disruption and risking no-one else's safety.**



University
of Glasgow



SafeZone

A **FREE** safety app



First Aid Call

When you need medical assistance



Help

When you need non-emergency assistance



Emergency

If you feel threatened or need urgent assistance



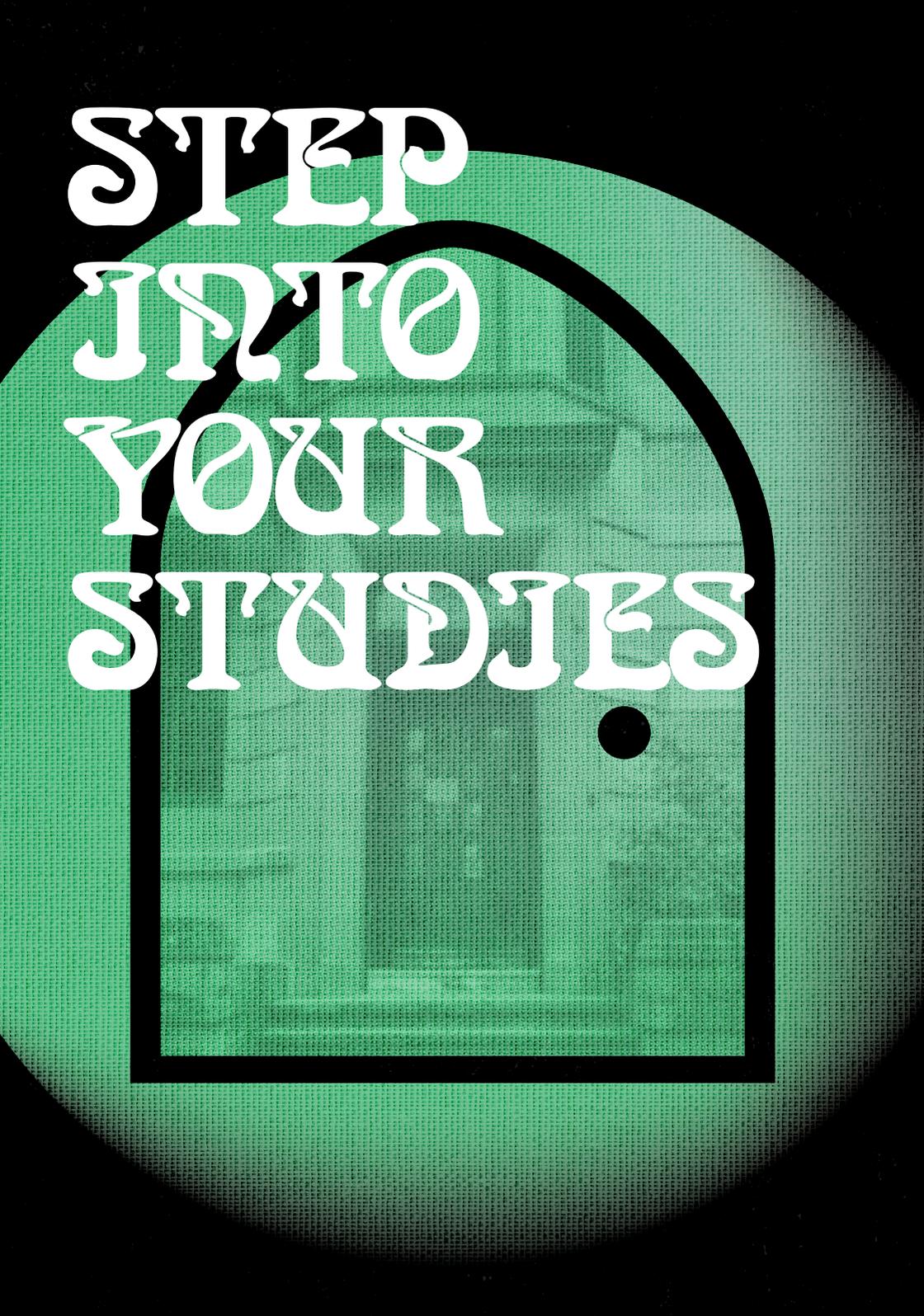
Wellbeing

Reach out when you need support



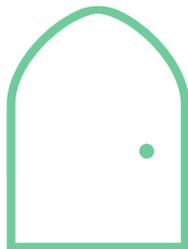
Download **SafeZone App** on





STEP
INTO
YOUR
STUDIES

Your Studies



You came to the University of Glasgow to take part in the higher education experience and, ultimately, get a degree. To achieve this, you're going to need to get your head down and do some studying; the next section of this book is all about where, when and how to start learning at the University, plus some tips should you find yourself struggling to keep up.

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GETTING STARTED

Studying & Balance

Figuring out a way of studying that works for you early in your time as a student is probably one of the wisest things you can do. You're going to spend a lot of time staring at books and screens in the next few years (get night-mode figured out early on) so it's important to make sure you're doing it effectively. If you need help with study skills then the University can assist via their Student Learning Development (SLD) team and in the meantime, here are a few tips to keep you on the right track

LECTURES, SEMINARS, LABS & TUTORIALS

You may find that you will have a mixture of both online and in-person lectures, seminars and labs. Make sure you check in advance if you are expected to attend in person or online and this should be clearly communicated to you in advance by the University.

Lectures are where you'll get the bulk of the course content: the theories, frameworks and background that underpin your subject. Most lecturers won't take a formal register, but that doesn't mean you can just skip them and rely on Wikipedia later. These sessions are designed to help you build understanding over time – and exam questions often draw directly from them.

Your course has been designed for you to get the most out of every single hour, and you'll find that the material and examples covered in lectures will be used in further semi-

nars or examinations. It's also a good idea to get to lectures on time; no one likes the person who turns up ten minutes before the end and expects to copy their notes.

Seminars, labs and tutorials are where you will put your learning to the test. This is where you will explore ideas with others on your course, make mistakes and learn from them. Seminars involve discussion, presentations and group work, and labs convert theory to practice in controlled environments.

Unlike lectures, attendance is formally required and recorded. Attendance goes on your academic record; if you don't show up to enough sessions then you may be refused the credit. Miss too many, and you may have to retake units and be left behind the rest of your year group. Bad times.

TIME MANAGEMENT

If you don't want to be pulling deadline all-nighters fuelled by off-brand energy drinks and panic, it's a good idea to learn some time management skills early on. Independent study can feel overwhelming at first, especially without a set routine – so try to create your own structure. Set aside regular slots to do coursework or reading and break tasks into smaller chunks where possible. Your future self will thank you.

Try using apps like Trello, Notion, Google Calendar or the Uni's own Moodle planner to stay on top of deadlines – anything that helps make sense of your schedule. It's also important to plan ahead for when deadlines and assessments may fall. Each course is different, but you may find checking the University's standard session dates useful: gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/apg/sessiondates/session2025-26.

READING

If you want to make it through University, you have to read the course material. It's generally not something you can dodge, bluff or blag your way around. Lecturers don't give you a list of books worth the price of a small car for fun – most of what you need to know to pass your modules will be covered in those pages.

You'll find most reading lists, lecture slides and assignments on Moodle, the University's main online learning platform (though some courses might use others like Canvas). Moodle is where you'll upload coursework, check deadlines, and sometimes even sit tests. Make sure you check it regularly – ideally before a class, not after.

It's also a good idea to read around the course material – academic papers, recommended articles, and other reliable sources. Just make sure anything you're citing has a proper author and isn't copied from a dodgy website. As a general rule: citing Wikipedia will not go down well.

REFERENCING

One of the key differences between University and schoolwork is using ideas and arguments from elsewhere to back up and reinforce your ideas. When you do this, you need to make sure that you give credit to the original author by clearly and precisely referencing the original work. If you are struggling with how to reference, or any aspect of academic work, talk to the Student Learning Development (SLD) team [page 54].

It can't be stressed strongly enough that plagiarism is a major offence at any level of academic writing, so it is vital that you properly cite other people's work, or you could end up having penalties imposed that reduce your marks and badly affect your course grades.

Generally, each course has a specific referencing method, and you will be given guidelines on how your particular course would like you to reference (Harvard, Vancouver, MHRA etc.), but the main advice is consistency throughout. Having a notebook to hand or notes app open when doing your reading, to note down the source, author and

page will help with this. Another tip is to read the citations used in each paper: see what they have referenced and build a network of evidence to back up any claims you make should you be called upon to prove your work's basis or originality.

BALANCING

No one can study 24/7 without some kind of downtime, hobby or other interest. An extra-curricular activity or two can help you make new friends, create new goals, and develop your other skills.

A popular way of winding down and staying grounded is mindfulness and meditation. Mindfulness can be practised at home or at one of the many centres across the city: Headspace is a simple mobile app that teaches you to do ten minutes of meditation a day. Whether it's a sport [page 16], joining a society [page 26], volunteering [page 34], a cultural pursuit [page 66], watching movies or playing video games, find something that gives you an escape from academia. Don't be afraid to invest some time in doing what makes you happy.

As long as it doesn't negatively impact your studies then there is no reason you can't do what you love while working towards getting your degree. This is where that time management comes into play.



The My SRC App is a great way to engage with life outside of studying, including joining a society, signing up for volunteering, attending events or workshops and more. Find out more at glasgowuniversitysrc.org/app.

GETTING CONNECTED

Wi-Fi & Technology



With so much of uni life lived online, one of your first priorities should be getting set up with the campus Wi-Fi and digital tools. It's a bit more involved than at your local McDonald's, but in return you get secure access to your course materials, emails, and more academic journals than you'll ever actually read.

UNIVERSITY EMAIL

Once you've enrolled you will be given a GUID and University email address. You can access your University email at office365.gla.ac.uk. Using the University's email system is a good way of keeping your personal and academic life separate and making sure you don't send something dodgy to your tutor by mistake.

Your advisors, lecturers, UofG administration and the SRC will also contact you on your University email address to notify you of any timetable or venue changes, issues with your course, or general announcements so it's a good idea to check this regularly. It is also handy to give this out to classmates or colleagues that you don't want seeing your ancient personal 'goblin-mode_08@gmail.com' address (we've seen worse).

EDUROAM

The main campus uses a free Wi-Fi network called eduroam – short for “education roaming” – which you'll find in most buildings and student accommodation. It's a secure global system used by universities all over the world.

To connect, follow the University's auto-installation instructions and log in with your student email and password. Once you're set up, your device should connect automatically whenever you're on campus. Full instructions are at gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/it/eduroam.

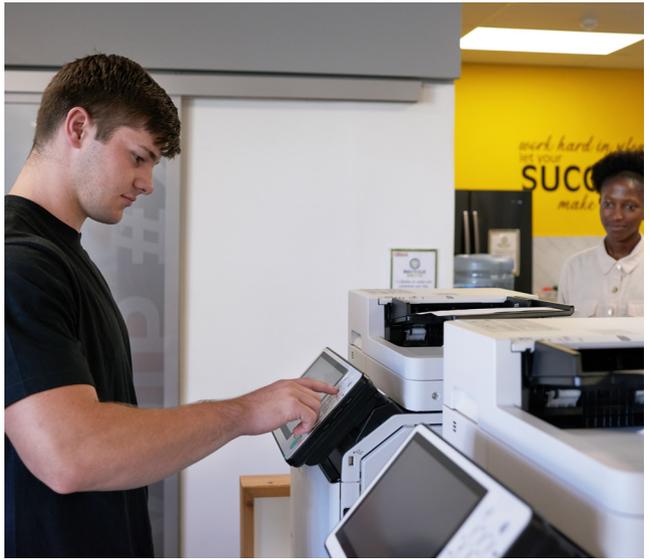
OTHER NETWORKS

If you're wanting a break from the Library or JMS, there are a few options for reliable wireless internet access on and around campus. Both student unions have half-decent Wi-Fi networks that should do you well enough to check Instagram or TikTok between sentences in your essay, while local coffee shops such as Starbucks/Pret (Byres Road), Offshore (Gibson Street) and S'Mug (Great George Street) offer stable WiFi, coffee and a different atmosphere if you're looking to have a break or pretend you're working on your screenplay/novel.

Generally, if you are wanting to sign up for any sites or subscriptions specifically designed for students you will need to use this .ac.uk email address (especially useful for accessing student discounts!).

You will forget your password at one point or another and when this happens you can reset it online with your campus card barcode number and some personal details. More info on your UofG email can be found on the website via:

gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/it/uofgemail.



APPS

The University has made some apps that are designed to make your life easier. The UofG Life app is the main one and can do lots of useful things such as help you find and book rooms, integrate with your student email to download your timetable, sync with your calendar and maps, and explore support and wellbeing services available.

Other apps you may find helpful include the UofG Sport app which can be used to find and book sport classes [page 22], the SafeZone app which gives you a direct link to campus security if you're in trouble [page 121] and the SRC has an app which can be used for finding and joining clubs and societies, browsing events, or getting involved in volunteering. The website has all the info if you're inclined to give any of the apps a go: gla.ac.uk/apps.

PRINTING

Thanks to the University's pull printing network, you can print from most University computers to any printer in the Library. At essay hand-in time, competition for a PC will be fierce, but recently the University has introduced short-term log-in computers on the busiest levels.

If you're on a deadline, try and get there a good couple of hours in advance: over-worked printers plus sleep-deprived students equals daily breakdowns (both technological and human). If you break a printer, tell someone. Don't just creep away and pray no one noticed. Mono printing in the Library is 5p for single sided or 7p for double (colour 15p/27p), so to save money and the environment try and print double-sided wherever possible. You can load credit onto your campus card at the machines on level 3 of the Library or online via MyPrinting (on your MyGlasgow Students portal). The SRC do still also offer a limited printing service if you are really in a pinch.

IT HELPDESK

If the University's network setup has got you confused and the online guides aren't helping, the IT Helpdesk can help you get your head around it. You can either use their handy self-service online portal to create and track a request or go and see them in person.

Based on the ground floor of the Library (level 2 confusingly), they're there to help you with any issues with your University, or sometimes personal, IT crises. So, if you drop your USB drive containing the only copy of your essay down the toilet, they are there to help.

GETTING ENROLLED

Courses & MyCampus

Starting your course can sometimes be confusing... between online enrolment, finding your timetable, which electives to take, how to find exam results etc. it can be like a maze.

The University has helpfully consolidated pretty much all the useful student services, including the ones for course selection and updates, into one online portal – MyGlasgow Student, the academic record and enrolment section of which is MyCampus.

It's all pretty simple once you've visited a couple of times and will quickly seem like second nature.

MY CAMPUS

Once you have decided on your chosen course and gained the necessary entry criteria – you need to register online via MyCampus. This is Glasgow University's online portal which allows you to see all of the courses you're enrolled on, view your results, confirm your funding and payment details, and access pretty much everything else related to your academic progress.

At the beginning of the year, you should have received an email giving you instructions on accessing your GUID and MyCampus. If you're reading this and you haven't received this email, you should log this with the University's IT Helpdesk: gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/it/helpdesk.

First and foremost, you'll use MyCampus to enrol onto classes and courses each year and check your timetable. If you do want to make any changes to your course choices, you can do so online via MyCampus within the time-frame mentioned below. Your timetable is automatically created depending on which courses you have chosen, it will be viewable in MyCampus and if you notice any clashes you can pick an alternative time for that course within the portal.

Don't forget – each year you'll also need to complete financial registration through MyCampus. If you change your courses after registering, your fees might be affected, so it's worth double-checking everything's in order.



COURSES

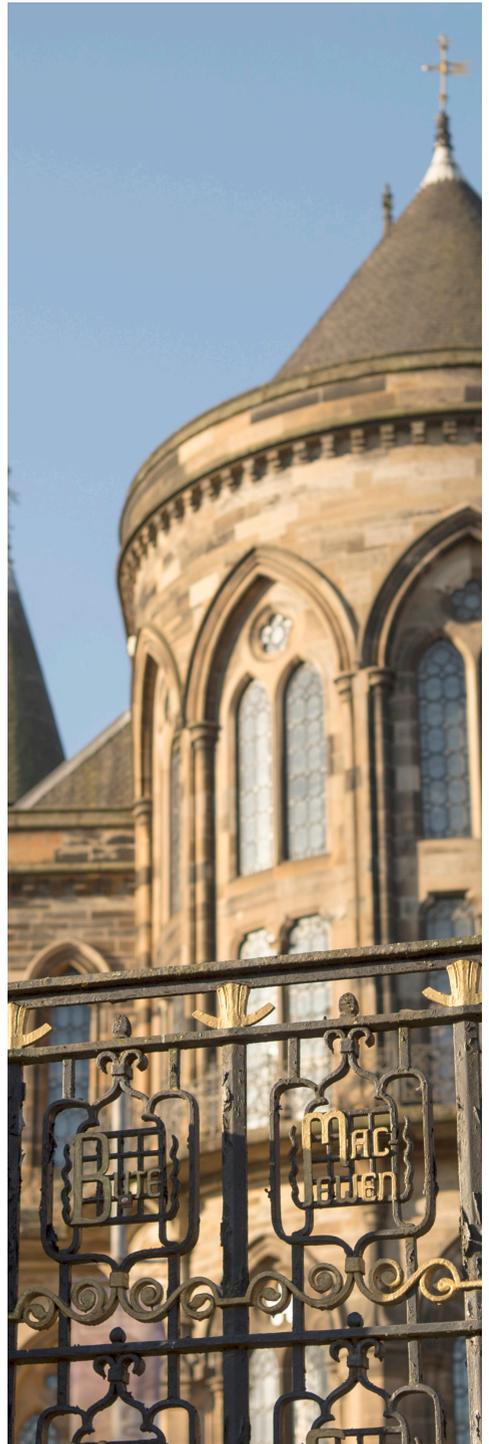
For most students, the first two years of your studies at UofG are your pre-honours years, in which you may find yourself studying up to three subjects simultaneously. Usually, you'll enrol for the subject or subjects you've applied for, and then choose one or two additional courses in order to meet the academic credits requirement to pass first year.

In second year, most of you will drop one subject to be replaced with another. It might seem annoying that you have to take on extra subjects in addition to the course you applied to study, but it's a great opportunity to continue learning a subject you were interested in at school, and you might end up enjoying it more than your original first choice. At the end of your second year, you will decide which subject or subjects to take on to 'honours' level; these are the subjects in which you'll ultimately get a degree.

To help with confusion, the University does allow changing courses during the Add/Drop period in the first few weeks of term. You can do this through MyCampus – provided there are places available in the alternative course/class. You can switch courses or change tutorial/lab times yourself in MyCampus during the first three weeks of Semester 1 (including Welcome Week), and the first two weeks of Semester 2.

After that, you'll need to speak to your Adviser of Studies [page 54] to request any changes. This level of flexibility enables you to get the best possible experience from your academic career at the University of Glasgow, preventing students from feeling forced into following through with a wrong decision.

Some subjects will require electives in order to take them on to honours (the last two years of your degree, and the subject that appears on your transcript at graduation). For example, English Literature requires one year of English Language and vice-versa. It's usually a good idea to let your Adviser know your plans for honours as early as possible to make sure you're not missing out on a subject you'll later need.



GETTING INFORMATION

Books & Resources

Books, books, books. Despite all the advances in online resources, you'll still spend a fair amount of time with your nose in actual, physical books. Okay, they're bulkier (especially up the Library hill), but reading them is still one of the best ways to pass your course.



BORROWING BOOKS

Unsurprisingly, in addition to a plethora of desks, power sockets and PCs, the Library has quite a few books. The main Library has floors of books sorted by subject, plus a search tool to check what's available and where.

You can borrow up to 30 books as an undergrad (40 for postgrads), though only 10 can be short loan – and just two of those from the High Demand section. Short loan = up to a week. High Demand = 4 or 24 hours. Unsurprisingly, High Demand books vanish fast near deadlines and can't be reserved or renewed, so plan ahead.

Borrowing is easy – just scan your campus card and the book's barcode at a self-service machine on level 2 or there's

one on level 6. Lost books incur replacement charges, and while the Library scrapped late return fees (yay!), they still expect you to bring things back on time.

If a book isn't on the shelf but shows as "available," someone might be using it in-house – you don't have to check out standard books to use them inside. Want to avoid the treasure hunt? Reserve items online in advance.

There are seven other specialist libraries where you can find subject-specific books: if there's a relevant one for your course, your tutors or school website will point you in the right direction.

ONLINE RESOURCES

On behalf of students, the University subscribes to a massive number of online journals and databases – freely available via the campus network or VPN. These are goldmines for assignments, so get familiar with them early. You can also search via tools like Google Scholar, which lets you search by topic, author, or date. Results include citations – great for referencing – and often link to the full paper. If not, double-check if the uni has access before reaching for your bank card to pass a pay wall. The search results will detail the author, as well as who published the paper and the date, perfect for referencing. It's also handy for locating a paper's further source material.

Many papers are freely available as PDFs – a quick Google search using 'filetype:pdf' can often do the trick. Sometimes you will be able to find the exact paper you are looking for without having to pay a subscription or download fee. Google Books is another great tool for academic study and research.

If you're looking for a specific book, or have a wider subject area to look into, you can simply enter your query into the search and if you're lucky the text will be available to view online. This is another useful way of finding published work to research, although sometimes certain pages will be locked and unavailable to use.



AI – ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

You might already be using AI tools to help with writing, summarising, or organising your ideas. The University has no blanket ban on these, but using them for assignments can land you in serious trouble if it breaches the Code of Student Conduct.

If you're unsure about what's allowed, speak to your course convenor – or check the SRC Advice Centre's guide on AI and academic integrity: glasgowunivsrc.org/advice/academic/aiplagiarism. AI can be helpful for generating ideas or planning your workload, but it's not a substitute for your own thinking – and tutors are becoming very good at detecting when AI may not have been used correctly according to the UofG guidelines.

BUYING BOOKS

You will at some point need to actually purchase a book or two as you'll be using them a lot. It's usually best to do this before your course starts, but most likely this'll happen once you realise you can't just copy every quote from lecture PowerPoints or find them with Google.

On campus, the University of Glasgow Bookshop sits on the ground floor of the Fraser Building; it carries books from most reading lists as well as stationery and overpriced USB drives. They also hold start-of-term bookstalls for the thrifty shopper in you, they have an online store, and they can order special titles. Convenient, if a little pricey.

For cheaper options, check the SRC Second-hand Book Marketplace at glasgowunivsrc.org/marketplace. It's like Vinted for textbooks, with listings from other students.

Most course-specific books can of course be found on Amazon, either new or second hand. Amazon can be great value and simple to use if you can find the edition of the book you need. You might sometimes get stung on the postage, but Amazon offer students six months free Amazon Prime and 50% off an ongoing membership (£4.49 per month) which gives you free one-day delivery on new items.

Books are something you should consider making the most of during your time as a student. Don't be afraid to split the cost with course mates where possible, especially if you share a flat with them. Just make sure come essay time you get equal time with the books you all need.



Textbooks on a Budget: Some textbooks cost eye-watering amounts – don't panic. Look for older editions (they're often nearly identical but check with your tutor first just in case), check the **SRC Marketplace**, or split costs with coursemates. Also ask your tutor if an eBook version is available through the Library – many are!

GETTING HEARD

Academic Representation

If you read the SRC section earlier in this guide [page 10], you'll know they're not just here for support services and free tote bags. They're also the University's official, independent representative body – which means they make sure students are listened to when it comes to how learning and teaching actually work. **In short: students raise concerns, the SRC pushes for action – and real changes happen.**

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

At the frontline of academic representation are Class Representatives – your direct link between students, the SRC and the University. Every class or tutorial group can elect a rep to gather feedback and speak up on your behalf at Staff-Student Liaison Committees meetings (SSLCs), where course issues are discussed with lecturers and school staff. These happen at least once every semester.

Reps also meet with SRC officers and other reps to flag anything wider that might need University-wide attention. That could be a module that's gone off the rails, a messy timetable clash, or inconsistent feedback across courses.

If something urgent or bigger-picture comes up, the SRC can escalate it further – including raising it in University Senate or at committee level. Yes, students have started conversations that led to policy changes. It happens more than you think.

If you are thinking that this sounds like something you'd be good at, you can run in a Class Rep election and, after emerging victorious from a quick, painless vote amongst your classmates, you'll be offered full training by the SRC, enabling you to fully understand the system you're part of and fulfil the role to the best of your ability.

Being a Class Rep is a great way to meet new people and get a taste of the world of student politics. It's also a pretty good addition to your CV. Last year, over 1,300 students took on the Class Rep role, and 91% said it helped them develop career-related skills. Just saying. For more information visit: glasgowunisrc.org/representation/class-reps.



SRC COUNCIL

Once feedback goes beyond the classroom, it's the SRC Council's job to represent you at every level of the University. The Council is made up of elected student representatives who sit on committees, shape policies, and regularly challenge the University to do better.

Most Council members are academic reps: School Representatives (one per School) and College Convenors (for each of the four Colleges, plus Postgraduate Research). They gather feedback from Class Reps, attend meetings with staff, and push for improvements across teaching, assessment, and student support.

Above them are the sabbatical officers – four students elected to work full-time for a year. The Vice President Education leads on academic matters and sits on major decision-making committees, including Senate and the Learning & Teaching Committee.

The Council doesn't just do the boring policy stuff (though there's a fair bit of that). In 2024–25, they led a campus-wide referendum asking whether the University should divest from arms and defence companies – nearly 10,000 students voted, with 89.3% in favour. It was the highest turnout for a student vote in years, and a clear message to the University.

Council also helped secure travel reimbursements for placements, reforms to Progress Committees, and improvements to policies around wellbeing, extenuating circumstances, and academic support. They're involved in national conversations too, representing Glasgow students in major consultations and sector-wide projects.

You can find out more, get involved, or run in a future election via glasgowunivsrc.org/representation or see the details of this year's council on page 138.



RECTOR

Every three years, Glasgow students are given the opportunity to nominate and vote for a Rector whose job it is to take the concerns of the students to the University Court. The right for students to vote for the position of the Rector dates back centuries.

In March 2024 the student body elected Dr Ghassan Abu-Sittah as the Rector for 2024-27. Dr Abu-Sittah is a celebrated Palestinian surgeon who was elected to the role with a landslide majority and a high voter turnout. You can find out more about the position of Rector and how you can get in touch with Dr Abu-Sittah at gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/students/uofgrector.

GETTING HELP

Academic Support

When you start university, you'll hear phrases like "independent learning" and "self-directed study" a lot. It's a big shift from school or college – no one's going to chase you for homework – but that doesn't mean you're on your own.

Glasgow has a solid support system for when you're stuck, stressed, or just unsure where to start. Whether you're overwhelmed by deadlines, confused by feedback, or dealing with something personal, there are people who can help. Don't suffer in silence.

ADVISER OF STUDIES

One of the first people you will meet when you start your degree is your University-appointed Adviser of Studies. You will get an email from the University telling you who your Adviser is and giving you a time and date for your introductory meeting with them.

All advisers are trained in academic support before being assigned students and for most students they will offer academic guidance and support throughout your University years.

It's a good idea to build a strong relationship with this person as they will likely be the first person you contact with any problems or when you're in need of advice; you can arrange meetings with them directly at any time in the year.

Some Colleges have introduced an 'Advising Team' system rather than allocating an individual Adviser. If you are in Arts or Social Sciences, this is likely to apply to you. Whilst you can't quite build up the same one-to-one relationship, the advantage – in theory at least – is that there should always be a member of the team on hand to answer your queries.

SLD – STUDENT LEARNING DEVELOPMENT

If you need additional assistance with your studies or learning then you should check out the Student Learning Development team, based in the Round Reading Room. They organise workshops and events to help with a whole range of academic techniques, including essay writing skills, exam and revision strategy, time management, note-taking and more. The workshops are free to attend either online or in-person. Check the SLD timetable to see what is on offer.

If you need to brush up on your maths skills you can head to their weekly drop-in session, details of which can be found online. They also offer one-to-one appointments for more specialised help which can be organised online via their website:

gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/sld.

STAFF SUPPORT

Your tutors and lecturers are one of the most, if not the most, valuable resources at University. They aren't just around to give lectures, hand out coursework and grade your papers, they are a fountain of knowledge and experience on your chosen subject. Some students go through the whole of their University career without having a single one-to-one with any of their tutors and end up regretting it.

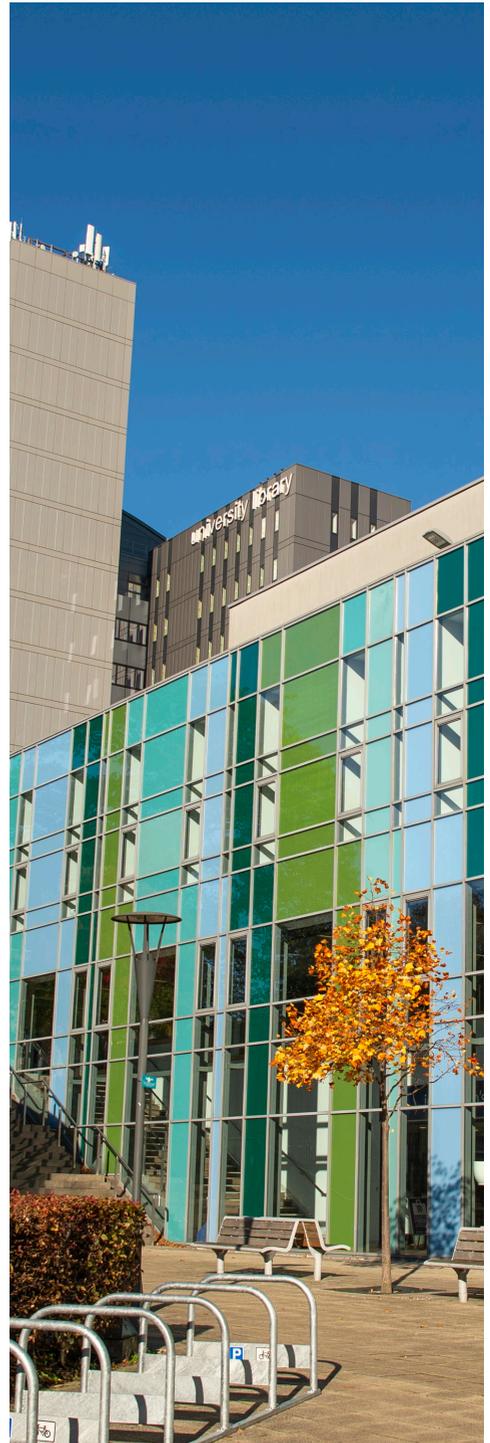
Most staff love being asked challenging or awkward questions, engaging in debates, and getting involved in conversations with their students, so don't be afraid of speaking up and questioning them. You can speak to them directly after classes or just drop them an email.

Regarding feedback, don't expect it for everything you do. Many courses give detailed feedback on major assignments but not on smaller tasks or exams. If you're unsure how your work is being marked or how to improve, ask your tutor or course convenor – it's totally okay to follow up. Feedback delays and vague comments are common complaints across the University – consider also talking to your Class Rep or getting in touch with the SRC Advice Centre.

Tutors and lecturers often have several dozen students depending on them during the year making their time precious. To try and make it nice and fair they will have office hours where you can arrange a time to go in and speak to them. To make the most of these appointments you should go prepared with questions; try to plan what you want to get out of the time you have.

STUDENT SERVICES ENQUIRY TEAM

Located on level 2 of the Fraser Building, this is where you will go when you inevitably lose your campus card, need a transcript printing, to sort out council tax exemption, and (hopefully) organise your graduation. Their desk gets extremely busy at certain times of the year, usually around the beginning and end of each semester, so be prepared for a little bit of a wait around these times.



GETTING HELP

Academic Support

DISABILITY SERVICE

The UofG Disability Service coordinates support for any student at the University with a disability, chronic illness, mobility issue, mental health condition or sensory impairment.

They're based at 65 Southpark Avenue, near the top of Gibson Street (just down the road from the Library). Support services they provide include campus accessibility, assistive technology, exam arrangements, funding, and disability coordinators. For more on accessibility around campus see page 38 or visit their web pages to see some of the support available: gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/disability/support.

SRC ADVICE CENTRE

The SRC Advice Centre offers free, confidential advice on almost everything student life throws at you – including academic appeals, complaints, progress issues and more. Based on the ground floor of the McIntyre Building, they can offer advice in person, over the phone or via MS Teams/Zoom (11:30 – 16:00) and contacted via email from Monday-Friday.

Not limited to just academic support, their team are trained to support students in a huge range of areas including accommodation, money, employment, and health. The staff here are incredibly experienced and knowledgeable about all things student.

They are also independent from the University and won't judge – they've seen it all before and will help you figure out your next steps. All information shared is completely confidential. Find out more: glasgowunisrc.org/advice.



WHERE DO I GO FOR SUPPORT?

- *Struggling to keep up with my work*
 - Adviser of Studies / Advising Team

- *Can't find my exam schedule*
 - Student Services Enquiry Team

- *I have problems with an essay grade*
 - SRC Advice Centre

- *Unsure about referencing or other study skills*
 - SLD – Student Learning Development

- *Disruption to work due to living situation*
 - SRC Advice Centre

Academic Diaries

by Collins Debden

designed with students in mind



diary
25.26

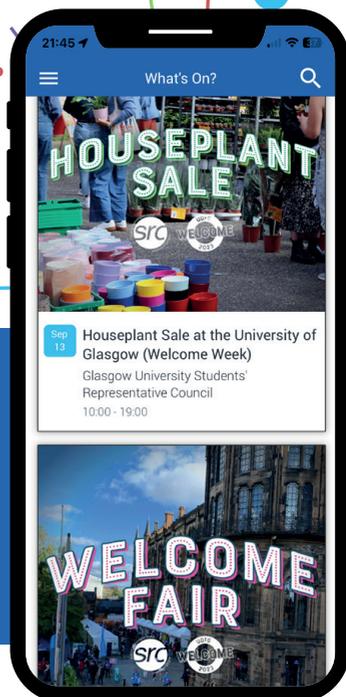
Get 20% off
with code
GU20



My SRC.

Your personalised app
for everything SRC.

- Join Clubs & Societies
- Explore Events & Tickets
- Record Volunteering Hours
- Find Advice & Support



A purple door with a black handle and a keyhole, set against a dark background. The door is framed by a black archway. The text "YOUR KEY TO THE CITY" is written in white, stylized, serif font across the top of the door.

YOUR
KEY
TO THE
CITY

Your City

Your time at UofG won't all be spent on campus or nose-deep in books. As Scotland's largest city and one of the UK's most vibrant cultural centres, Glasgow has so much to offer outside of the classroom. The following pages should serve as a good introduction to the many ways in which you can best enjoy this city, *your city*.



Did you know that Glasgow just turned 850 years old?

To celebrate this quite important birthday, the city is celebrating a year-long calendar of cultural events across town and beyond. Visit glasgow850.com and join the party.



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Neighbourhoods

Now that you know a bit more about how the University works, it's time to learn more about this great city you find yourself in. Like any city, Glasgow is separated into various neighbourhoods and districts. Roughly, these can be divided into North, South, East and West, each area with its own features, people and vibe. Over time, you'll find which parts of the city you like best but read on to get a taste of a few areas we'd recommend.

WEST END

Where better to start than the West End: home of the University you're attending and likely where you'll be living for at least some of your time in Glasgow. The West End is characterised by its grand architecture, leafy suburbs and hipster establishments.

HILLHEAD

Home of the University and the West End's busy shopping street, Byres Road. Hillhead is really at the heart of the West End and is where a lot of students will live and sometimes work in the many shops, bars and cafés.

PARTICK

Towards the end of Byres Road, heading to the Clyde, you'll find yourself in Partick. Another popular area for students with slightly less shopping, but plenty of great pubs. Partick Station is very handy for getting in and out of the city.

FINNIESTON

Located at the end of Kelvin Way and hugging the banks of the Clyde, Finnieston was once a ship-building district, but these days the welders have dropped tools and hipster baristas have stepped in. Some amazing places to eat and drink here, though a bit pricey. In 2016, it was voted 'Hippest Place in the UK' by *The Times*. We think it still is.

EAST END

On the opposite side of the city, far along Argyle Street, you'll come to the East End. An area with a fierce working-class heritage, the East End has some fantastic sights including Glasgow Green, the Necropolis and every drinking Glaswegian's favourite place, the Tennent's Brewery.

GALLOWGATE

This part of the city might feel out of your comfort-zone if you get used to the West End bubble, but for a taste of the real Glasgow you have to embrace what it has to offer.

There's no better place to get stuck into the East End culture than the Barras – a world-famous rag-tag market which sprawls for what feels like miles and features an eclectic collection of curios and castaways. Also worth checking out is the Barrowland Ballroom – a stunning classic ballroom turned into a world-class gig venue.

DENNISTOUN

A laid-back and cool part of the city, Dennistoun is becoming increasingly popular with students from across all four of Glasgow's Universities because of its great pubs and cheap-ish accommodation. Worth checking out is the aforementioned Necropolis and the nearby Glasgow Cathedral [more on page 62, Top Sights].

CITY CENTRE

Glasgow's city centre is unmistakable because of the grid-iron streets, reminiscent of New York (we did it first! Take that, Spiderman). For shopping, eating, going out, culture there is no better place in the city, and to be honest in all of Scotland. Get to town from the West End by taking the 2, 3 or 77 from Kelvingrove, the 4 or 4A from campus, and the 6 or 6A from Great Western Road.

GEORGE SQUARE

In the centre of the city centre, is George Square – a large traditional plaza with a war memorial at one end, several statues, and overlooked by the impressive City Chambers. A lot of the city's protests and marches are held here; it's also home to a decent Christmas market in December. Currently going under a massive regeneration project.

MERCHANT CITY

Named for wealthy tobacco lords [many of whom were slave-traders – see page 94] the Merchant City is where you'll find some of the city's swankiest restaurants and most up-market bars. Not traditionally a student area, though good for a date night. Also home to Glasgow's 'Pink Triangle' [page 83].

SOUTHSIDE

Venture south of the River Clyde and you'll get to the Southside – a vast area which covers a wide range of residential and industrial districts. These roads are less travelled by students, but the trip will so be worth it in the end.

SHAWLANDS

A little out of the way via public transport, Shawlands is a bustling and energetic community in the south of the city. Characterised mainly by Queen's Park, one of the city's largest and loveliest green spaces, this area is a great place for a day trip with a friend or partner.

GOVAN

Just over the river from Partick, Govan is an area with a rich history – Vikings once roamed these parts, and it was its own burgh until 1912. These days, Govan has a strong local identity, proud traditions, and some great riverside spots to explore. Thanks to a shiny new foot-bridge opened in 2024, it's now just a short walk from Partick – ideal for a change of scene.



GLASGOW NORTH

North of Great Western Road lies Glasgow North. If you're in Murano Street, Wolfson, or Firhill Halls, this will be your new stomping ground. Maryhill is the heart of this part of the city – maybe a bit rough round the edges, but full of character and surprises. The Forth and Clyde Canal adds a splash of life, and there's no missing the Partick Thistle stadium or the legendary Big Tesco.



Top Sights

There is so much to see and do in Glasgow, you could easily go through the next four years without managing to do it all. Throughout this section we'll tell you about the various things to see and do, but to help you out here is a quick rundown of some of the top sights in the city. Visit these at your leisure to get the most out of Glasgow.



KELVINGROVE ART GALLERY AND MUSEUM

FREE

In Glasgow we're spoilt for choice for amazing museums and galleries [see page 66], though in our opinion you really can't beat Kelvingrove. Located just a stone's throw away from the University, this Baroque hulk of a building houses over 8,000 objects ranging from world-renowned artworks (including works by Salvador Dali and Charles Rennie Mackintosh) to exhibits on Ancient Egypt, Natural History and Arms and Armour. It is worth taking a trip just to see the building itself – it's as close to Night At The Museum as you're likely to get in Scotland. The best part: it's free for everyone!



BOTANIC GARDENS

FREE

Also not far from the University campus is one of the city's loveliest green spaces. The Botanic Gardens (or just The Botanics) are a great place to go to take a break from the hustle and bustle of the city, especially in the spring and summer months. There are ample walking routes and large lawns, but the main attraction is the two huge glasshouses. The Kibble Palace (pictured) is a magnificent Victorian glasshouse full of tropical plants from around the world. Dotted around the circular structure of the building you'll find a series of Victorian marble statues, such as the one pictured – Eve by Scipione Tadolini (c. 1870).



THE BURRELL COLLECTION

FREE

Down in the Southside, accessible via the train to Pollokshaws West from Glasgow Central, you'll find the recently re-opened Burrell Collection – a sprawling museum and gallery set in the grounds of Pollok Park. The objects on show include both fine art – Degas, Rodin, Rembrandt – beautiful historical pieces such as fine medieval tapestries and pottery, and much more. It's well worth a visit south and you can make a day of it by also exploring the massive park it's set in, as well as nearby Shawlands. On Wednesday afternoons, they also run curated talks on selected objects in the museum, so why not pop in then?



GLASGOW SCIENCE CENTRE

££

Just a hop over the River Clyde sits Glasgow's Science Centre. The centre hosts hundreds of exhibits and interactive learning tools that simply, yet un-patronisingly, explain a full spectrum of scientific concepts and fundamentals. It may seem aimed at kids; don't be fooled. It's a lot of fun for visitors of all ages. Negatives? It's one of the few paid entry venues in this list, and it's not cheap. However, students do get a discounted entry for £12.54 (without donation and during the off-peak period) and for an additional £5 you can access the Glasgow Science Tower (great views when it is open). They also have an IMAX cinema located on site.



GLASGOW CATHEDRAL

FREE

Towering above the East End, the oldest building in Glasgow, and in fact the oldest cathedral in mainland Scotland, is Glasgow Cathedral. Dedicated to the city's patron saint, St. Mungo, in 1136, the cathedral is a fantastic example of Scottish medieval Gothic architecture and is one of the few of its kind to survive the Reformation (ask your mates who are studying history what this is). Our own University began life in this building back in 1451, before moving to High Street and eventually to the West End in 1870. Entry to the cathedral is free (a small donation is suggested) and the stunning interior is not to be missed.



THE LIGHTHOUSE

FREE

A lesser-known sight in tourist guides, The Lighthouse is one of Glasgow's hidden gems. The entrance is down Mitchell Lane, off Buchanan Street, and is very easy to miss. Formerly housing one of Glasgow's main newspapers, The Herald, the building is now home to Scotland's Centre for Design and Architecture. It features a visitor centre, exhibition space and events venue with a regular calendar of art shows from across the country. The best bit about The Lighthouse is the view from the top – climb up the long spiralling staircase (pictured) and you'll be rewarded with an unparalleled view out over the city centre skyline.

Parks

Should you ever wish to get away from the hustle and bustle of city life then living in Glasgow you're almost spoilt for choice; affectionately referred to as the "Dear Green Place", Glasgow contains over 90 public parks and boasts the highest green space per capita of any European city (so cool, we know).

Here are a few of our favourite green spaces for relaxing, exploring or getting that perfect Insta pic – as well as a few Top-Tips for living your best park-life.

BOTANIC GARDENS

Starting off in the West End we have the Botanic Gardens and Kelvingrove Park, both of which are practically on campus. The Botanic Gardens lie at the north end of Byres Road heading out towards Murano Street and Queen Margaret Halls for anyone living at these halls of residence. Here you'll find plenty of grassy space for enjoying the short but savoured sunshine plus two Victorian glasshouses with tropical climates – well-worth visiting when it's freezing outside the rest of the year.



KELVINGROVE PARK

Kelvingrove Park starts at the bottom of University Avenue, next to the GUU and has a wee bit of everything, including grassy hills, a skate/BMX park, riverside walks and more dogs and dog-walkers than you can shake a stick at. Whether nature's your thing or not, there's really no better place to go in the West End – year-round it's a perfect spot for clearing your head between lectures, chilling with friends or just taking five minutes out of our day to appreciate your surroundings.

However, do be aware that in the height of summer it can get a little crowded (and somewhat overstimulating) and although it is open to the public at night, unlike the Botanic Gardens, it's not fully illuminated (there is catwalk lighting on some paths and near play areas but it's not great) so it's best to stay away when it's dark [see page 120 for tips on staying safe].





THE NECROPOLIS

Moving toward the East End we've got Glasgow Green and the Necropolis. The latter of these is a Victorian graveyard situated behind the Glasgow Cathedral. You may be thinking, "a graveyard?" and though it may sound a bit spooky, it is surprisingly peaceful, it has a great vista out over the city centre and it's great for walking dogs (Fun fact: did you know that over 50,000 people are buried here? Mad.)

GLASGOW GREEN

Not far from The Necropolis, on the northern bank of the Clyde, is the famous, cleverly named Glasgow Green – it's a massive expanse of grassy fields divided by old trees and wide footpaths. Notable attractions include: The People's Palace which is currently closed due to a major refurbishment [check page 66 to see how it looks outside though], the Doulton Fountain, and several statues and monuments including the Nelson Monument and McLennan Arch – Glasgow's answer to the Arc de Triomphe. The Green is also usually home to TRNSMT festival in July [see page 84 for more on Glasgow's festivals].

QUEENS PARK, POLLOK PARK

Over on the south side of the river, there's Queens Park and Pollok Country Park. Should you be reading this after a few weeks of getting used to the West End bubble then the Southside might seem like miles away. However, if you're adventurous, and don't mind taking a 35 – 40 minute bus or train journey southward (the 3, 4 or 4A from the West End, or the 38 or 57 from the city centre), then you'll be justly rewarded with two of the city's largest and more scenic escapes. They're worth visiting just for the swans in Queens Park and the adorable highland cows in Pollok Park.

Park Life Top-Tips:

1. OUTDOOR DRINKING

Basically, don't drink in parks. It is against the law in Glasgow to drink from (or even have in your possession) an open alcohol container in any public place. This means you cannot drink alcohol anywhere other than private property. So, parks, the street and even outside of your halls are totally off-limits. It may seem strict or bizarre if you aren't used to it, but the police take it very seriously and you can be fined from £60 all the way up to £500 on the spot if you're found to be in violation.

2. BARBECUES

Though not illegal, BBQs are against the rules in most parks and are generally frowned upon by the police, the council and local residents. Some parks have designated BBQ areas which are fine to use (Kelvingrove being one) but as a general rule try to avoid having disposable BBQs or outdoor fires in grassy areas as it leaves a black burn mark which spoils the experience for other park-goers.

3. SAFETY

As mentioned above, it's generally not a good idea to enter any of Glasgow's parks after dark as sadly most of them are poorly illuminated and can be unsafe as they attract dodgy characters. Should you have to go into a park at night for whatever reason, make sure to bring a friend with you, have your phone on and ensure that it's charged. Having a wee flashlight or the torch turned on your phone will also help you see your surroundings better and catch people's attention if you need help.

Culture

The great outdoors not your thing? Or just sick of the horizontal rain? Well luckily Glasgow has plenty of indoor retreats for all you culture vultures, including world-class *free* museums, art galleries (both classical and contemporary), and some of the best theatres and concert halls in the country. Here's a wee introduction to a few of our favourite spots to visit on rainy days.

MUSEUMS

Many of the objects, works and buildings which make up Glasgow's museums and galleries were gifted to the city by a few exceedingly wealthy benefactors – nice of them, eh? As a result, to this day most museums and galleries may be entered free of charge – often only asking for small donations. Our list is by no means exhaustive – there are so many artsy spots and one-off exhibitions happening year-round all over the city. To keep up with new venues and the latest events happening near you, check out Glasgow Art Map here: glasgowartmap.com.

THE HUNTERIAN

Right here on campus, we have The Hunterian – a collection of artworks, historical artefacts and scientific relics housed across five buildings at the University which together make up the oldest museum in Scotland. Handily all within walking distance of one another, the museum is made up of the Hunterian Gallery and The Mackintosh House, found adjacent to the University Library; the Hunterian Museum, accessible via the Main Building; as well as the Zoology and Anatomy Museums, found down the lane towards the Kelvin Building (home to strange jars of pickled stuff).

KELVINGROVE ART GALLERY AND MUSEUM

Perhaps the most impressive building in Glasgow's cultural roster is the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum. Found at the bottom of Kelvin Way, it's only a stone's throw from campus and is a great place to take your parents / relatives so they can see how cultured you've become since starting University. Free to enter and full of surprises, Kelvingrove has almost too many features to list.

Notable best bits include: a full-size WW2 Spitfire suspended 20 feet in the air, an original Salvador Dali in an ominous dark room (Christ of St. John of the Cross), and a monumental church-organ, over 100 years old, which is skilfully played at recitals that take place Monday – Saturday, at 13:00 and at 15:00 on Sundays.



RIVERSIDE MUSEUM

On the north bank of the Clyde between Partick and Yorkhill, the architecturally stunning Riverside Museum boasts an exhaustive, if slightly interestingly presented, visual history of the city's transport, the Glenlee: a three masted baroque tall ship, along with Glasgow's sporting and industrial exports across the world. If you are visiting, make sure to look for Car 128, the Subway carriage which retired in 2024 and found a new home in the museum with its ancestors.

GLASGOW SCIENCE CENTRE

Jump back to our Top Sights page [62] to see our recommendation for the Glasgow Science Centre – well worth a visit, though a little pricey at £12.54 for a student entry ticket during the off-peak season. Another Top Sight is the Burrell Collection, down in the Southside.

THE TENEMENT HOUSE

This wee house on Garnethill is a time capsule of what life used to be like in Glasgow during the early 20th century. With its quirky items, original furniture from the 1910s, and just four but surprisingly self-sufficient rooms, it's definitely one of Glasgow's cultural hidden gems and best kept secrets. Tickets are £10, but £7.50 for concession visitors and only £1 if you have a Young Scot card.

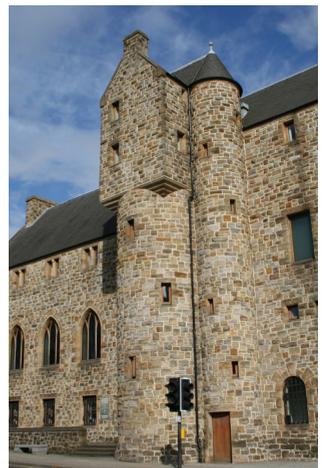
GOVAN OLD PARISH CHURCH

Just across the Clyde from the West End you'll find the former burgh of Govan and nestled away in it you'll find the Govan Old Parish Church, home to the Govan Stones. These stones date back to Viking times and are said to be some of the best examples of early medieval sculpture in Britain. Entry is free and the whole enterprise is run by friendly volunteers. Currently open 1pm – 4pm, 7 days a week until October 31st at least. If you're into guided tours, be there at opening time for one.

ST. MUNGO'S

Further down the river, near the Glasgow Cathedral, you'll find St. Mungo's Museum of Religious Life and Art. Named after the patron saint of the city, this collection takes an unbiased glance at various religions around the world and frames them through the display of various objects and art. Free to enter and with a beautiful Japanese Zen garden in its grounds (Britain's first), this spot is not to be missed.

Honourable Mentions: **THE ALASDAIR GRAY ARCHIVE** (Port Dundas) and **GLASGOW MUSEUMS RESOURCE CENTRE** (Nitshill).



Culture



CITY CENTRE

In the city centre, the main arts venue is Glasgow's Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA) found just off Buchanan Street in the centre of the fairy light canopy of Royal Exchange Square. After your obligatory photo with the statue of Wellington wearing a traffic cone, venture inside to view a constantly changing, thoughtful showcase of local and international talent (suggested donation).

This summer (2025), the Gallery hosted 'Mimemis: African Soldier' by John Akomfrah, a film installation reflecting upon the experience of soldiers from the Commonwealth during WWI, as well as the eccentric 'Undoing It' (running until October 26th) by Ciara Philips, an installation incorporating etchings, woodcuts and screen-prints (kind of cool, right?).

Also in the city centre, you'll find The Lighthouse Gallery which hosts a rotating showcase of Glasgow creative talent and a fantastic exhibition dedicated to its designer, Glasgow's favourite son and world-renowned architect, Charles Renie Mackintosh.

ART & GALLERIES

As with history and heritage, Glasgow is teeming with contemporary and world-class visual arts. This is thanks in part to the world famous and highly prestigious Glasgow School of Art. Each spring, Glasgow School of Art (GSA) hosts its degree shows, with work from students showcased at its city centre campus and venues around the city. It's an incredible showcase of young talent, so worth seeking out.



EAST & WEST

Out of the city centre towards the East End, be sure to visit the WASPS Artists' Studios space in the Briggait, an old Clyde-side building, home to a vibrant arts and performance community. Just round the corner from here is Glasgow Print Studio, an institution which has fostered many a Glasgow talent.

In the West End, just a 15-minute walk from campus is SWG3, a warehouse arts space with ground floor live music, clubbing and an exhibition venue. They host regular club nights and cultural events and there's always an interesting art display to check out.

SOUTHSIDE

Glasgow is far from short of visual arts venues, with temporary and established institutions across the city. The Tramway in Pollokshields is Glasgow's Tate Modern – an arts space that gives a platform to a huge variety of artists to hone and display their work. Tramway is home to a number of Glasgow's cultural institutions including Scottish Ballet, and also hosts The Hidden Gardens, a unique green space which is, as the name would suggest, hidden away from the hustle and bustle of the city.

There's art all over the city really. If you're out and about exploring then keep your eyes peeled and your mind open and you could stumble upon some beautiful art anywhere in Glasgow, including stunning murals (check out citycentremuraltrail.co.uk for a full map), graffiti art, and sculptures scattered across the city.

THEATRES

Theatre in Glasgow can be found in nearly every format and venue imaginable. From classic Shakespeare in velvet-adorned auditoriums, to drama students performing in the middle of the street, to couples arguing passionately in kebab shops at the weekend.



BIG THEATRES

Glasgow Theatre Royal is the home of Scottish Opera and hosts seasonal performances as well as national touring productions, musicals and slickly produced touring plays. It also hosts shows from Scottish Ballet including their ever-popular Christmas production, which this year will be 'The Snow Queen'. The theatre building itself recently underwent a multimillion-pound rebuild, and it's worth popping in just to see the foyer – a balcony at the top gives an inspiring view of the city.

The sister theatre to the Royal, the King's Theatre is an impressive throwback to the music hall era, hosting everything from stand-up, through the biggest touring productions, to local musical theatre. Inside is a beautifully finished auditorium with a capacity of just under 1,800, meaning tickets aren't too difficult to come by. They host one of the best annual pantos available in Glasgow – this year it's 'The Little Mermaid'.

INDEPENDENT THEATRES

The Citizens Theatre is, as its name would suggest, a theatre for the people. It's a proper Glasgow institution and is the favoured theatre of both city veterans and idealistic students, staging all kinds of works with a distinctly Glaswegian flavour. After many years of a much-needed refurbishment, the venue will finally reopen its doors to the public in August 2025 in the Gorbals. The theatre is already promoting a bunch of shows and community projects coming up in autumn and winter: check what's on at citz.co.uk.

The Tron sits in the Merchant City, 5-minute walk from St. Enoch Subway. It's a great, varied venue where you'll best find edgy, new, energetic and experimental entertainment, and a good way to feel intellectually challenged without having to walk too far. Their panto is also very good, and this year will be 'Gallus in Weegieland'.

Not strictly a theatre – but definitely a venue worth checking out at least once – is Oran

Mór. Sitting neatly at the top end of Byres Road, it's the towering former church building with an illuminated hoop that's hard to miss. It has spent the last decade building its reputation for entertainment excellence and is used for comedy, live music, ceilidhs and private events. Its crowning glory is the 'A Play, A Pie and A Pint' programme that showcases local and original talent and scripts, at low cost, and with, eh, a pie... and a pint.

One of the best things about seeing live theatre in Glasgow is that it doesn't need to break the bank. Most theatres – big and small – offer concession pricing for students, and many also run low-cost or "Pay What You Decide" schemes, especially for new or experimental work. The Citizens Theatre, for example, offers discounted previews and under-26 rates, while Oran Mór's Play, Pie and a Pint is famously affordable. Always check the venue's website for the latest deals – or ask at the box office.

Entertainment

If culture isn't your thing, or perhaps you just want a break from the highbrow, then Glasgow has plenty of options for entertainment of a lighter kind. If there's one thing that can be said of Glaswegians it's that they love having a laugh; the city is bustling with comedy clubs, cinemas, drag nights, quizzes and more. Here's a quick taste of what's on offer.

CINEMAS

Glasgow has had a love affair with the silver screen for the best part of a century; in the 1930s the 'Cinema City' was said to have had more film screenings per person than anywhere else in the UK. Although the rise of streaming services and pirate movies may mean the heyday of cinema has passed, for any of you who still savour the experience of a trip to the pictures then Glasgow is still the place to be.

BIG CINEMAS

First off, we'll cover a few of the more commercial cinemas which mostly show the latest blockbusters, but occasionally also have special screenings of classic films. Nearest to campus is The Grosvenor on Ashton Lane – a lovely little cinema with two screens, plush leather seats and a license to serve alcohol. This a great spot for catching a flick after lectures but it has limited seats so it's best to book in advance, especially at weekends or for new releases.

For something a bit bigger, take a 10-minute Subway ride to St. Enoch via Hillhead and you'll be within walking distance of the Vue at the St Enoch Centre, and Cineworld on Renfrew Street – one of Europe's tallest cinemas, with 18 screens and seating for over 4,000 people. As of August 2025, the future of the Cineworld site is uncertain, as the building's landlord has indicated plans to take back the property – so keep an eye on news and listings to check whether it's still open.

A relatively new addition to the city centre is the Everyman Cinema in the Princes Square shopping centre. It's a pricey experience (tickets are from £13 for an adult) but you'll enjoy your film in the lap of luxury, with sofa seating and table service where you can order food and drinks from your seat.

INDEPENDENT CINEMAS

For the connoisseurs among you, Glasgow has some excellent smaller picture-houses that show the latest in international, art-house and critically acclaimed cinema. The most notable of these is the Glasgow Film Theatre or GFT. This beautiful cinema is unique within the city, and perhaps the country, in that it is one of the only purpose-built art-house cinemas of its kind and was in fact the second ever to be constructed in the UK.

The GFT also differs from most cinemas because it continues to function as an independent charity, rather than being part of a corporate chain. This means that their staff and volunteers get full say on what films they show and allows them to maintain traditional practices such as screening films on 35mm and 70mm reels and hiring trained projectionists. They also host festivals, filmmaker Q&As and special event screenings throughout the year.

ACTIVITIES

Maybe you're not a fan of the pictures, and you'd rather get out and about doing something more active; Glasgow has a whole lot of activities for you to try while you live here, either for a night out with flatmates or for a chill, wholesome afternoon when your family comes to visit.

ROLLER SKATING

Rollerstop is five minutes away from Kinning Park Subway station and is the perfect place to let off steam after a long week with its themed nights, friendly staff, and a wee café. It's relatively cheap and a safe environment even for not-so-confident skaters. It's very popular with families – you might want to avoid the 4pm and 6pm slots on weekends if you'd rather skip the birthday party chaos. The 18+ nights slap.

ARTS & CRAFTS

If you're into arts and crafts, The Craft Pottery on Washington Street offers pottery painting and even wheel-throwing or clay-sculpting classes, which are a bit pricier but more hands-on. You can also try Firepit and Kiln in The Quay which has a fancy restaurant alongside the pottery studio. It's also worth checking out crafting sessions here on campus, either hosted by clubs and societies, or in one of the unions [page 12]. BRSHES is a new independent studio also based on Washington Street, offering guided sessions with various packages and 2.5-hour slots.

MINI GOLF

You can never go wrong with mini-golf and thankfully, Glasgow has some solid options to choose from. Jungle Rumble on Bath Street in town is quite popular amongst families with young children but also perfect for a night out with friends on weekends. Golf Fang on Lancefield Street has the craziest themes for each room and serves banging cocktails. If you're willing to make the trek, definitely check out Top Golf in Rutherglen in the East End of Glasgow.



ARCADES

Arcades will never grow old either. Level X on the top floor of St Enoch's Shopping Centre has all your classic arcade games as well as funky and new immersive experiences, and Fayre Play in Kinning Park has all the retro and colourful vibes you need. There's also NQ64 and Super Bario in the Merchant City. All open till late and for adults only.

BOWLING

For the nights when you can't pick and want to try a wee bit of everything, Bowlarama on Glassford Street has evolved from a bowling-only venue into a multi-activity hangout, offering darts, batting cages, and more – all bookable in advance. Boom Battle Bar is also great if you want to have a go at axe throwing or just chill with your favourite bar games, like beer pong and pool.

Entertainment

COMEDY

All things considered; Glasgow has a pretty strong track record when it comes to comedy. The likes of Billy Connolly, Frankie Boyle, Kevin Bridges, Karen Dunbar and Susan Calman all first cut their teeth in Glasgow's pubs and comedy clubs. The comedy scene in the city is still strong today, if you know where to look.

THE STAND

The Stand is really the centre of Glasgow's comedy scene for most of the year. Located near to Gibson Street, this Glasgow institution is brave enough to offer stand-up entertainment seven nights a week the whole year round. You can find everything there from seasoned veterans trying out their material to new blood choking in front of a typically unforgiving Glasgow audience.

Their best value night, at only £5 entry for members and concession visitors, is a Red Raw Tuesday but also look out for the odd times when some of the bigger comics come back to their home turf to brush up on their Glesga patter – it's not unheard of to see Frankie Boyle or Kevin Bridges dropping in to test new material – sometimes for less than a tenner.

ELSEWHERE

Elsewhere, the city centre's Glee Club hosts live comedy every Friday and Saturday, and you'll find that many pubs across Glasgow will host semi-regular comedy nights including The Old Hairdresser's, Van Winkle and The Gilchrist on campus (pictured). If big name comics are more your thing, then you're best looking to the city's large venues such as the SEC Hydro, Armadillo, or O2 Academy. If you're a big comedy fan make sure you're free in the month of March as this is when the International Comedy Festival takes over many of the city's venues, including right here on campus at The Gilchrist [more on page 84].

DRAG

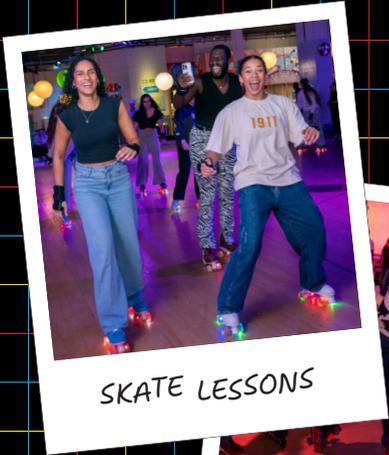
Glasgow, like most large UK cities, has had a drag scene for many years but it's only recently it has become more mainstream.

These days, thanks in-part to the explosive popularity of RuPaul's Drag Race, drag has become a mainstay in many bars and clubs who host their own drag shows or drag bingo nights as part of their weekly line-ups.

Drag 101 (pictured) takes place regularly right here on campus in The Gilchrist and is run by Dharma Geddon and Alana Duvvey, Glasgow's drag queen power couple. Expect to be shook by Dharma's insane looks which in the past have included Mr. Freeze (complete with dry ice) and the Broken Ballerina, and we once saw her wear what can only be described as a giant robot claw-machine; it really has to be seen to be believed.



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Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Dining

The last few years have seen Glasgow quietly and confidently growing in reputation for excellent local and world food. The Glasgow food scene is a captivating mix of high cuisine – a refined and highly developed product of an internationalised, creative cooking – and the kind of sticky street / pub / fast food that you lust for after-hours. This section will introduce some of the city's best independent and maybe lesser-known eateries.

There's new cafés, bars and restaurants opening every week and if you want to keep up with the trends, we suggest following some of food vloggers on TikTok: our favourites are [@foodngems](#), [@flavoursofglasgow](#) and [@glasgals.gla](#).

FIND A DEAL

Making your own food and taking it with you is always going to be cheaper than eating out, but if you are committed to a proper dining experience and price is a factor, the best advice to remember is to find a deal.

As a student, many restaurants will offer exclusive discounts [page 126] to get your loan money in their tills and many of the ones that don't will probably have some kind of deal available if you're organised and looking to dine at the right time. The first thing to look out for is pre-theatre deals.

Mostly designed to fill up the restaurants during quiet early-evening times, if your lectures finish early enough, you'll be able to take advantage of a 'two courses for X amount' deal before 19:00 (our favs include Sannio, just a two-minute walk from King's Theatre in town, and Café Andaluz on Cresswell Lane near campus).

It's also worth acquainting yourself with websites such as itison, 5pm, Wowcher and Living Social; browsing between these three sites when planning ahead and looking for a bargain almost always guarantees a cheap meal somewhere in the city (good for a date night on a budget). Use TripAdvisor or Google Reviews for (fairly) honest reviews and if you're using a voucher site, be sure to keep an eye on expiry dates and other terms and conditions.



DAY-TO-DAY

Glasgow has a thriving food scene for breakfast, brunch and lunch as much as it does for dinner. Though you'll soon find your favourites, those below are probably good to get you started for when you don't have time / can't be bothered to make a lunch.

ON CAMPUS

Both unions offer cheap eats; the GUU has the Union Kitchen and G12 café, and the QMU's bistro, café or Asian restaurant (Peko Panda) are solid choices. The University's catering (the JMS, the Library) can be a bit pricey and busy, though The Gilchrist PG Club is a nice wee spot if you can nab a table (it's open to all years, not just postgrads). The best bargain on campus can be found at The Crypt under the Wellington Church – cracking, cheap and filling food served by volunteers. Amazing soup. Very much open during term time but has varying opening hours during summer, always check their Facebook page and website before showing up.



WEST END

Close to campus, Bank Street Bar and Kitchen is a tried and tested favourite (excellent for pints in the sun also), and continuing in that direction Cotton-rake Bakery is a good shout as well, if a bit pricey. Other highlights include Bagel Mania, Taco Mazama and Tinderbox. When in doubt (or when absolutely skint), the new Greggs on Byres Road offers various meal deals for up to £7, and you can never go wrong with their vegan sausages (unfortunately, not halal).

If you're looking for a quick bite to go, you need to venture down Kelvin Way to find Mactasos food truck – simply the best Greek gyros. For something different and delicious you've got to try Ramen Dayo on Ashton Lane – the smallest, cutest restaurant with the most immaculate vibes (super popular and very busy most times). Tennent's Bar offers traditional pub grub for a few quid and just up the road is Little Italy – a classic Italian pizzeria where you can get a margherita the size of a paving slab.



CITY CENTRE

If you find yourself hungry in the city centre during the day, there's plenty of sandwich shops to check out such as Sister Midnight, Piece, or about 100 Subways. Also consider Social Bite and KCal for something tasty and soul-nourishing, or Mikaku on Queen Street does a great bowl of ramen for super cheap. One of Glasgow's hidden gems is Falafel To Go – a tiny hole-in-wall kiosk that sells incredible falafel wraps for only £4.50.

If fast-food is your thing, then you certainly won't be disappointed by Glasgow's pick of the usual big names (McDonalds, KFC etc.) plus some newcomers from across the pond: Taco Bell and Popeye's from the States, Tim Horton's from Canada and Jollibee from the Philippines.

PUB GRUB

If you're looking for a casual evening meal with a beer, Glasgow excels in pubs with good food, quiet corners and a chilled vibe.

INN DEEP

Nestled under the Great Western Bridge, Inn Deep is a beer bar with a solid food offering and plenty of indoor and outdoor seating. It's not super-cheap, but it's way above par on both food and drink.

THE HILLHEAD BOOKCLUB

Conveniently located off Byres Road, the Hillhead Bookclub is very student-friendly and probably one of the best in terms of veggie and vegan options. Always bring your student ID to make full use of their discounts.

THE RAVEN

City centre bar – The Raven – has a decent menu of American BBQ-style food including brisket, chicken and ribs. They also have a good selection of beers and cocktails. Tends to get busy after 17:00 with the post-work crowd.

THE OLD SCHOOLHOUSE

Just around the corner from the GUU, The Schoolhouse is a crowd-pleaser – easy going, pleasing menu and plenty of room. No frills, no fuss, just proper grub.

Dining

CAFÉS

Technically, coffee isn't food, but as you'll find out within a couple of weeks of early morning lectures, it's just as crucial to your survival as a student. If you are looking for a quick filter coffee in between classes, the Eco-Hub on the ground floor of the Boyd Orr has the cheapest on campus for only 50p. Check out our recommendations for a nice coffee off-campus.

OFFSHORE: Found down on Gibson Street and a favourite of students. A great space to meet friends, work on projects and, of course, drink some cracking coffee. Sublime cheese toasties and big comfy sofas.

S'MUG: Conveniently placed at the bottom of Great George St., this wee place is great for when the Library coffee just won't cut it. Try the London Fog.

ROAST: Nestled away in Finnieston this café / brunch spot not only does a mean flat white, but one of the best morning rolls in town. Great for those chilly walks to class.

GORDON STREET COFFEE: A good bet for city centre cravings; Gordon Street is inside Central Station roasting their own delicious beans.

OTTOMAN COFFEEHOUSE: A stunning spot found off Berkeley Street on the way to the city centre from the West End, this authentic Turkish establishment is a true hidden gem in which to sip your morning brew.

Honourable mentions: **CAFE STRANGE BREW** (Shawlands), **TANTRUM DOUGHNUTS** (Finnieston), **SPITFIRE ESPRESSO** (Merchant City), **PAPER CUP** (Great Western Road).

VEGAN AND VEGGIE

Whether you're a dyed-in-the-wool vegan, a part-time pescetarian or just a curious foodie, Glasgow has an excellent reputation when it comes to veggie and vegan eating, and was voted sixth best place in the UK for vegan-friendly dining in July 2024. Make sure to also download the Happy Cow app to find vegan-friendly restaurants and menus near you.

MONO: Located off the Trongate, not far from Glasgow Green, Mono is an excellent vegan restaurant, bar and record shop. Well-priced, relaxed and fun. Be sure to check out their roster of gigs, and definitely visit on Record Store Day (Saturday 12th April 2026).

STEREO: Stuck down a back-alley near Glasgow Central, Stereo isn't quite double what Mono is, but still a great place to grab a plate of expertly prepared vegetarian cuisine. They also host loads of club nights and gigs in their sweaty basement.

THE HUG AND PINT: Arguably one of the best shouts for vegan food in Glasgow right now is The Hug and Pint on Great Western Road. Their Asian-inspired street food has won acclaim from vegans and meat-eaters alike for its outstanding quality, so definitely worth checking out.

THE FLYING DUCK: Again, not found in the most convenient spot (it's as if the meat eaters don't want you to find these places), The Flying Duck is in a basement near Buchanan Street. Fantastic menu, lovely staff and a good roster of events.

SUISSI VEGAN KITCHEN: Not too far from campus, along Dumbarton Road in Thornwood, you'll find some tasty Pan-Asian vegan offerings. Seeing the words 'caramelised banana slices' on the menu should be enough to pique your interest.

Honourable mentions: **THE GLASVEGAN** (City Centre), **LOCAVORE SOUTHSIDE** (Govanhill).

DATE NIGHT

If you're hosting friends or family and want to show off how cultured and sophisticated Glasgow is, there are plenty of upscale dinner spots to show off just how well we do food here. Be warned however, eating as well as this doesn't come cheap, and booking in advance is essential.

OX AND FINCH: They pioneered the quality small-plates style of dining in Glasgow. Their seasonal menus are ambitious, delicious, and worth saving up for. Be sure to book in advance.

NUMBER 16: Blink and you'll miss it, this tiny eatery is tucked away at the bottom of Byres Road. The menu changes every week according to what ingredients they have available, but whatever is being served will undoubtedly be outstanding quality.

GLORIOSA: A relative newcomer to the fine dining scene, this cool spot down in Finnieston serves deliciously fresh Mediterranean-influenced dishes and craft wine. It's got a pretty low-key, casual vibe and great cocktails.

SIX BY NICO: Starting out with one restaurant in 2015, local chef and restaurateur Nico Simone has gone from strength to strength and expanded his empire to have locations across the

UK, including a new one right on Byres Road. The whole schtick with Six by Nico is that the menu rotates every six weeks and you get six courses based around a theme, all of which are carefully crafted for a proper culinary experience. Recent themes have included 'Tokyo Reimagined', 'Funfare' and 'Guilty Pleasures'. Be sure to book way in advance for a table here as spaces get snapped up very quickly.



Dining: Best of Glasgow

- **Burger:** Buck's Bar (West Regent St.)
- **Chinese:** Sichuan House (Sauchiehall St.)
- **Fish & Chips:** Merchant Chippie (High St.)
- **Indian:** Chaakoo (St. Vincent St.)
- **Japanese:** Nippon Kitchen (West George St.)
- **Korean:** Namu (Hope St.)
- **Mexican:** El Jefe's (St. Vincent St.)
- **Pizza:** Paesano Pizza (Great Western Road)
- **Seafood:** Crabshakk (Argyle St.)
- **Scottish:** Cail Bruich (Great Western Road)
- **Tapas:** Elena's (Old Dumbarton Road)
- **Thai:** Ting Thai (Byres Road)

Drinking



WEST END

The West End is, by most people's standards, one of the best places to go drinking in the city. It has its fair share of modern bars as well as loads of traditional pubs.

Ashton Lane is the centre of the West End's bar scene, and though on weekends it might seem like the entirety of Glasgow's office workers head there to drink and eat, there are some cracking bars either side of the cobbled street.

Our top pick is Brel, which has a great food and beer selection and an amazing beer garden which has been very popular since the easing of lockdown. There you'll also find Innis & Gunn Brewery Taproom (beers), Vodka Wodka (cocktails), and Jinty McGinty's (lots and lots of Guinness). On Byres Road itself you'll find: Tennent's, a traditional pub with cheap beer and food; Curler's Rest, with an upstairs restaurant and decent selection of drinks; and Òran Mór, an impressive old church building tempting visitors with a nice outdoor area but pricey drinks.

Walk a bit further to get to Cottiers (Hyndland), Bag O' Nails (Partick) and Inn Deep (Great Western Road), all of which are bars with a casual vibe. Of course, you also have the two unions on campus including the GUU's famous (and sticky) Beer Bar and QMU's music bar.

Based on its colourful history, Glasgow has a bit of a reputation for being a scary city to go out drinking. Fortunately, this reputation isn't a reflection of the modern city Glasgow has become, and while you might hear stories about incidents on old firm derby days or during times of political unrest, it's highly unlikely you'll ever be exposed to any danger first-hand.

Embrace the city and its people, you'll meet some amazing locals in pubs with great stories to tell – just remember to be nice, avoid football colours [page 86] and, most importantly, don't be silly and you'll be perfectly fine in any pub you're likely to want to visit.

CITY CENTRE

Sauchiehall Street has long been a staple of Glasgow night-life, especially for cheap drinks and casual fun. Try Driftwood for some banging cocktails and Nice N Sleazy for the cheap white russians. If you're looking for something casual on the budget end of the pricing spectrum and don't fancy Wetherspoons, get to the Flying Duck for cheap cans, Bier Halle for beer and pizza, or The Howlin' Wolf for a killer Bloody Mary.

Merchant City, on the west side of the city centre, is often filled with office workers from 17:00 on weekdays, or 'trendy professionals' at the weekends. There are a few diamonds to be found east of the city centre, with Blackfriars, Boteco do Brasil, Bar 91 and Mono topping the list.

HIDDEN GEMS

Keep an open mind when it comes to pubs in the city, and don't be afraid to try somewhere new. There are new bars popping up all the time, just be sure to keep in mind the above 'don't be silly or wear a football shirt' guidelines.

Less obvious / accessible areas for drinking include Shawlands, the most up-and-coming area south of the river, with big players including: Rum Shack, Glad Cafe and the Allison Arms. Dennistoun, slightly east of the city centre, also has some great bars including the Drygate Brewing Co. and The Palais Bar.

Arguably the best pub in the city sits just across the river. Surviving thanks to its proximity to the O2 Academy and Bridge Street Subway (subcrawls): The Laurieston has some of the best staff, beers and locals in Glasgow, along with a free jukebox and a photo album of subcrawl groups that have been through the bar. They are consistently voted the best pub in the city and with good reason (though note it's cash only).

OFF-LICENCES

Heading to your drinking hole of choice might be tempting when you've got some spare cash, but when the bank account is looking increasingly close to creeping into the red, or if you can't quite face the Glasgow winter weather, staying home for a few social drinks might be a better option.

Here's a couple of pointers on where to go to make sure you don't get ripped off buying booze, or where to find something more interesting than a four pack of Tennent's. There are a few key (potentially annoying) things to remember when heading to the shops to pick up off sales in Glasgow:

- You won't get served before 10:00 or after 22:00.
- No multi buy deals (2 cases of beer for £15 etc.)
- Don't drink any of it in public.



GOING OUT

Live Music

Live music is in Glasgow's blood. It's one of the city's defining features, which is why it was the first city in the UK to be recognised as a UNESCO City of Music. Glasgow's venues range from the intimate to the super-massive; lovers of international arena-pop will be as happy as hipsters looking to discover the next big thing so they can tell people in the future that they saw them in the front room of someone's tenement.

You can keep track of gigs in Glasgow through podcasts, local radio stations, as well as online magazines such as *The Skinny* and *The List* which make a fair go of comprehensive listings and decent reviews for everything in Scotland. *Songkick* is also a pretty good index nationally, and Facebook is okay. Do not underestimate a good newsletter, like the one from *Gigs in Scotland*, to see what's coming up.

BIG VENUES

Outside of stadiums and festivals, the OVO Hydro dominates the big venue market in Glasgow now – boasting Olivia Rodrigo, Florence + The Machine and more in the last few years. It sits to the side of the SEC complex, an entertainment and conference venue that previously held the city's largest events before the building of the 13,000 capacity Hydro as a dedicated live music and entertainment arena. Musical acts soon to be gracing the stage of the Hydro include Tom Grennan, HAIM, Bastille and Lorde.

When it comes to arena gigs, Hampden Park and Bellahouston Park are the venues of choice for the elite class of musical performer, hosting acts like Calvin Harris, Beyoncé, and the Arctic Monkeys to crowds of 40,000 plus during the summer months when there's a chance it

won't rain. You should get to a gig in the Barrowland Ballroom at some point in your time at University; the iconic venue has hosted hundreds of acts since its opening in 1985 including Oasis, David Bowie, The Clash and Foo Fighters. From the iconic light sign to the sprung ballroom dancing floor, the venue oozes charisma and the sound quality is great too. Hitting the stage this year are Nile Rodgers and Chic, CMAT and Alex G.

Just south of the river you'll find the O2 Academy, a 2,500-capacity venue which is only a short walk from Bridge Street Subway. Its sister venue the O2 ABC on Sauchiehall Street burned down in a tragic fire in 2019 so a lot of its gigs and clubs have now been moved to the O2 Academy, SWG3 and the QMU.

LOCAL & INTIMATE

Most bars looking to court the student market will have some kind of live music slot in their weekly schedule – it's worth looking around to see what you can get to (or what to avoid, you might not want someone singing in your ear). Often for small gigs and pub singers there's free entry, particularly in the case of open mic nights, and even though it's generally background music, it can be nice to hear something more chilled.

The venues that fall into this category are too numerous to mention but a couple of highlights include BLOC+ on Bath Street, which deserves a shout-out for having birthed, introduced or honed many a Glasgow band, and The Hug and Pint – the brainchild of a music producer and a restaurateur with a strong love of local music.

SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN

Small and medium-sized venues permeate the city and if you catch a gig in one of them, it will generally be a more cramped, cheap, fun and atmospheric affair. They all have their own quirks – lighting, sound quality, door staff and juiciness of pints vary wildly – but here's where you have the best chance of seeing something you can boast about down the line, if you're into that.

The University's own QMU is still used for live music after over fifty-five years in the game, with touring acts visiting the nine hundred capacity venue frequently throughout the year. In addition to being local, the drinks are cheaper than most of the city's venues, so it's worth a night out. They also put on small acts in their bar throughout the term – these nights are great for seeing the latest local talent.

Independent music promoters throughout the city use venues such as Mono, Nice N Sleazy (Sleazy's), Stereo or Broadcast to promote local bands, novice DJs and everything else up and coming. King Tut's Wah Wah Hut in the city centre is iconic. If you talk to anyone about seeing live music in Glasgow, they'll likely mention Tut's and no student should go through University in Glasgow without experiencing a gig there.

It's a small, intimate venue with a capacity of just three hundred, but don't be fooled by its size. It's run by DF Concerts, a national promotion company who also run and book bands for TRNSMT every year, so they know what they're doing and have an eye for the next big thing. Catch a local band playing there for a really great atmosphere and definitely check out their annual Summer Nights gigs if you're ever spending the summer in Glasgow.

SOMETHING DIFFERENT

Outwith your guitar-bands, solo-acoustic pub singers and touring pop megastars, there's a great diversity to Glasgow's musical scene, and you should definitely make an effort to check out the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and Scottish Opera doing their thing in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall or another venue in the city. They might sound exclusive, but don't let those names put you off: tickets are more accessible than you might expect.



GOING OUT

Night Clubs

Glasgow may be better known for its live music scene, but it has also boasted a thriving club landscape since the eighties. Whether you're just into chart music and a cheeky vodka coke, or if you want to find something more niche, Glasgow has a wealth of options for late-night revelry ranging from the mainstream to the underground and cheap to pricey.

As a rule of thumb Glasgow's clubs open after 22:00, get busy around 00:00, and mostly shut no later than 03:00. It's very important to note that regardless of closing time, you can't get in after 01:00 under any circumstances (door staff often use this to turn away drunk folk who've nipped out for a smoke as well).

You'll often find clubs offer student discounts, so bring your campus card when heading out, just don't lose it or you'll not be able to get into the Library for that early study session (not that you were going to that anyway...). Discounts, or indeed free entry, can be found on Facebook pages, Insta stories, mailing lists or friendly PR staff hanging around the streets around the club.

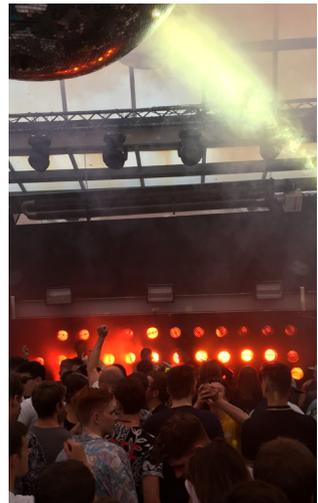
WEST END

The West End and campus itself have several options for mainstream club nights – essentially everything you'll find in the charts, with some nostalgia thrown in.

The University's social unions each have their own club nights; these are generally considered safe student spaces, are the best value, and are good and busy at the start of the academic year and really good on seasonal holidays such as Halloween, Christmas, St. Patrick's Day and at the end of spring term. GUU's purpose-built nightclub HIVE have their big night every Thursday ft. pop bangers

and 'Pints of Fun'. Both unions also have other less regular nights on throughout the year.

Slightly further afield, but still within the boundaries of the West End, is SWG3. Tucked away down near the river in Partick, this event space and art gallery has a huge programme of club nights, gigs, DJs, and arts festivals. Coming up this autumn are the DJ duo Céleste, *Swiftoggedon* and Trancefest. Òran Mór's nightclub, One Mór, is the West End's only venue officially licensed till 3 a.m. on weekends – perfect for keeping the party going when other places have shut up shop.



CITY CENTRE

Eventually after one too many nights at the unions you'll fancy venturing into town. If you're heading out from halls with a group, it's pretty cheap to get a taxi – although getting one at the end of the night can prove more difficult.

Invariably you'll end up on Glasgow's 'clubbing strip': Sauchiehall Street. Here you'll find a selection of late-night bars, kebab shops, two casinos and a couple of the more mainstream clubs. The largest of the clubs here is The Garage – hard to miss as it has a big yellow truck sticking out of the wall above the entrance. This place is a bit of a Glasgow institution, and its sweaty walls could certainly tell some tales. While it is cheap and cheerful, its sticky floors and cheesy tunes may not be to everyone's taste.

Also on the Sauchiehall Strip, for chart-music with fairly cheap drinks, you'll find Bamboo and Kokomo which are conveniently right next to one another, though be aware these are both a bit fancier in terms of their dress-code.

Also worth mentioning on this street are Nice N Sleazy, Broadcast and Firewater. You'd probably class these more as late-night bars, however, each of them also have fairly regular club nights in their basements. Stereo down by Central Station also hosts the occasional night. These smaller basement clubs are some of the best places for seeing local student DJs, and our own Subcity Radio [page 30] often use them.

If you're serious about your clubbing, then Glasgow's underground scene is one of the world's best. 22 Jamaica Street is home to the Sub Club: a renowned basement club which has been running for over 30 years. The Sub Club (or Subbie) residents Harri & Domenic play there every Saturday, and throughout the year the club plays host to some of the best DJs from around the world.

Not far behind Subbie in terms of clubbing-prestige are The Berkeley Suite and La Cheetah. Though these more serious clubs can be pretty pricey and the door staff pickier than most, the quality of their sound systems and the calibre of their bookings are unparalleled with topflight DJs coming from around the world to play their decks.

Finally, if you're into rock music and metal, then Cathouse Rock Club on Union Street might be the place for you. Or, for the afrobeats and amapiano lovers, the venues to check out are 142B Lounge on St. Vincent Street and Saint Judes on Bath Street (which also serves banging food during the day and is an underrated spot for cocktails).



LGBTQ+

The Polo Lounge is arguably Glasgow's most popular LGBTQ+ club and is situated in the Merchant City. It's Scotland's biggest gay venue, and features a plush, four-room dance palace with pub vibes upstairs and drag, pop and cheese downstairs. You'll find that most of the LGBTQ+ bars and clubs are in this area, leading to it being known as the city's 'Pink Triangle'.

If Polo isn't your scene, you'll also find some great bars such as Katie's Bar, Delmonicas, Underground and The Corset Club nearby. Hot Mess and Shoot Your Shot are both popular LGBTQ+ club nights located close to campus at SWG3's Poetry Club.

GOING OUT

Festivals

Yet to achieve Edinburgh's levels of mad, rabid summer festivaling, Glasgow has chosen to more modestly spread its festivals throughout the year. Glasgow's festivals tend to happen all across the city, in a multitude of venues with a multitude of audiences and are as varied in nature as they are in geography.

MUSIC

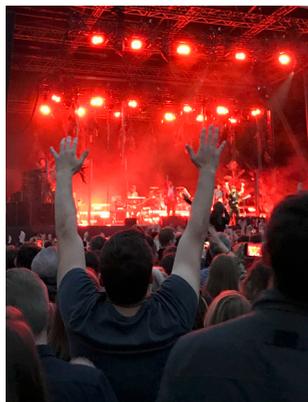
The respected Celtic Connections festival lands in January, bringing music to the city from across the world. Don't be put off when you see the line-up and don't recognise half the artists; it's arguably the biggest collection of musical talent in Scotland at any time of the year and brings in fans of Trad music from across the globe to multiple venues spread around the city.

It'll be very, very hard to miss TRNSMT Festival in the summer. The T in The Park replacement attracted up to fifty-thousand people each day. You should probably either get a ticket and head to Glasgow Green to join in or avoid the city centre altogether that weekend.

Small music festivals abound in Glasgow; keep an eye out for Stag & Dagger in May as a par-

ticular highlight – people travel from across the UK to see this showcase of local talent in various venues. If you choose to stick around in Glasgow next summer, you might fancy Summer Nights at the Bandstand, which you can hear (very loudly) from the Kelvingrove Bandstand down on Kelvin Way.

Expect to hear bagpipes in August, as the World Pipe Band Championships take place on Glasgow Green and attract bagpipe enthusiasts from around the world. Kelvingrove Park is a practice space for the pipers, so some of you will get a much more traditional music soundtrack for your walk to and from campus for a couple of weeks.



ARTS

In February, the Glasgow Film Festival showcases independent, international, documentary and blockbuster cinema for a local audience. It's a cracking showcase of cinema in the ever-charming Glasgow Film Theatre and several other venues. In March comes the International Comedy Festival.

In 2023, we were lucky to have The Gilchrist PG Club feature as one of the venues (make sure to attend one of the Diversity Quota shows during term time). Sure, it's a bit more commercial than the Edinburgh Fringe, but there's still a varied line-up of comics and unless you're desperate to see the likes of Michael McIntyre playing to audiences of thousands, it's pretty affordable too.

Aye Write! – a festival celebrating fiction, poetry, and literary culture – is coming back to Glasgow this November and celebrating its 20th anniversary across 11 days. For those who fancy themselves a bit of a thespian or just want to experience culture in a cool setting, Bard in the Botanics happens in early July, taking three or four of Shakespeare's works and adding a bit of Glasgow charm to them. This year, the programme also included remakes of Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Faustus, just to spice things up a bit.

In May, Yardworks Festival at the SWG3 celebrates the fascinating world of urban arts and graffiti and the INTL International Assembly Festival (formerly known as the Graphic Design Festival Scotland) is all about highlighting the local and international projects in the creative industries.

FOOD & DRINK

Food and drink festivals take place throughout the year, celebrating everything from the humble cheese toasty to the finest of Glasgow's restaurants. Because there are so many festivals, here's a list for you to google: The Glasgow Coffee Festival, Glasgow Craft Beer Festival, Foodies Festival, Big Feed, Platform, Dockyard Social, Glasgow's Whisky Festival, The Gin & Rum Festival, Glasgow Vegan Festival and Govanhill Festival.

CULTURAL

5th November – Guy Fawkes Night – a sleepless night for animals, but a big night out for humans. Walk around the West End to hear a lot of fireworks and some colourful displays. Christmas takes over in December, expect gimmicky markets and lots of lighting, and for something a bit less predictable, keep an eye out for Glasgow Mela, Scotland's biggest free multicultural festival, which happens in Kelvingrove Park in July each year.

COMMUNITY

Summer sees a load of local community festivals take place: the Southside Fringe (May); Merchant City Festival (August) and WestFest (June) formerly the West End Festival, are worth looking out for with a wide variety of events included.



Style

HAIR & BEAUTY

For some, appearances won't be high on the priorities compared to the important job of studying, but for most you will need a haircut at some point this year. If you're new to the city and worried about finding the right hairdresser here's some tips on finding reliable, affordable and friendly local businesses that will keep you looking sharp.

FIND A DEAL

If you're in and about the West End of the city, it's pretty easy to find somewhere to get your hair sorted, with dozens of hairdressers and barbers on or around Byres Road. Most places offer a student discount that will lower the price, sometimes quite dramatically (if they don't, walk less than five minutes in any direction and find somewhere that does).

HAIRDRESSERS

For hairdressers, you should check out Westend Hair on Great Western Road; they're quick, good quality and offer a range of cruelty free products. Kennedy + Co. on Dumbarton Road is a nice mid-range hairdresser who offer all of the usual treatments and POMOhair on Chancellor Street is another diamond local business with great staff and student-friendly prices. For a more specialist cut or colour, Rainbow Room International is a step up in both quality and price but is definitely worth the added time and cost.

If you're looking to get your hair braided, twisted or locked, check out Degeneis Hair Salon in Gallowgate and Elegance by Sisa on Argyle Street. Whether you're willing to spend serious money or would rather get your hair done by beginners to save your coin, there are plenty of talented and

up-and-coming stylists offering home-based services through Instagram and TikTok.

The best advice we can give is to figure out a budget, find somewhere that fits and give somewhere a try. There are literally hundreds of places in the city and outskirts where you could get a decent haircut so go and have a look around your part of the city or venture to somewhere you haven't explored before.

BARBERS

Kelvin Hair on Queen Margaret Drive is reasonably priced with friendly staff and Jordanhill Barbers a bit further out is cheap and excellent quality. Cheap and nearer campus is Uni Barbers on White Street. If you're more particular and don't mind spending a bit more, consider Brother Men's Stylist & Barbers on Byres Road or Mohair in town near Trongate. If you take a trip south, Mojo Barbers on Kilmarnock Road are a great shout. For a quick fade in town, pop in Simon Barber Shop on the Broomielaw.

BEAUTY SALONS

The same rule of thumb goes for salons, spas and nail bars, with the city centre full of places to get any form of waxing, plucking, colouring or scrubbing you could want. If you're looking for a special treat then the spa at Blythswood Square is regarded as the best in the city. They offer top notch massages, facials, wraps and treatments, for a pretty hefty price tag, so one to keep in mind for special occasions or presents from parents. Again, always a shout to look for home-based services near you on Instagram – your new favourite nail tech could just be working just around the corner from you.

SHOPPING

Two fun shopping facts about Glasgow: it is not only the second most popular shopping destination in the UK, but also the second largest, with only London pipping it as a consumerist haven. You can buy anything in Glasgow. Whether you want the latest designer gear or love trawling through racks of vintage clothes to find that perfect piece, Glasgow has it somewhere.

CITY CENTRE

Though often described as 'the Golden Z' or 'the Style Mile' by councillors and city planners, you'll come to know the key shopping areas of the city centre as Buchanan Street, Sauchiehall Street and Argyle Street. Buchanan Street is the meat in the consumerism sandwich, situated between two of the city's biggest shopping centres – Buchanan Galleries and St. Enoch Centre. You can probably get most of what you need in one of these two complexes, but other key destinations are the Primarks on either Sauchiehall or Argyle Street and the Savoy Centre, which has to be experienced at some point. An exciting new addition to look forward to this year is the city's first UNIQLO opening in the St. Enoch Centre in autumn 2025.

WEST END

In comparison to the major retailers of the city centre, the West End is littered with a range of excellent independent shops. Just off Byres Road on Dowanside Lane (opposite Hillhead Subway Station) is Starry, Starry Night, a vintage-shopper's dream and don't be afraid to support the multitude of charity shops around the area – most of their stock has come from former students so there's often some really good stuff on offer. The Hidden Lane in Finnieston is also such an underrated spot, with independent shops, art spaces and multiple food options.

For more traditional shopping in the West End, head along to Partick and you'll come across West End Retail Park, which in addition to a large Sainsbury's and Marks and Spencer for

food, also boasts a Boots, a Superdrug, an Argos (in the Sainsbury's) and a Home Bargains for picking up useful things. Weirdly, you'll also find two different outdoors shops (citizens of Partick love camping apparently), a Costa and a 24Hr McDonalds.

SHOPPING CENTRES

Jump on the 77 bus from the West End and you'll be able to get to Braehead, probably the most complete retail location in the wider city area. As well as a massive shopping centre with all the shops you'd expect, the complex also features a laser quest arena, cinema, bowling alley, restaurants and – most crucially – an IKEA just across the road. You will go to this IKEA, you will eat meatballs (veggie options available), and you will buy too much stuff, most of which will be the same as your flatmates'.

Other just-out-of-town shopping centres with every shop and chain restaurant you could possibly need are: Silverburn out to the south, as well as Glasgow Fort and Glasgow Forge in the East. Make friends with people who have cars, or prepare yourself for long and pricey bus journeys, and you can visit roughly the same shops all around the Greater Glasgow area.



Exploring

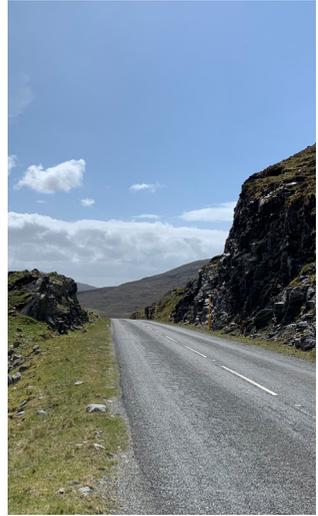
If you're planning something more significant than a day trip, it's usually a good idea to figure out where you're going to stay before jumping on a train or bus out of the city. Rural Scotland is brimming with cheap B&Bs while the cities will have a range of hotel and Air-bnb options – the summer months will be busier/more expensive, so plan in advance. One thing to remember is that Scotland allows wild camping: lightweight camping in small numbers for two or three nights in any one place. There are a number of regulations, including a restriction on camping around Loch Lomond during the summer, so if you're thinking of going full wilderness it's best to check online to make sure you're sticking to the law of the land. Find out more on the Visit Scotland website: [visitscotland.com/accommodation/caravan-camping/wild-camping](https://www.visitscotland.com/accommodation/caravan-camping/wild-camping).

NORTH

Go slightly north of the city and you're in Loch Lomond territory. While busy during peak months and sunny weekends, this is the closest, best example of scenic Scotland: fresh air, mountains, walks, cycling, boat tours, sheep, dogs, cows and rolling hills. Great for giving your visiting family a sense of 'real Scotland' and super easy to get to via public transport – just jump on a train to Balloch from Queen Street. Bring lunch unless you want to spend a lot on tourist traps and don't forget an umbrella (wherever you go) as Scottish weather is unpredictable.

Further north, Tyndrum has a fantastic chippy (Real Food Café) or jump back on the train to the West Coast and Oban. Oban is a seaside town worth visiting for its distillery and world class seafood. From Oban you can get a CalMac ferry across to the Hebridean Isles, which are some of the most visually stunning places in the country. Alternatively, you could head north east from Glasgow Central to Inverness – roughly 4 hours away. Scotland's most northern city is the gateway to the rest of the Highlands and from here you can branch out to the windswept and rough Wester Ross, or lush and more lived-in Sutherland.

Lovely though our 'Dear Green Place' is, eventually you might fancy going beyond the city-limits to see what else is out there. With its two major train stations and ample bus routes, even without owning a car Glasgow is the perfect place to kick-start your exploration of Scotland and beyond.



SOUTH

Get the train to Largs in Ayrshire and jump on the ferry over to Cumbrae where you can hire bikes and do a scenic lap of the island in a couple of hours. You can even stop in at the original Nardini's for ice cream as a reward on the way back.

Keep going South and you'll find England; alight at Oxenholme for the Lake District (a busier, more expensive version of the Scottish countryside) or keep going for only 4 or 5 hours and you'll find yourself in London. The brave among you may want to attempt a Megabus to get down to the UK's capital but be prepared for an epic 8 hour journey (discounted student tickets from around £15 or even less if you book way in advance).



EAST

At some point you'll think it's a good idea to head to Edinburgh. There are a few good shopping streets, some decent bars and restaurants to be found in Scotland's capital. It's also got a big hill with lovely views, some really nice old buildings such as Holyrood Palace, the Old Town and a castle, as well as a couple of passable new ones, such as the Scottish seat of government, Holyrood.

Be prepared to fight through a sea of tourists to see literally anything of interest, though. If you're in Scotland for the summer and fancy a day of culture at the International Festival, it's absolutely worthwhile, even if you just do the free shows. The Fringe is basically a giant Freshers' Week, so be prepared to be bombarded with flyers, and for every street, pub and bus / train / tram to be busier than during an Old Firm game in Glasgow.

WEST

To the West you'll find the Isle of Arran: it has beautiful coastlines, towering mountains and calming lochs (lakes) and rivers. You can jump on a train at Glasgow Central, a quick ferry ride over the Firth of Clyde and you'll be in Brodick within a couple of hours. Also out West, up the road from Galloway Coast and Stranraer is the Cairnryan Ferry Port, from here you can get to Belfast on the ferry in a couple of hours.

To get even further out of the city, get a bus to Glasgow, Prestwick or Edinburgh airport, all of which have an abundance of low-cost routes to Europe. Book as far in advance as possible and you could quite easily sort a short break abroad in Spring 2026.



Sport

FOOTBALL

If you came to Glasgow not knowing about its tumultuous footballing history, it won't take you long to notice it's a pretty divisive subject around these parts. For most, the Old Firm rivalry (between Rangers and Celtic) won't be super relevant and unless you go looking for trouble you won't find it.

You shouldn't be scared of wearing a certain colour on a certain day, nor should you fear any pub in the West End or city centre on match day. Unless you wander into the areas around Govan for Rangers or Parkhead for Celtic and start badmouthing the other team, you should not be worried at all. Even if you do head out to a game featuring one of the two teams, you're unlikely to see any trouble, despite what the empty Buckfast bottles on the train / bus / street might make you think.

With two high-level teams in the Scottish Premier League (SPL) in Glasgow, you might see some more police on the streets and at Subway and train stations on the match days when they play each other, and pubs everywhere are likely to be busy, but follow the advice above and maybe avoid the Subway pre and post-match due to heavy pedestrian traffic and you'll be fine.

Glasgow has a rich and diverse sports scene, whether you're into sweating it out on the field or watching everyone else do it – there's something for everyone. From the national stadium Hampden to unexpected venues (like, eh, pro wrestling in a nightclub), you'll find spectator sports all over Glasgow. So go on: get stuck in and support your local team.



CELTIC FC: Celtic are now one of Scotland's most prestigious footballing exports, experts in qualifying for Europe's top competition and quickly dropping out. They're one of the best options if you're looking for quality football, having just lifted their fourth consecutive Scottish Premiership title – marking their 55th trophy overall. They play in Celtic Park in the Parkhead area of the East End.

RANGERS FC: Rangers have worked their way back up the ranks to the SPL while retaining a loyal fanbase. Most recently, they finished 2nd in the Scottish Premiership after Celtic, and in European action they performed well in Champions League qualifiers. They play in Ibrox in Govan, in the Southside.

PARTICK THISTLE FC: The plucky underdogs of Glasgow football, Thistle play in Firhill Stadium in Maryhill, ten minutes from Murano (not in Partick, however). Good for cheapish tickets, good Bovril and pies, and literally the best mascot in football history, Kingsley, a bizarre star-shaped creature that looks like a child's drawing of a sun.

GLASGOW CITY FC: Glasgow City remains a powerhouse in women's football, even if the trophies didn't quite fall their way this season. In 2022–23, they clinched a dramatic 16th title with an injury-time winner at Ibrox. But in the 2023–24 season, they dropped to third place behind Celtic and Rangers. The 2024–25 season brought further heartbreak – Hibernian secured the league, while Glasgow City finished as runners-up, just missing out on another title. On the bright side, they still booked their place in next season's UEFA Women's Champions League. They play their home matches at Petershill Park in Springburn, in the North of Glasgow.

RUGBY

Glasgow's professional rugby side, the Glasgow Warriors, have built up an impressive following and some serious on-field credentials.

In 2025 they reached the United Rugby Championship semi-finals after another strong season, adding to their growing reputation as one of the best-supported teams in the league. Home games at Scotstoun Stadium in the West End are always a lively experience, especially when they face off against rivals Edinburgh Rugby.

Scotland's national rugby team play in Edinburgh at Murrayfield, with tournament games such as the Six Nations shown in pubs all over Glasgow. Tickets for these matches are hard to come by, so if you want to watch rugby live, the Warriors are your best bet. Both QMU and GUU tend to show the big rugby fixtures in their bars.

OTHER SPORTS

Seek and ye shall find, there's live sports taking place all over the city. We're buzzing to host the Commonwealth Games in summer 2026, albeit on a smaller scale, with ten sports across four venues and full integration of para-sports. It will be another huge moment for the city and a great chance to watch world-class athletes in action.

If athletics is not your thing, you might fancy Glasgow's ice hockey team, Braehead Clan who are based a short bus ride away in erm, Braehead. It's a fantastic, physical sport – played surprisingly well – and the atmosphere and fans are exemplary. Finally, if you're looking for some pure, guilty pleasure entertainment, Insane Championship Wrestling, one of the UK's biggest indie wrestling promotions, runs out of Glasgow with shows regularly held in the city with visiting stars from the US.



Politics



If politics is your thing then we'd recommend looking into running in a student body election. These are conducted in October and March and are a great way to get started in the world of politics. Fun-fact: Former First Minister Nicola Sturgeon ran to be the SRC President during her time here!

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Glasgow was, for a long time, considered a Labour (left-wing) stronghold at city council level, with the party holding a majority for 37 years until the Scottish National Party (SNP) overtook them in 2017. The council has 85 seats – 37 held by the SNP as of May 2022, with Labour close behind on 36, the Greens on 10, and the Conservatives and Reform UK on one each.

A by-election in March 2025 saw the SNP gain two more seats in Southside Central and North East. In January 2025, Conservative councillor Thomas Kerr defected to Reform UK, giving the party its first Glasgow council seat and cutting the Tory count to one. The University sits in the Hillhead ward, which is currently represented by two Green councillors and one SNP councillor. The next full council elections will be in 2027.

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Holyrood is home to the Scottish Parliament, which governs devolved areas such as education, health, agriculture and justice. The SNP currently leads with 60 of the 129 seats, followed by the Conservatives (30), Labour (23), the Greens (7), Lib Dems (5) and the Alba Party (1).

The past few years in Scottish politics have been some of the most tumultuous since the 2014 independence referendum. Nicola Sturgeon resigned as First Minister in 2023, with Humza Yousaf taking over for just over a year before John Swinney became FM in May 2024. The SNP remains the governing party, though Labour and Reform UK have been making gains in recent by-elections.

The next Scottish Parliament elections will take place in May 2026. Eligibility to vote in Scotland varies by election type, so check [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) to see if you qualify – you might be able to vote without UK citizenship.

Glasgow is a political hotbed and always has been. If you're the kind of person who likes to go into places and start discussions with the locals about what's best for them and the country, expect to be both very welcome, and to lose any argument you attempt to make in resounding fashion. Glaswegians are passionate, relentless debaters, and are generally well-informed to boot; just look at the public outcry over the removal of the traffic cone from the Wellington statue. You wouldn't get that through in Edinburgh.



UK GOVERNMENT

Westminster has been like the political equivalent of a soap opera in recent years, though with fewer dramatic cliffhangers and more awkward press conferences. Boris Johnson bowed out as Conservative leader in 2022 after a steady drip of scandals, passing the baton to Liz Truss, who managed to become both the newest and shortest-serving Prime Minister in British history – clocking out after just 50 days.

Enter Rishi Sunak in October 2022, who tried to calm the waters but found himself battling internal party rows, a grumpy electorate and a dodgy economy. By mid-2024, faced with dreadful polling numbers, he called a general election.

The result? A political landslide. Labour, under Sir Keir Starmer, took more than 400 seats, ending 14 years of Conservative rule and suffering one of their worst defeats in decades. The Liberal Democrats bounced back in style with 72 MPs – their best haul in 20 years. The SNP dropped to 9 seats, Reform UK under Nigel Farage picked up 5, and the Green Party hit a record 4 seats.

Labour's plans include tackling prison overcrowding, boosting housing and public transport, extending the vote to 16 and 17-year-olds, and introducing gender recognition reforms. Whether all of that actually happens remains to be seen – but it'll be interesting to watch.

The next general election isn't scheduled until 2029, though political calendars have a way of changing. In the meantime, expect the usual mix of debates, legislation, and the occasional drama, all from the comfort of your sofa in Glasgow. Nearly everyone you meet will have a side that they'll passionately support. Get involved, stay informed and be prepared to say your piece for your side – just be prepared to back yourself.

MEDIA

Scotland isn't exactly short of news outlets to keep you abreast of what's going on. The main players are the license-fee funded, public broadcasting body, the BBC, with their Scottish headquarters located on the Clydeside and the Scottish brand of the Channel 3 Network, STV (which is next door to it). Glasgow's rich tradition of quality print journalism survives in the Glasgow Times, a local, and The Herald, a broadsheet.

Social media now plays a huge role in political debate, with arguments spilling out in X/Twitter threads and Instagram posts. Follow major outlets, local politicians and national parties if you want to keep track – or dive in and have your say.



Diversity

What they say is true: people really do make Glasgow the fun and vibrant place it is. The past ten to twenty years have seen the ethnic diversity of Glasgow grow dramatically as people from across the world are drawn to the thriving communities and opportunities found here. With these changes, the city has happily grown and shifted to accommodate and welcome a more multi-cultural population leading to the diverse landscape we see today.

However, Glasgow has not always been so welcoming and the Black Lives Matter movement across the world has caused many in the city to stop and reflect on Glasgow's often troubling past. Let's dig a little deeper.



Should you face any harassment or bullying because of where you're from, or for any reason, you can get help in reporting this to the University from The SRC Advice Centre - visit glasgowuniversity.org/advice/health-and-wellbeing/bullying for info.

HIDDEN HISTORY

Throughout The Guide, you'll come across references to Glasgow's grand Victorian architecture, a remnant of Glasgow's heyday when massive amounts of money were pouring into the city, leading to the creation of the great Gothic buildings that make up the city's distinct image (our own University main building included).

The dark and troubling truth, that until fairly recently has often been avoided by many Glaswegians, is that these Victorian monuments and honours to the wealthy mercantile elite of the city are due, in large part, to the profits of the slave trade.

The Merchant City, now an upmarket restaurant and bar district, was named for the Glasgow tobacco merchants; men such as Andrew Buchanan made extortionate amounts of money from the slave trade, leading to the city honouring them by creating buildings and streets in their name (Buchanan Street – Glasgow's busiest shopping thoroughfare).

Our University saw a great level of development in the Victorian period, thanks partly to large bequests and gifts donated by these very same slave traders. This is something that the University has been beginning to come to terms with.



CONFRONTING THE PAST

In 2016, the University took an encouraging step in acknowledging its part in these terrible practices, leading in 2018 to the publication of a full report on 'Slavery, Abolition and the University of Glasgow' – one of the first of its kind in the UK. Off the back of this report, in 2019 the University took a historic step by committing to raising and spending £20 million in the development of a Glasgow-Caribbean Centre for Development Research, in partnership with The University of the West Indies.

In 2022, the University launched an anti-racist campaign across the organisation called 'Together Against Racism' which seeks to help students and staff feel more confident when calling out racist behaviour. The campaign encourages you to learn more about racism and microaggressions, as well as seek to understand how we can all be better allies to colleagues and peers. Find out more at gla.ac.uk/explore/togetheragainstracism.

The recognition of our city's dark past is only the beginning of a journey to greater understanding and campaigns such as this one, as well as the recent Black Lives Matter movement, make us even more aware of the work that still needs to be done to combat racism in our everyday lives.

EQUALITY ACTIVISM

Despite the city's troubling roots, Glasgow in recent times and throughout its history has known its fair share of equality activists and campaigners seeking to root out racial injustice. In the 1980s, Glasgow played a significant role in the Anti-Apartheid Movement; many of our own student bodies marching together to chants of 'Free Nelson Mandela'. In 1981, the city council awarded Mandela 'Freedom of the City', and after he was finally released from prison on Robben Island, in 1993 he visited a welcoming crowd in George Square to personally thank the people of Glasgow for sending their support to him.

Though complicated by COVID-19, Glasgow like so many cities around the world, came out in

force to protest the brutal murder of George Floyd in the US, with many marches taking place across the city. The dialogue between Glasgow's diverse present and troubling past is one that has really just begun, and your time in the city will undoubtedly be shaped by it.

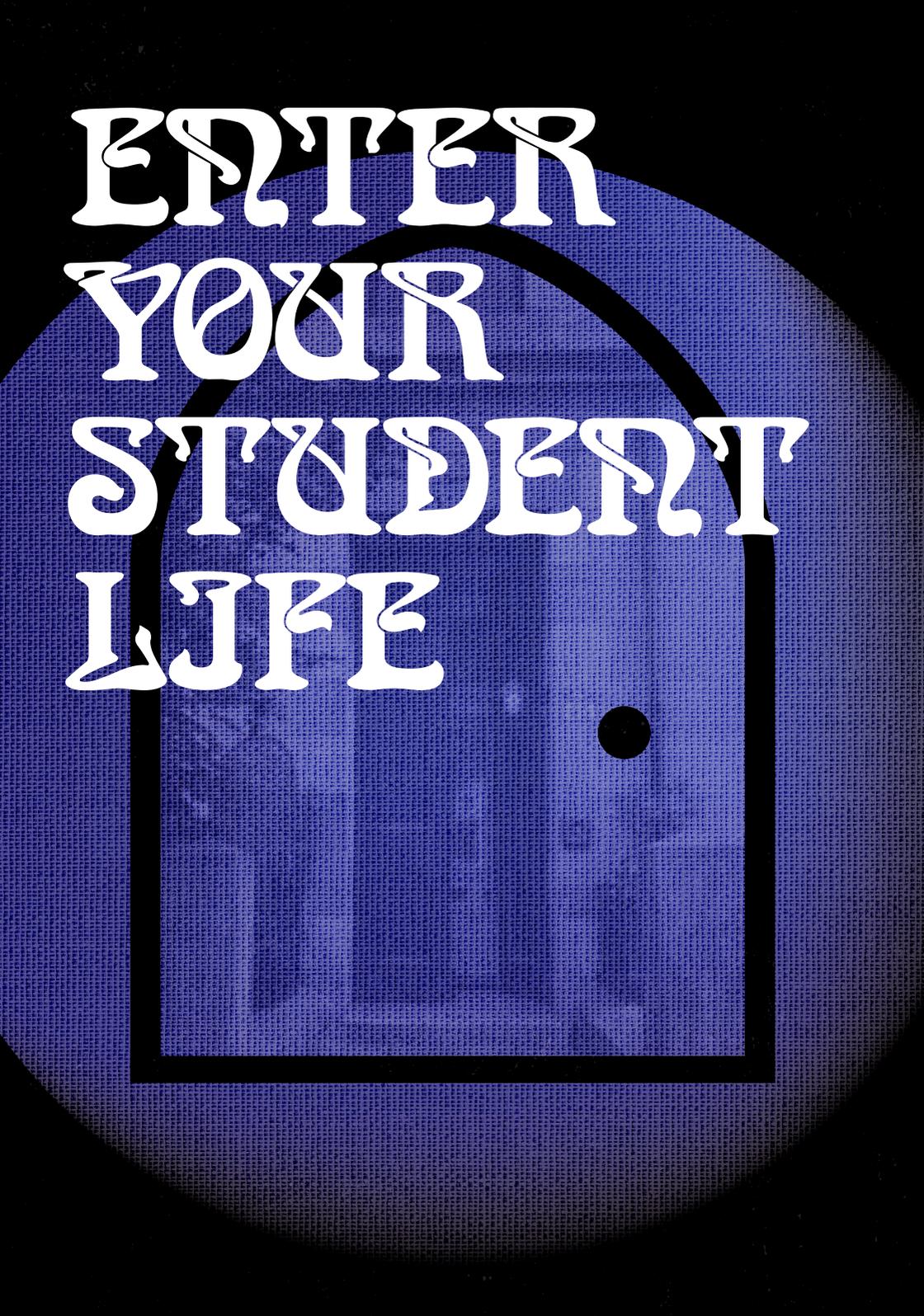
SUPPORT FOR ETHNIC MINORITIES

There are a number of charities and community groups in the city who support and protect minority ethnic groups. Our own University Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Unit is a great source for anyone wanting to find out what services are available, as is GUSRC who have their own Race Equality Officer who'll be happy to talk to you. Make sure to check our list of clubs and societies too for an ever-growing number of international and cultural student-led groups; you'll definitely find your community (or learn more about your flatmate's one) on campus.

- **UofG Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Unit**
- Website: gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/humanresources/equalitydiversity
- **GUSRC Race Equality Officer**
- Email: race-officer@src.gla.ac.uk



ENTER
YOUR
STUDENT
LIFE

A blue door with a black frame and a doorknob, set against a dark background with a circular vignette effect. The door is slightly ajar, revealing a glimpse of the interior. The text "ENTER YOUR STUDENT LIFE" is written in a white, stylized, gothic font across the top of the door.

Your Life

Getting through four (or more) years of study to get your degree isn't going to be easy, there are going to be times when you're lost, stressed, frustrated and sometimes, a combination of all three. The information in the pages ahead has been put together to give you a hand in figuring out some of the basics of living with new people, travelling around and most importantly, taking care of yourself.

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ACCOMMODATION

Moving In



Should you have any issues with accommodation – be it dodgy landlords or finding a flat – the SRC Advice Centre have loads of great tips to help you at glasgowunsrc.org/advice/accommodation.

When coming to the University of Glasgow there are three main choices for where you can live – at home, in halls, or in privately rented accommodation. There are pros and cons for whatever accommodation you choose – hopefully this section will give you an idea of what to expect from any of these options, as there's plenty to be excited about.

LEAVING HOME

If you've got relatives or friends in close proximity to the University, living with them for your first year can make a lot of sense, especially in a financial context. Compared to those in halls or private accommodation, you're likely to have lower rent and bills and not have to shell out for household gear to kit out the new place. You might have some travel costs to get to and from campus, but you're still likely to be better off than those in halls or flats. You also get to live near your family pet, which your pals who move out will be very jealous of.

The downside of staying at home can often be a feeling of missing out or isolation, but you can still take advantage of the range of social activities, clubs and societies the West End and University offer and utilise friend's couches or floors if getting home late is tricky. The Uni and SRC often refer to folks who don't move out as 'Home Students', and will host events and activities aimed at supporting you so you don't miss out.

PRIVATE HALLS

The West End is packed with private student accommodation. Purpose Built Student Accommodation (PBSAs) are more commercial and luxurious than University halls, with high quality fixtures and fittings, high speed Wi-Fi, ensuite rooms. But they do come with higher prices, and unlike the University-run halls, there's no guarantee you'll be with people from similar backgrounds, studying similar courses, or even attending the same university.



PRIVATE FLATS

The West End is packed with private student accommodation. Purpose Built Student Accommodation (PBSAs) are more commercial and luxurious than University halls, with high quality fixtures and fittings, high speed Wi-Fi, ensuite rooms.

But they do come with higher prices, and unlike the University-run halls, there's no guarantee you'll be with people from similar backgrounds, studying similar courses, or even attending the same university.

STAYING AT HOME

Unfortunately, the University's official halls of residence are oversubscribed every year, meaning that some students will be in private accommodation. Fortunately, not being packed into the busy halls can be a blessing in disguise.

Private flats can offer more independence and a quieter experience – but prices vary wildly and demand is high, especially in the West End. With most students heading into private flats in their second year, those who get in early have a head start on independent living and might figure out the pitfalls faster than others.



LIVING IN HALLS

The majority of new students choose to live in University halls of residence, a weird and wonderful place where complete strangers are thrust together and have no choice but to get along.

The University will do their best to profile incoming students, often grouping together those on similar courses or from similar backgrounds to encourage friendships, but when it comes down to it, it's a free-for-all and your flatmates could be anyone.

Luckily, everyone in your flat will have at least one thing in common: you're all now living in the same place and, if you're unlucky enough to be in a flat with people you don't quite see eye-to-eye with, there are hundreds of other students living within metres of your front door.

In addition to having a ready-made community, further upsides about the University-run halls include Wi-Fi, security staff, social areas and not having to worry about the hassle and drama of splitting bills at the end of every month. You also have the added bonus of having people to walk with or share a taxi with when getting to or from the University when it's pouring down.

These halls are managed in partnership with private/not-for-profit companies, however your contract is with the University as your landlord, and the day-to-day management is done through the University.

All halls of residence have a management office and designated wardens – these should be your first point of contact with any issues or queries regarding your flat, except maybe if it's on fire. Then it's the Fire and Rescue Service (call emergency number 999).

ACCOMMODATION

Moving In



HALLS

There are ten official halls of residence spread across the city and based around the main campuses (if you include postgrad accommodation). The majority of students will be placed near their main course location, and by near we mean a 10-to-40 minute walk. Here's a quick run-down of the main University halls you may find yourself either living in or visiting:

CAIRNCROSS is the closest to campus but the smallest halls with rooms for around 200 students.

KELVINHAUGH STREET houses over 340 students; a lot of 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students choose to live here.

KELVINHAUGH GATE houses 250 students and is about 15-minutes walk from the Uni.

LISTER HOUSE is a mixture of single rooms, 1-bed flats and family flats. Mainly postgraduates.

MACLAY is postgraduate accommodation with over 400 beds and is about a 20-minute walk from the University, in the Yorkhill area.

MURANO STREET is the largest of the student residences with room for 1,175 students and including 4–5 person and 10–12 person flats. Known for its thriving social atmosphere, it's about 25-minutes walk from the main campus.

QUEEN MARGARET RESIDENCES are the most expensive halls. They are close to the main campus and offer ensuite bedrooms and awesome kitchens. Around 400 students live here.

STUDENT APARTMENTS are closest to campus, being traditional tenement flats, but spaces are more limited with space for just over 100 students.

WINTON DRIVE is located next to Botanic Gardens and is mainly occupied with 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students, particularly international students.

WOLFSON HALL is the only catered halls of residence, located near West of Scotland Science Park and Vet School. It is around a 50-minute walk from Gilmorehill, mainly occupied by those studying locally.

It's worth noting that in recent years the University has expanded the number of rooms it owns to accommodate the growing student population, so although you may be offered a room in halls, you might actually end up living in private halls with the University as your landlord. You'll still get the benefits of living in Uni halls, but you may find you're living alongside students from other parts of Glasgow.

You can find a full list of University accommodation, including more stats and travel info, at: gla.ac.uk/undergraduate/accommodation.

FLATMATES

The wonderful thing about shared accommodation is the variety of people that you will inevitably meet. Living with new people is not an easy task. There will be arguments over who's left their washing up on the table / in the sink / in a mould-growing pile on their bedroom floor, disagreements on the amount of time taken in the shower, and the dreaded 'flat shop' discussion (someone's going to eat your cheese, your bread or drink your milk – so prepare accordingly).

This is probably going to be the only time of your life that you won't get to choose who you live with, so embrace the experience. Learn things from them and learn new things about yourself with them. You'll be enriched by the end. Promise.

It is a good idea to try and get to know your flatmates when you first move in. Whether this is through a formal get-together or a spontaneous night out at one of the social unions [page 12] or local bars [page 78], there are plenty of ways to bond with your new co-habitants.

Watching a TV show together is a nice way to bond without having to go through any painful small-talk or chit chat, or having a meal together, either at your flat or out at one of the many affordable eateries in the city [page 74] can also be an informal way of getting to know each other.

You'll soon fall into a nice routine, with everyone playing their part in keeping your new home clean, providing tasty meals, doing the driving, or simply cheering folk up. Inevitably you and your flatmates will make friends outside of the four walls you now call home, but it is always a good idea to try and keep the peace in the flat, even if you're spending more time outside than in.

There are no set rules or guidelines for getting on with flatmates, and you may find that someone doesn't see eye-to-eye with you. That is fine. It is okay not to get on with flatmates, after all you have been thrown together by an administrator with a list and far too much power over your life.

To try and keep the peace, we've listed a few top tips on how to get along with your new flatmates:

Moving In: Top-Tips:

1. RESPECT

You don't have to agree on everything but showing respect to one another's belongings and feelings is a good way of keeping things civil.

2. CHECK-IN

Tell flatmates when you have guests. You don't need to get permission, but no one wants to crawl out of their room after a heavy night at one of the social unions, head into the kitchen for a cup of tea and be greeted by a room full of strangers.

3. STAY HYGIENIC

Wash yourself and wash your stuff; leaving a sink full of dishes every night just isn't cool and doesn't allow others to use the space. Keeping the place clean will also be something you're incredibly thankful for once flat inspections roll around.

4. DON'T STEAL FOOD

Seriously, no one wants to be part of a conversation about labelling every bit of food in the fridge, make it easy on your flatmates by making sure you don't need to have that conversation and don't steal their food.

5. MAKE AN EFFORT

Some people don't want to socialise, that is fine. They may be happy enough just watching Netflix in their room so leave them to it. Others may need a little nudge, so be conscientious and ask them if they'd like to join in with a flat outing / watching a film / going shopping.

ACCOMMODATION

Moving In

LAUNDRY

Most University halls have laundry rooms on-site, but they can get busy – especially around weekends and deadlines. Stay on top of your washing to avoid scraping the bottom of the wardrobe and turning up to class in your school leaver’s hoodie.

Most machines are run by a third-party provider (like CircuitGo or MyLaundry), which means you’ll need to download an app and top up credit online – so check the info you’re given when you move in. Don’t assume they take coins.

If you’re on a tight budget, consider bulk-buying detergent or sharing with flatmates. If you ever get stuck, public launderettes are an option too, and some even do service washes (if you’re feeling fancy or just out of socks).

FIRE ALARMS

Trudging out of your flat at 03:00 with a siren wailing nearby is pretty much a rite of passage for those living in halls. Sure, it’s a little amusing seeing your pals in their PJs, half asleep and hanging around a carpark in the middle of the night, but the novelty soon wears off, especially if you have early classes. Don’t be the flat that always sets off the alarm with their early morning burnt toast.

Simple things like keeping windows open when cooking, keeping the fan on and not leaving anything hot unattended will hopefully save any calls to the guys in red. Each of the halls has their own safety guidelines, make sure you read them, but the key one is don’t smoke in your flat, at all. The University has a page of possible sanctions for setting off a fire alarm: gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/accommodation/policiesandprocedures/#firesafetybreaches (studentsanctions).

REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

If something breaks in your flat – like a leak, faulty heating, or the boiler giving up – don’t panic. Just report it to your halls office or residence reception as soon as possible. For emergencies out of hours, there’s a 24/7 contact number (check the noticeboard in your kitchen or your halls welcome info). If you’re in private rented accommodation, your first stop is your letting agent or landlord – they’re responsible for sorting most repairs. If repairs aren’t getting done, remember the SRC Advice Centre can help try move things along.



SECURITY

The first rule of keeping yourself and your belongings safe is to keep your room locked. There may come a time when you and neighbouring flats are in and out of each other's rooms fairly regularly; this might make for free and easy passage between you but it only takes a few seconds for an unwelcome guest to seize the opportunity. Always keep your room locked, your flat locked and your block locked. It doesn't hurt to bolt your windows too; if you're on the ground floor, it is essential.

Another common reason for halls of residence being the victim of crime is students being too trusting and letting strangers enter their block, not realising that the other flats may not have taken the above advice and left everything wide open. Never let a stranger into your building. If they live there, they will have their keys; if they don't then they can phone one of their flatmates if they've just been forgetful, or they could be up to no good.

Having said this, University halls are on the whole a very safe place to live with incidents being very few. Should the worst happen, and you or your flatmates end up as the victim of a robbery, there are a few immediate steps you should follow:

- **Report the incident to the police.**
- **Report the incident to University security.**
- **Contact your insurance company.**

INSURANCE

If you're actually reading this section and didn't skip it because insurance is one of the most boring things in the world, well done to you. No matter how careful you think you are, it's something to consider; some students bring a lot of valuable possessions to University including technology, transportation, designer gear and personal items. Insurance is probably something you should look into if you don't want to be screwed when your camera or laptop gets pinched.

A lot of students are covered by their parents' home contents insurance so check their policy; there are also a number of insurance providers who specialise in student halls of residence insurance. Endsleigh are one of the more popular choices for students, although other providers exist. Just Google one of the many price comparison sites to see what's available.

Although their policies are used by hundreds of thousands of students annually, it's worth reading the terms and conditions as some items like bikes or musical instruments may need additional coverage, and you might need to add accidental damage or walk-in theft cover to the policy. Right. End of boring insurance section, well done again.



ACCOMMODATION

Moving On

There will come a time for many of you (probably around May 2026), when it's time to leave your first-year accommodation and venture out to find shelter in the wider world (which probably means somewhere else in the West End of Glasgow).

It might seem a little scary thinking about it now, but come next spring, you'll likely be glad to put halls behind you to find somewhere with a bit more freedom, fewer rules and the opportunity for you to make it feel like your own (within reason).

Of course, not everyone will be looking for somewhere new to live for the start of the next academic year: those who lived at home or rented privately from day one can skip this section or give it a scan for when you're ready to move on. Here are a few tips for those looking for somewhere to live.

WHO?

Figuring out who to live with can be tricky and it is worth thinking about fairly early on. Most flatshares come about naturally through friendship groups or classmates, but you need to think about how many people you'd be comfortable sharing with. If you like the idea of sharing with a big group, you'll need to move fast, as multi-bedroom flats can be hard to come by in premium areas. Don't be afraid to turn down a flatshare offer if you're not 100% convinced it's right for you – you may have to live with your decision for a year or more. The SRC offer a service called Flatshare which you can use to find flats and flatmates: glasgowunivsrc.org/services/flatshare.

WHERE?

The majority of accommodation within Glasgow is in the form of flats or apartments, usually within the traditional sandstone tenement blocks. Tenement flats traditionally have a shared 'close' or 'hallway', a communal outdoor space with a waste disposal area, and are three or four floors. Tenement flats can be beautiful, spacious and full of original features but often have higher energy costs and are on busier streets, making parking tricky. There are a number of new builds popping up around the city; with a more modern flat comes lower heating bills, but they are often further out of town in more residential locations.



The City of Glasgow is split into a few dozen neighbourhoods or districts [page 60]. The areas closest to the University are Hillhead, Partick, Woodlands, Hyndland, and Finnieston. These all have numerous student flats, rich social scenes and great transport links. Hillhead, Hyndland and Woodlands are the most expensive areas as they are popular with both students and affluent families.

A little further out, but still within walking distance are Anniesland, Broomhill and Maryhill. Here you should find that rent is a little lower and you still have fairly decent access to the amenities of the West End and the city centre for weekend outings or to the main transport hubs of Glasgow.

The city centre districts which include the Merchant City, Garnethill and Cowcaddens are often quite full up with Strathclyde and Glasgow Caledonian students but can be worth a look. Dennistoun towards the east of the city is an up-and-coming community with lots of new cafés, restaurants and bars popping up. On the Southside, Shawlands and Pollokshields are emerging as cultural hubs and are popular with families and young professionals.



COSTS

There are a lot of costs involved in moving into a private flat. The first of these is the deposit, which is paid in advance and is used as security against any damage you may cause, or bills left unpaid. Deposits are generally one or up to a maximum of two months' rent and it is now a legal requirement that landlords register this deposit with a government approved scheme within thirty working days of your tenancy starting. This third-party is responsible for overseeing any disputes which may arise over the amount of deposit returned at the end of tenancy.

The second large expense is, of course, rent. This is usually paid monthly, but some landlords will ask for a weekly rent to be paid. The amount of rent you will pay depends on a number of factors including location, number of rooms, quality of fixtures and fittings and popularity of the property. Bills are the next highest expense and are not usually covered by landlords, unlike in halls of residence. You will likely be responsible for your electricity, gas, phone, TV licence and internet, as well as any other services you choose.

Another, sometimes overlooked, cost in moving into a new flat is furnishings and equipment. Most University accommodation comes furnished with the necessary equipment such as kettles, vacuum cleaners, ironing boards and so on. However, you may need to purchase additional items to make it feel more like home.

September sees shops like Argos, B&M, The Range, and IKEA filled to the brim with students purchasing low cost / quality goods for their new flats and you will likely be one of them. Don't go out and buy a £50 set of plates from John Lewis for your first flat, they will break, and you will just end up replacing them with £1 IKEA ones anyway. To save money, and the planet, consider checking out the 'Student2Student Essentials' scheme run by GUEST – the University's Environmental Sustainability Team [page 130].

ACCOMMODATION

Moving On



COUNCIL TAX

As a student, your council tax situation depends on where you live. Students residing in halls of residence and private student accommodation are automatically exempt from council tax. For those living in private rented accommodation, full-time students are exempt. To claim this exemption, fill out the online council tax exemption form provided by Glasgow City Council. If you're living with non-students, your eligibility for a discount or exemption may vary. Check the City Council website for full details: glasgow.gov.uk/article/1472/Student-Exemption-or-Discount.

To simplify the process, consider opting in to share your student information with Glasgow City Council through MyCampus. This will allow the University to automatically send your student status to the Council. Alternatively, you can obtain a stamped letter from the University to verify your student status and current address. Remember that your exemption or discount only lasts until the official end date of your studies. Avoid unnecessary complications by applying early and ensuring you're not paying council tax you don't owe.



If you're struggling with Council Tax issues you can always reach out to the SRC Advice Centre for support: glasgowuniscrc.org/advice.

Additionally, if you're struggling to find a flat, we have some advice on this too: glasgowuniscrc.org/advice/accommodation/fearless-flathunting.

HOW TO FIND A FLAT

Finding a flat can often be a bit tricky, but there are a few things you can try. Word of mouth, especially from more experienced students, is a great way of finding a reliable and trustworthy landlord and nice, convenient flats. If you know people who have lived in a place, then you are able to find out all you need to know about the tenancy and the flat's pros and cons. You will find that the flats on offer to students have been passed down from year to year, you may even get a knock on the door from nostalgic past residents!

Websites such as Rightmove, S1 Rental or Gumtree can also be helpful for finding accommodation but should always be used with caution and, in the case of Facebook or social media adverts, extreme caution. Make sure to do your research before signing up to a privately let flat by checking that the landlord is registered with the Scottish Landlord Register. Some landlords and unofficial letting agencies are notorious for ripping off students who are inexperienced in finding accommodation. If you're unsure about a landlord or letting agent then you shouldn't go through with a tenancy.

If you have any concerns about the legitimacy of your potential landlord or new flat, make sure to check in with the SRC Advice Centre [page 56] before signing the lease; they'll be able to guide you through the necessary checks to make sure everything's above board.

THINGS TO AVOID WHEN FLAT HUNTING:

- No valid HMO (Houses in Multiple Occupation) certificate.
- Requests for cash-in-hand deposit or rent.
- Additional or unexpected upfront fees.
- No notice required to terminate tenancy.
- Non-local authority registered landlords / agents.
- General state of disrepair.
- Avoid housing scams: glasgowuniscrc.org/advice/accommodation/scams.



University
of Glasgow

Explore 575 years of history

on an official University
of Glasgow Historical Tour.



Running Tuesday to Sunday at 11:30am and 2pm.
Buy tickets from the SRC Welcome Point or
via our Eventbrite page. Find out more
information at uofghistoricaltours.co.uk

TRANSPORT

Getting Around

Glasgow may be the biggest city in Scotland in terms of population but, in comparison to other major cities across the rest of the UK and Europe, it is relatively small and easy to navigate using any mode of transport. A mixture of having a small city centre, a decent enough public transport system and inexpensive taxis means that getting around is straightforward once you've figured out where you're going.

Unlike other major cities you won't need to be on the underground for ninety minutes to get from one side to the other and trams aren't extortionate (because we don't have them). It's a good idea to get to know the quickest and cheapest ways of getting around to save yourself missing the last Subway or train home and having to fork out £20 for a taxi.

WALKING

Glasgow is a small city, geographically speaking, with the majority of the city's goings-on happening within a few miles of the city centre. This means it's relatively easy to travel on foot; what starts as a daunting two-mile trek from halls to campus will soon become second nature as you get to know the route and city.

You will find that the majority of Glasgow is very safe to walk around and there are ample footpaths away from busy roads. You can walk from the main campus to the city centre in approximately forty minutes... thirty if you hustle.

SUBWAY

The Glasgow Subway system is a brilliant way to get from the West End into the city centre, as well as covering a bit of the Southside. The third oldest underground rail in Europe (after London and Budapest) and possibly the simplest in the world, its circular line has 15 stops and two tracks, one going clockwise (outer circle) and the other going anti-clockwise (inner circle).

The ticketing system has single / return / day tickets and a smart-card system. If you're going to be using the Subway a lot, you can load a 7 or 28 day pass onto the card which is much better value. The Subway finishes around 23:30 Monday – Saturday and 18:00 on a Sunday; it's busiest during the AM/PM commute, and around football matches at Ibrox Station. The nearest stops to campus are Hillhead, Kelvinbridge and Kelvinhall while Buchanan Street and St. Enoch are the most central.

In 2024 the Subway introduced a whole new fleet of modern carriages – they're pretty flash, but still a bit shoogly.



BUSES

Buses are ideal for reaching places that the Subway or trains don't quite cover. Heading to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital for an appointment? Got a hairdresser recommendation in Mount Florida? There's probably a bus that gets you pretty close. Most buses in Glasgow are operated by First Bus. If you're paying cash, exact change only is required – they won't accept notes or give change. Thankfully, you can also pay contactless with your debit card, or use the First Bus app to buy and scan tickets. Buses that stop near the Gilmorehill campus include the 3, 4/4A, 8, and 90. For the Garscube campus, the 60/60A is your best bet. If you're under 22 and living in Scotland, you're eligible for free bus travel thanks to a scheme introduced by the Scottish Government. You'll need a National Entitlement Card or Young Scot card to access it – more info at: transport.gov.scot/concessionary-travel/young-persons-free-bus-travel-scheme.

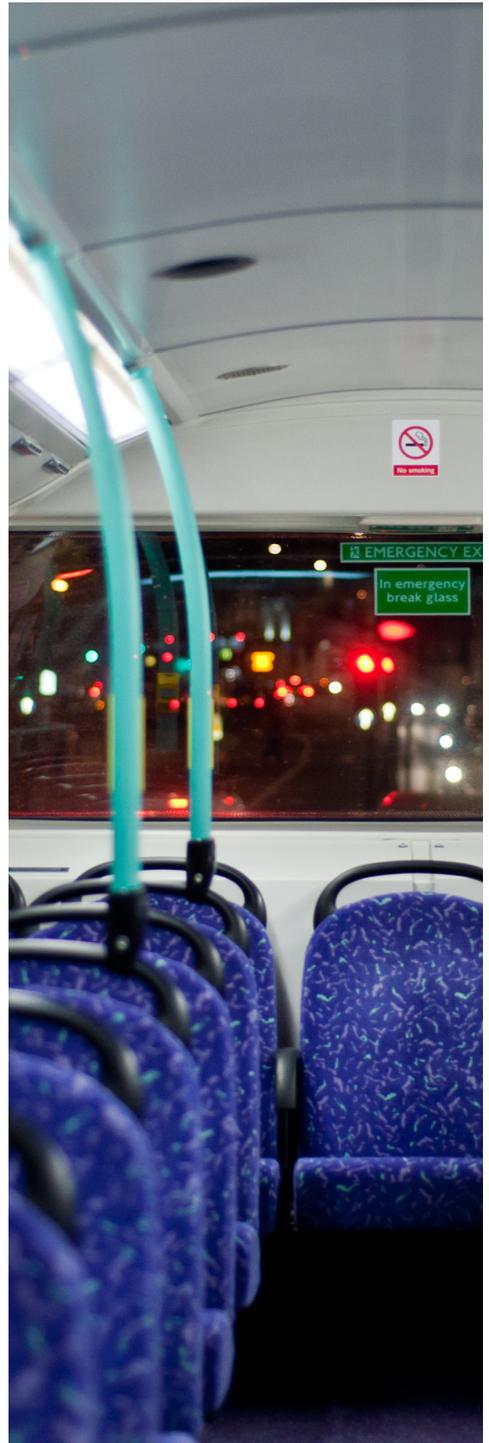


The SRC Advice Centre can advise you on a variety of both public and private transport options: glasgowunsrc.org/advice/transport.

LOCAL TRAINS

As well as the underground rail system, Glasgow's overground is a great way of getting across the city. It's fairly reliable (as far as Scotrail goes) and is pretty cheap. The main overground station in the West End is Partick, in the city it's Central Station and Queen Street Station which are around a 7-minute walk from each other in the city centre.

There are a few useful overground stations you should know about: Exhibition Centre is next to the SEC and Hydro, and a short walk from Finnieston. To the east lies Bridgeton for WEST Brewery, Glasgow Green and Celtic Park. Pollokshaws West gets you to Pollok Park and Shawlands. For Hampden Park you should travel to the Mount Florida station.



TRANSPORT

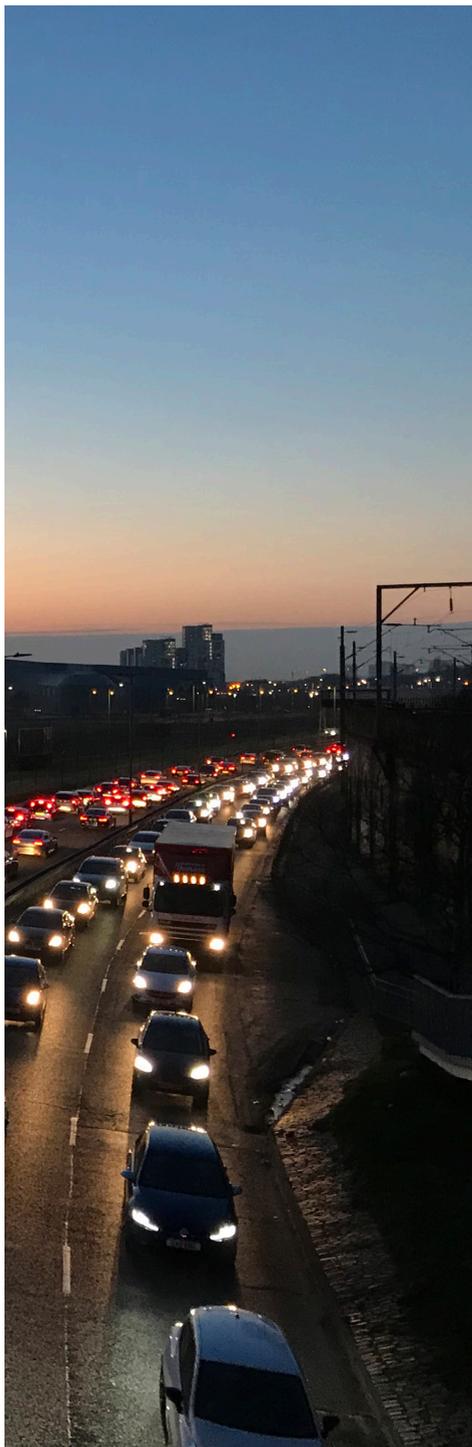
Getting Around

CAR

If you or your new flatmates have a car it can sometimes be useful for things like shopping or travelling outside of the city, particularly if you're heading up to the more remote parts of the Highlands. Glasgow's one-way systems take a while to get your head around, but you'll soon get well acquainted. The M8 is the backbone of road travel in Glasgow but gets extremely busy at rush hours (08:00–09:00 and 17:00–18:00) so plan in advance to avoid it at these times.

There are plenty of options for on-street parking and multi-storey or secure car parks across the city. Several Subway stations – including Kelvinbridge, Shields Road, and Bridge Street – have Park and Ride facilities. Current pricing is around £5–£7 per day (or cheaper with a Subway Smart-card), and some sites also offer EV charging.

To pay for parking on the go, download the RingGo app – it's widely used across Glasgow and saves you scrambling for coins. Also note that Glasgow now operates a Low Emission Zone (LEZ) across the city centre. If your car doesn't meet the required emissions standards, you could be fined for driving into the zone. You can check if your vehicle is compliant here: lowemissionzones.scot/vehicle-registration-checker.



CYCLING

Cycling is a popular and budget-friendly way to get around Glasgow, and the city is steadily improving its cycling infrastructure. The West City Way links the West End to the city centre, and there are now more than 300km of cycle routes across Glasgow, with new segregated lanes and low-traffic neighbourhoods being introduced.

That said, Glasgow traffic can be intimidating, especially if you're new to urban cycling. Always wear something hi-vis and make sure your front and rear lights are working – it's illegal to cycle in the dark without them. Remember: in winter, it can be dark by 15:00, so plan ahead.

If you're looking to buy a bike, check out Bike for Good in Finnieston – they sell refurbished bikes and offer maintenance workshops and cycling confidence courses.

You'll also spot the OVO Bikes (formerly Nextbike) all over the city. There are more than 100 docking stations, and University of Glasgow students and staff get the first 30 minutes of each rental free. You'll need to register with your UofG email on the Nextbike app or website to activate the free rides. It's a handy option for short trips – just check availability in advance, as coverage can be a little patchy in some areas.



TAXIS

Taxis are great, and Glasgow has a reputation for being reasonably priced compared to many other UK cities – though, like everywhere, prices have crept up in recent years. Glasgow taxi drivers are a friendly bunch with an encyclopaedic knowledge of the city, so be nice and you might learn something unexpected on the way to your destination.

Black cabs (the official metered taxis) can be flagged down if their light is on, picked up at taxi ranks, or ordered using the Gett app. They're more expensive than private hire, but licensed to pick you up on the street.

Private hire cars (like local minicabs) are generally cheaper but must be booked in advance – you can't hail them from the roadside. Many supermarkets and venues have a direct phone line to local firms, which is a handy way to ensure you're getting a licensed driver.

Uber, Bolt, and Free Now are all widely used in Glasgow. They're popular with students, but watch out for surge pricing at peak times (weekends, events, late nights), which can push up the fare. Always check the price before you confirm – and make sure the driver and car details match your app before hopping in.



TRANSPORT

Getting Away

Though you'll undoubtedly grow to love Glasgow, there will be times when you want to escape the city boundaries for the comforts of home, some sun, sea and sand, or just to explore what Scotland has to offer. Whether you're visiting the folks, fancy a bit of summer sun with your flatmates, or are looking for a quiet weekend in the Highlands, Glasgow's excellent transport links will take you wherever you want to go with little fuss.

TRAINS

Scotland's rail network is a great way to explore Glasgow's surrounding areas or make trips further afield. The city's two main stations – Queen Street and Central – each serve different directions: Queen Street typically handles trains heading north and east, while Central covers south and west destinations. That said, there are always exceptions, so check before you board.

The commuter route between Glasgow and Edinburgh is the most popular. Fast trains from Queen Street to Edinburgh Waverley take just under an hour and run roughly every 15 minutes. You can also travel via Central station, but that route takes longer and is less frequent. ScotRail's free app is a reliable tool for live timetables, service alerts, and fare options. For tickets spanning multiple operators or locations outside Scotland, the Trainline app can be helpful – though you'll pay a small booking fee.

Important fare change: as of September 2025, peak-time surcharges have been scrapped across ScotRail services. That means the same fare applies whether you're travelling at rush hour or off-peak, so there's no need to stress about tricky timing on most journeys.

If you're planning ahead, look out for ScotRail's 'advance' fares, which can be significantly cheaper and go live about 12 weeks before your travel date. Regular travellers should consider investing in a 16–25 Railcard or full-time student card (around £30 a year or £70 for three years) – it provides a third off most ScotRail fares and practically pays for itself.

You can still buy tickets on the train for many ScotRail routes, but you won't get the cheaper advance or student fares that way. Better to book before you board if you can.



PLANES

If you choose to go abroad either for academic research or (more likely) a holiday, then there are a few things you should know. Firstly, Glasgow's air networks are always improving with new direct routes added every year.

With Glasgow's airport actually located on the other side of Paisley, to get there you have two choices: taxi or bus. Pre-booked taxis are around £40 from the city centre; black cabs around £45. Both sound expensive, but if you're travelling in a group, it's cheaper than the bus. The two main buses, which drop off and pick up at Glasgow Airport are the 500 shuttle bus and the 77.

The 500 goes direct from Buchanan Street, as well as picking up at a few places in the city centre and takes around twenty-five minutes. It has free Wi-Fi and USB chargers in the seats so you can top up before your journey. The 77 comes from the city centre through the West End, including a stop at Partick bus / train / Subway station, but does take longer.

If you can't find a direct flight to your preferred destination from Glasgow, there is a direct bus from Buchanan Street Bus Station to Edinburgh Airport which opens up your possibilities tenfold.



COACHES

If neither planes nor trains can get you where you want to go, or if you're a bit strapped for cash, Buchanan Bus Station in the city centre has loads of options for national travel, including the ever-reliable Megabus which can take you all over the country and beyond; if you're brave enough, they'll get you as far as Barcelona cheaper than anyone else. The National Express Coach Service offer a 16–26 Young Persons Coachcard for £15 per year which gives you a third off fares each year (costs £37.50 for 3 years). They also have a handy app where you can check routes and book e-tickets.



WELLBEING

Physical Health

The COVID-19 pandemic made us more aware than ever of our physical and mental health and how important it is to look after both. The Wellbeing section is all about taking care of yourself physically, mentally and sexually, and making sure that, should anything go wrong with any aspect of your health, you know where to turn.

DOCTORS

If you haven't already, you will come down with some sort of illness during your first year in Glasgow, though usually just the common cold. It's inevitable, so it's very wise to register with a GP in Glasgow sooner rather than later.

On campus you'll find the Barclay Medical Practice, located inside the Fraser Building. All students can register for the practice, and you can even do it online, but that does mean it can get very busy and they'll more often than not recommend one of the packed triage sessions over offering an appointment.

If you're the kind of person who gets ill easily or have an ongoing health concern that requires regular appointments, it may be more convenient for you to register with a GP nearer to your halls or accommodation.

Check out nhsggc.scot to see where to find your nearest registered GP. Always make sure to attend a pre-booked appointment and always take the advice of your real-life GP over that of WebMD. You can also ask a pharmacist for advice about non-prescription remedies for minor illnesses (e.g. a seasonal cold).

PRESCRIPTIONS

All patients registered with a GP in Scotland are entitled to free prescriptions. The nearest pharmacy to campus is a Boots store on Byres Road. There are heaps of other pharmacies scattered around the West End including on Great Western Road, and Dumbarton Road in Partick.

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

If you do fall ill with a more serious condition or think that you need to see a doctor at the weekend, then your first call should be to NHS 24 on 111. They'll put you on to a health-care professional who will be able to advise the best course of action, which is usually "go to hospital", because diagnosing people over the phone is tricky at best, though they will sometimes suggest visiting your GP at the next available opportunity.

The nearest Accident & Emergency (A&E) to campus is in the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital on Govan Road just the other side of the Clyde Tunnel. It is served by a number of bus routes (34, 77, 8, X19) or a quick 10-minute taxi ride.

DENTISTS

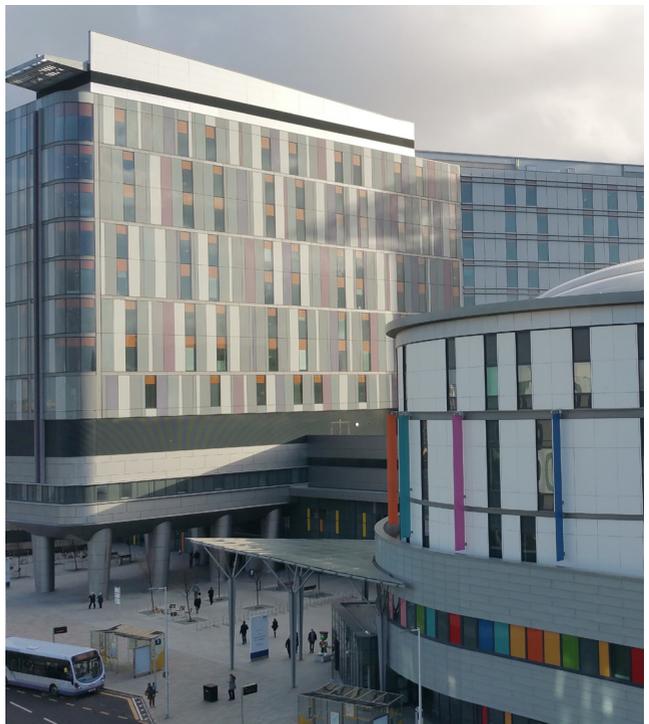
To keep those pearly whites in tip-top condition it is best to register with a dentist in Glasgow. Staying with your family practitioner might be fine for your yearly check-ups when you're visiting home in the summer, but if you're caught out with an issue that needs treatment in the short term, you'll probably want a tooth doctor a bit closer. Plus, if you're moving here, annual check-ups are free in Scotland so get ready to gloat to your friends and family back home.

There are a number of NHS registered dentists throughout the city; to find your local practice you can look again on [nhs-ggc.scot](https://www.nhs.uk). For dental emergencies, the dental school located on Sauchiehall Street has a decent reputation; it's an option if you're looking for significantly reduced treatment prices and you're willing to literally put your teeth in the hands of someone still learning the trade.

OPTICIANS

Like prescriptions, museums, and terrible weather, eye tests are also free for those living in Scotland via the NHS. As a student, you'll probably regularly spend a majority of your day looking at a screen, be it a laptop, tablet, or phone, so it's worth getting regular check-ups to make sure it's not detrimentally impacting your eyesight.

There are a couple of decent options nearby, including a Specsavers optician on Byres Road, as well as others scattered around the West End (some of which offer a student discount – page 126). For nice frames that don't break the bank, check out IOLLA in Finnieston.



WELLBEING

Mental Health

Content warnings apply. Student life can be difficult; pressures from both within and outwith your academic pursuits can weigh heavily on you during your time at University. It's worth remembering to take care of your mental health and wellbeing in the same way you would your physical health and be aware of anything that might impact your studies. The same goes for those who come to University with an ongoing mental illness: there is a lot of support out there.

SUPPORT

The first thing you should know when considering mental health issues is that you are not alone; there are a number of support systems both within the University and externally which are there to help should you feel the need to talk to someone. Don't be afraid to speak out; there's no shame in caring for your mental health and talking can often be part of a solution.

If you're looking for support, consider the services listed here. It is very much a case of what works for you and what will help your personal situation. Do not be afraid to ask for help, it's there if you need it. Here are a few places to turn:

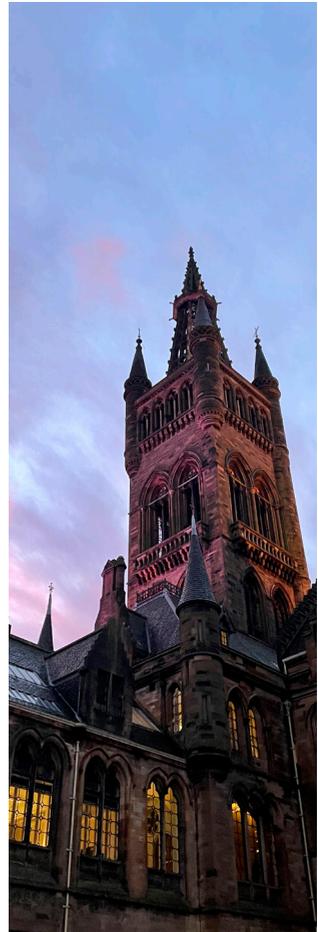
COUNSELLING & PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

If you are struggling, the University of Glasgow Counselling Service can support you to manage your mental health and build strategies that aim to help you successfully complete your studies.

The service is primarily designed to support those with mild to moderate needs. They do not diagnose or prescribe and are not a crisis service, although they do also offer crisis support. Upon fully registering with them, you will be offered an initial 1-2-1 consultation. Depending on need, the support they then offer includes:

- **Short term, focused blocks of therapy, subject to assessment**
- **Wellbeing Consultations**
- **Psychoeducation and group work**
- **Self-help resources**

You can find out more about the Counselling Service on their website: gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/counselling. Or phone the 24/7 Health Assured Helpline: 0800 028 3766.



CAMPUS INITIATIVES

There are also student-led mental health initiatives worth checking out. While they shouldn't be thought of as professional help, if you're looking for support, they can be really helpful in pointing you in the right direction. The SRC has a mental health workshop, as well as a De-Stress campaign which they run at busy assignment or essay times such as in December, April/May, and over the summer for postgraduates. Find out more at: glasgowuniscr.org/workshops.

WELLBEING CHARITIES

Talking to external mental health charities such as The Samaritans, and the established Scottish initiative Breathing Space, can be beneficial when looking for advice or direction on how to deal with any kind of mental health issues or anything that might be causing them. Both services are confidential, free, and highly recommended as a first step in addressing problems at an early stage.

Samaritans

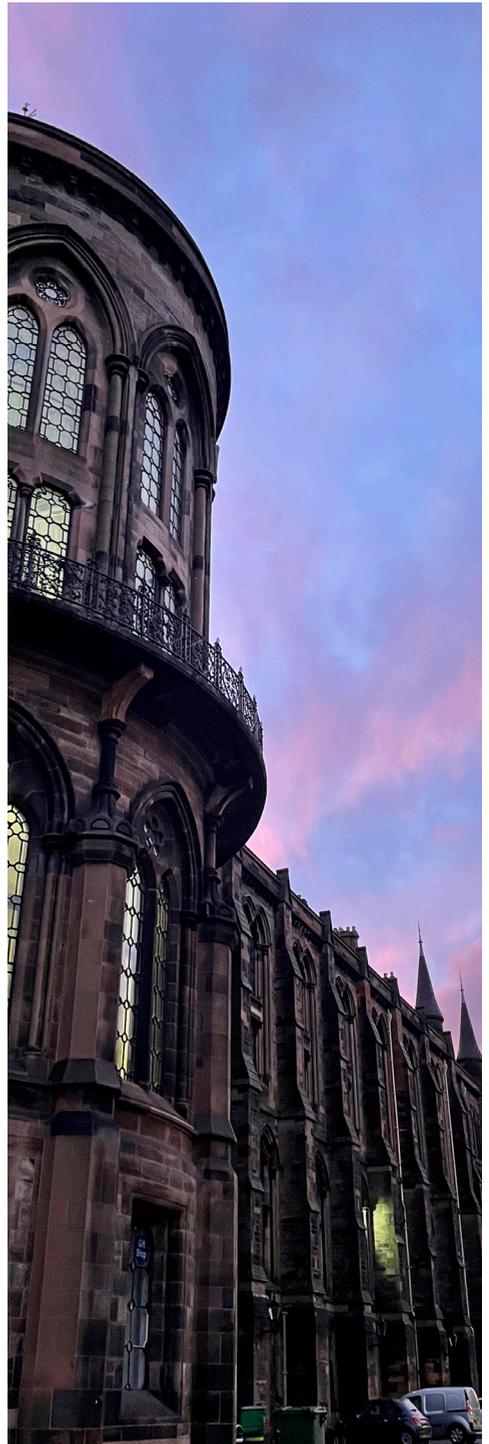
- 116 123
- Hours: Open 24 hours / 7 days
- samaritans.org/branches/Glasgow

Breathing Space

- 0800 83 85 87
- Hours: Mon–Thurs: 18:00–02:00, Fri–Sun: 18:00–06:00
- breathingspace.scot



If you're managing a long-term mental health condition (like anxiety, depression or PTSD), you might be eligible for extra support through the University's Disability Service. That could include things like extra time in exams, coursework extensions, or help accessing services. It's worth looking into – especially if your mental health affects your studies. Find out more at: gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/disability.



WELLBEING

Sexual Health

You might think that considering your sexual health is a bit of a buzzkill but, if you're having sex, it's something you need to keep in mind, especially when you know that nearly half of all sexually active people will have contracted an STI by the age of 25 (now you know). Being responsible isn't difficult; just get to know the basics, if you don't already. The consequences of letting STIs go unchecked are not so fun.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STIs) AND SCREENINGS

It's estimated that one in four students come to University having already had a sexually transmitted infection at some point in their life, or are currently carrying one, so it's important to know what you're dealing with when it comes to STIs.

Some STIs, including chlamydia and genital warts, do not have any noticeable symptoms. It is important to get regular check-ups and screenings via your GP or a local sexual health clinic. For those who have unprotected sex, an appointment at least every six months is recommended.

If you have any symptoms including itching, redness, unusual lumps, pain or discharge then you should get checked out as soon as possible. And, in the case that you do have an STI, it is important to inform all previous sexual partners to enable them to get checked and receive treatment.

This can be an awkward and embarrassing talk to have; try and do it in person rather than over messenger. You don't want to be that person who sends a copy and paste DM and hopes for the best. If you need a check-up for any reason, the local West End sexual health clinic is the Sandyford Sexual Health Clinic (pictured) in the Finnieston-end of Sauchiehall Street. Check out sandyford.scot to find out about the services they can provide.



CONTRACEPTION

To keep yourself and future partners safe from STIs the most effective method is to use a condom. There is no better way of ensuring that you don't contract an STI. So if you are – or hope to be – sexually active then make sure to keep one to hand.

You can pick up free condoms from the SRC, QMU, GUU and a lot of other places – the Sandyford website contains a directory of official free condom distributors. For those looking for an alternative to condoms, there are a wide variety of options for contraception available via your GP or a sexual health clinic appointment, including the pill, coils and implants.

Many contraceptive options interfere with your body's natural hormones so it is important to follow the advice of your GP or medical professional when considering which method would be best for you.

If you're ever caught out and find yourself needing an emergency contraceptive or 'morning after pill' for any reason, there are two forms available, both of which can be obtained free in Scotland. The easiest way is to request it from your local pharmacy, who can provide it over-the-counter but they can also be obtained via sexual health clinics or GP's offices.

Both pills are more effective the sooner they are taken after having sex. An emergency intrauterine device (IUD) is considered more effective but must be fitted by a trained doctor.

Emergency contraception is free in Scotland, and you don't need ID, a prescription, or to be a certain age to get it from a pharmacy. Most pharmacists will just ask a few questions to make sure it's safe and effective for you. The sooner you take it, the better it works, so don't wait around if you need it.

PREGNANCY

If you or your partner gets pregnant while at University, or even think there might be a chance of pregnancy, go to your doctor; they're more reliable than pound shop tests and will be able to talk you through your options. The University has a policy on Student Maternity and Adoption, which allows for you to adjust or interrupt your studies for a variety of reasons: gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/apg/policies/studentssupport/maternitypolicy.



WELLBEING

Staying Safe

Content warnings apply. No matter what situation you find yourself in while at University, it's vitally important that you feel safe. This applies particularly to your sexual relationships. Here are some very important facts, not guides, about consenting sexual behaviour and what to do should you or someone you know be affected by sexual violence.



The University and the SRC collaborate on a campaign called "Together Against Gender-based Violence" – learn more: glasgowunivsrc.org/16days.

CONSENT

Responsible sexual activity isn't just about avoiding infections and unwanted pregnancies. It's vitally important that any sexual encounter is freely consented to by all involved.

Asking for consent isn't difficult and needn't 'kill the mood'. Consent is about doing something with someone, not to someone. If you are unsure whether what you are doing is welcome, **STOP**. Ask if it's okay and make sure the person isn't under any pressure and remember that consent is a positive 'yes'; just because the person doesn't say 'no', it doesn't mean they consent.

If they're too drunk to freely make decisions, can't speak, or are unconscious, they are not capable of giving consent and it's important to make sure they are safe. For the original and best explainer of consent through the medium of tea, check out 'Tea Consent' by Emmeline May / Blue Seat Studios on YouTube.

The SRC runs 'Let's Talk About Sexual Consent' workshops each year as part of their campaigning to end Gender-based Violence (GBV) on campus. These are open to all students and aim to open up discussions about consent, bystander intervention and how we can all help to tackle sexual violence. Find out more and book a session at: glasgowunivsrc.org/lets-talk.

In addition to these workshops, the SRC have also implemented an online GBV training module which all students can access via Moodle. This course is designed to complement the workshop materials.

Also, remember that all students are expected to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct whilst at the University. Not getting consent for sexual activity is a criminal offence and can be reported to the University, potentially leading to serious punishment, including expulsion. Read more on the University website: gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/app/studentcodes/conduct/studentconductstudents.



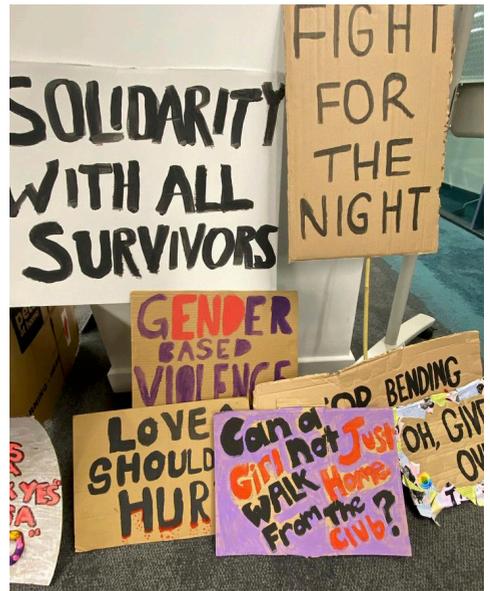
SEXUAL ASSAULT

All students deserve to be safe and respected during their time at University. If you are affected by sexual violence, please know that you do not have to deal with it alone. There is non-judgemental, sensitive support available both on and off campus.

To start with, have a look at the SRC Advice Centre's webpage (glasgowunisrc.org/advice/health-and-wellbeing/sexual-violence) which lists some useful tips for what to do and links to specialist organisations who can help you. Or if you would prefer, you can come into the SRC Advice Centre and speak in confidence with a member of the advice team.

At time of writing (August 2025) the SRC has a Gender-based Violence Counsellor working out of their Advice Centre every week. They run drop-in sessions every Tuesday. The drop-ins are free, confidential and no information is shared with the University or any 3rd party without your consent. Find out more and book an appointment at: glasgowunisrc.org/gbv-counsellor.

The two most useful local specialist organisations in the aftermath of a sexual assault are the Archway Sexual Assault Referral Centre, located at 6 Sandyford Place, and Glasgow & Clyde Rape Crisis – helpline 08088 00 00 14. Or you can contact the Rape Crisis Scotland helpline every evening from 17:00 – 00:00 on 08088 01 03 02.



SAFETY ON CAMPUS

If you're on campus and feel unsafe, we recommend getting in touch with the UofG Campus Security team. The best way to do this is via the 'SafeZone' app. This app is monitored 24 hours a day by campus security and allows you to call for help at the push of a button, whether it be on campus, at halls or anywhere in between. The app also works off campus and will connect you either with local security or police services.

The main functions of the app include:

- **Blue button** – for general enquiries / non-emergency.
- **Red button** – for emergencies, shares your location with the security team so they can find you.
- **Emergency services** – for when you may be out of range of campus security's help, this calls 999.
- **Green button** – for first aid or if someone near you needs medical assistance.

Find out more and download SafeZone at gla.ac.uk/apps.

WELLBEING

Drugs & Substances

For many, University is a time for trying new things and to be honest, it's likely that at some point in the next four(ish) years, you will be offered access to drugs. These range from legal substances like alcohol to illegal substances including amphetamines and cannabis. If you want to experiment, that's up to you, but it's best to do so safely and responsibly and understand that doing so may be in breach of the University's rules.

ALCOHOL

Yes, alcohol is a drug. Yes, this sounds a bit like a high school social studies lesson, but it is definitely the most common drug you'll come across as a student. The cliché of students drinking a lot, and often, is based on truth and there are certain clubs and societies who will actively encourage drinking through games and challenges.

Student life can sometimes feel like it revolves around drinking, going out, meeting in bars or flat parties... that doesn't have to be the case for everyone. There's plenty going on outside of drinking-based social activity and if you're not into it, no one should judge you for it. Your course mates or friends will most likely invite you for a drink at some point. If you aren't keen for whatever reason then just let them know it's not for you and say you'll hang out another time, or just go along and stick to the soft drinks.

Both unions try to have a good range of non-alcoholic drinks so they can be good places to go to have a fun time with your friends who do drink, even if you don't want to, and you'll find lots of clubs and societies have non-drinking events.

ILLEGAL DRUGS

Drug use amongst students is not uncommon and can be seen at private parties and social gatherings. The most likely drugs you may come across are cannabis and, to a lesser extent, ecstasy / MDMA and cocaine. Although drug use may seem commonplace in certain environments, the police and University are in no way lenient towards casual use in any context. Drugs are strictly banned on campus and in University accommodation. It is illegal to have in your possession, give away or sell illicit substances and being caught doing so will have serious University and probably legal repercussions.

Of the most common illegal drugs you'll come across, ecstasy / MDMA and cocaine are the more dangerous – if you choose to partake, do some reading about possible side-effects, especially in the context of nightclub environments where the mix of heat, alcohol and lots of other people make it more dangerous. If you take one bit of advice from this, let it be that keeping track of your water consumption is essential and can save lives.

If you're going to do any illegal drug, make sure you've got someone to keep an eye on you and remember that for the most part, the key is moderation. There is a big difference between having a good time and having your semester, year, or life ruined by something out of your control and having it affect both your degree and your personal life.

If you ever find yourself questioning whether you're developing a substance dependency, then get online and visit talktofrank.com. It's an excellent resource where you can find information and help on dealing with potential substance abuse. Similarly, if you feel that a friend, flat-mate or someone else you're close to may have a substance abuse problem, the website offers help on how to address it with them and tips for offering support.

- **Talk to Frank helpline: 0300 123 6600**
- **Open 24 hours / 7 days**



Top-Tips For Partying Without Regret:

1. KNOW YOUR LIMITS

Sure, you've probably had some practice and have an idea of how much you can handle, but you'll be drinking with new people in new environments, so keep yourself in check and try not to go overboard. Same rule applies for other substances.

2. PACE YOURSELF

Booze can take up to twenty minutes to hit you, so try not to go too big, too quickly. Other substances can vary massively in how long they take to affect you, so be cautious.

3. STAY HYDRATED

Alcohol dehydrates you, so try and get in a few pints of water between pints / shots / VKs during the night. If you or a friend has taken ecstasy / MDMA, then keeping an eye on your water levels can be life-saving. Be careful also not to overdo it and drink too much water.

4. STAY SAFE

Don't leave your drink unattended and try and plan how you're getting home and who with before you leave – if this changes, make sure to tell someone.

The better you eat, the better you will feel and the better you will work. A lot of new students think they can't cook, are scared of using fresh ingredients, and so turn to the questionable, warm embrace of processed meat products, frozen pizzas and terrible takeaways to survive.

There is nothing worse than getting into a routine of bad eating, so here are a few tips to keep you and your bank balance happy, healthy and focused on what's important.

COOKING

Many students who are new to cooking for themselves will make mistakes in the beginning. You will learn from these mistakes, and you will improve so don't be afraid to try new things; the internet is a brilliant resource for recipes.

If you find yourself with a random selection of ingredients in the bottom of the fridge, check out supercook.com's recipe generator function; you can put the ingredients you have in one end, and they will create a few recipes for you to choose from (also available as an app). BBC Good Food is another great online resource with hundreds of simple and easy recipes (bbcgoodfood.com). Cooking is a great way of getting people together. Big occasions such as birthdays or religious festivals are usually times when fifteen people try to squeeze round your four-person table, every oven in the vicinity is on full blast and there is an abundance of merriment.

Embrace these occasions and learn tricks and recipes from friends and flatmates who will all likely want to show off their speciality dish. Even small scale, cooking enough to share with a flatmate who's had a tough day can be a great gesture, one which should hopefully be returned when you find yourself in need.

You will, inevitably, spend a lot of time just cooking for one as your schedule won't match up with your friends' and it's often just easier to knock something up for yourself; this is when you'll find that Tupperware becomes your new best friend.

If you've got the ingredients, cook big batches of dishes like curry, chilli, pasta bake or stew that can be portioned out and easily reheated after a shift at a part-time job, or for lunch when you've got a hangover. This method will save money, effort and leave you more free time to study, socialise or work in the long run. And yes, there'll be times you microwave a ready meal and call it a win – no shame in that either.



Want to save money and help reduce food waste? Check out apps like Too Good To Go, where you can grab end-of-day food from local cafés and bakeries for pennies, or Olio, where neighbours and shops give away food they won't use.

SUPERMARKETS

One of those things no one really thinks about until they have to on a regular basis is the 'big food shop'; this will soon become part of your routine. It will take a while for you to establish a system. Often in the first few trips, you'll forget to buy the essentials and come home with things you don't need or won't eat. It's easily done.

After a few weeks, you'll figure out what you use a lot of and what you can afford to skip. There are lots of ways you can save a few pennies when supermarket shopping. Bulk-buying non-perishables is an obvious one; pasta and rice should only ever be purchased in giant 2kg bags and will last a good six months if sealed and stored correctly. If you have a large freezer this is another way you can stock up, either on meat (keeps four to six months) or on home cooked batch meals (keep two to three months).



There are loads of supermarkets in Glasgow with the big four (Tesco, Morrisons, Sainsbury's and Asda) positioned throughout the city, so if you have family loyalty to one it won't be hard to carry on that time honoured tradition. The Tesco Extra in Maryhill (AKA Big Tesco) is the most accessible to Murano Street Student Village and sells almost everything. It's open 24 hours every day and has a reduced section roughly the same size as a regular supermarket.

Morrisons in Partick is another easily accessible supermarket and is just next door to a Subway and train station – handy for getting things home. If you're confident you can find a time when someone will be in your flat and fancy a logistical challenge, ordering shopping online is an option. Most local supermarkets will deliver to halls, which can save some hassle.

The two European conquerors, Lidl and Aldi, are scattered across the city with more branches opening all the time and are challenging the big four on quality as well as cost. They stock everything you need at very reasonable prices.

Also, don't forget about independent stores in the West End, who often have very good quality fresh meat and veg at even cheaper prices than the budget supermarkets. The produce is often better quality than you'll get in the big chains, has less plastic packaging and some will also serve Halal meat.

Money



Should you have any issues with your finances and need guidance on where to get help, the SRC Advice Centre have loads of information to help you at glasgowunivsrc.org/advice/money.

Coming to University, for most, means financial independence for the first time. It may seem like your birthday has come early when you check your bank balance on the first day of term but be aware that frivolous spending can lead to dinners of only boiled rice or beans as you get close to the end of term. Along with tuition fees, accommodation and daily living there are a whole host of other expenses on the way to getting your degree; it is often a struggle balancing outgoings and income, but there are a few simple things you can do to make that struggle a little easier.

BUDGETING

First things first, set a budget. Try to balance your loans, grants and other income against outgoings, such as fees, rent, groceries, course materials, insurance, phone bills and travel (including holidays and trips), and socialising. If the two don't match up, you can do three things: increase income, decrease outgoings, or a bit of both. It is always a good idea to leave a little wiggle room in your budget for unexpected emergencies or unforeseen expenses.

It's a good idea to shop around for things like mobile phone contracts, insurance, and – when moving out of halls – internet, gas and electricity providers. Being conscious of the best deals can end up saving you hundreds of pounds over the year. If you're looking for good deals or financial advice, one of the best places to look is moneysavingexpert.com. They rate things like bank accounts, travel companies, service providers and insurance companies to find the best deals. Free budgeting apps like Emma, Snoop or Monzo can help you track your spending and stay on top of your finances without much effort.



STUDENT DISCOUNTS

A lot of places offer student discounts on their products which you have no doubt seen and used in the last couple of years. Many high-street shops including New Look, Schuh, Asos and more, offer discounts when you sign up to a service such as UNiDAYS or Student Beans. There are also quite a few local West End businesses who offer discounts when you present a valid student ID, including hairdressers, opticians, bars, dentists and more. Bigger name brands have special student rates, the foremost being Apple's education

discount where you can get significantly reduced rates on Macbooks and iMac computers. Even if you don't know whether or not a place does student discount you should always ask. 20% off here and there might not seem like it will matter, but it soon adds up and makes your money go a lot further. If you're under 26 and live in Scotland, the Young Scot National Entitlement Card can also get you extra discounts at shops, gyms, cinemas, and travel providers. Check young.scot for details.



STUDENT LOANS

Student loans are a common way of funding your studies. Most full-time UK students will be eligible for some financial support in the form of a loan. Applications are completed through the relevant funding body in your home country and the amount awarded depends on an assessment of your household income.

What makes a student loan different to a personal loan from a bank is the way it is paid back. You won't pay anything back until your salary

reaches a certain level, this is currently set at £32,745 per annum in Scotland. As with any loan, if you don't need the full amount being offered to you, you don't have to accept it. If you are planning on funding your time at University through savings, part-time work, or other means it might be a good idea to decrease the amount of your loan. Although the interest rate is reasonable, you don't want to be paying interest on money you didn't really need.

FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES

Your time at University can be expensive and given the recent cost of living crisis in the UK, it will take you a while to find your feet. Unfortunately, in the past couple of years, a lot of basic day-to-day costs have increased, including in particular, the price of food and fuel. These rising costs are affecting everyone, including a lot of students, but there is help and support available.

If you find that you are spending more than you have budgeted for then it is sometimes a good idea to go back through your bank statements to see where you've been overspending. Sometimes with a simple fix and some responsible saving, it's easy to get back on track.

Student bank accounts are convenient and may offer free overdrafts for those months when things don't quite add up – take advantage of these instead of opting for credit or store cards. Applying for credit while studying can be a dangerous path to go down so think very hard about how you will make the monthly payments before applying. Pay-day loans should be avoided at all costs – they are bad news and will only lead to you getting into debt.

If you find that your financial troubles are past the point of being helped by budgeting or cutting back, then there are places that can help. The SRC Advice Centre [page 56] should absolutely be your first port of call; their advisors are well versed and experienced in dealing with such situations. The University's Financial Aid Team are also a good place to contact for help, and alongside the Advice Centre they have developed a page of support specifically related to the rising cost of living: gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/students/costoflivingsupport.

Other sources of financial support include the Discretionary and Financial Support Funds. The Discretionary Fund is open to all UK Home students and the Financial Support Fund is for EU and International students. Find out more here: gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/registry/finance/funds/discretionary-childcare and gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/registry/finance/funds/finsupfund.

Jobs

With studies taking up most of your time, and income at a minimum, many students choose to supplement loans, grants and savings with part-time work. It is important to find the right work / life balance while studying for a degree; often the appeal of more money in your pocket can affect students' performance.

Work should never take precedence over studies – you have invested four or more years and a lot of expense in gaining a degree. Always make sure this is your main priority.

RIGHTS & TAXES

Because there is a sizeable number of students looking for part-time work in the city, some employers sometimes see students as an expendable commodity – especially if you're under 21 – as they can get away with paying you less. To avoid this, firstly make sure that you have a written contract that is signed by both you and your employer, and that you have a copy for your own records.

Secondly, check the terms of employment, whether you are an employee, contractor or self-employed. If your shift is six hours or longer, you are entitled to a break of at least twenty minutes, and you are entitled to spend your break away from your working area or desk.

A common mistake students make is thinking they don't need to pay tax or National Insurance – this is not entirely true. You must pay Income Tax if you earn over the annual personal allowance of £12,570 for financial year 2024-25. Many students won't reach this threshold as they only work a few hours per week, perhaps on the weekend or evenings.

If your monthly or weekly wage equates to the personal allowance or higher your employer will usually deduct Income Tax and National Insurance from your wages through Pay As You Earn (PAYE). If, at the end of the tax year, you've paid too much or have stopped working part way through the year (thus not reaching the personal allowance) you may be able to claim a refund, sometimes this comes through automatically. You can check this with HMRC at this link: gov.uk/claim-tax-refund.



FINDING A JOB

If you do choose to seek employment while studying, there are a number of ways to ensure that you find a credible employer. Your first stop should be the online Student Opportunities Hub, promoted on the SRC's website and run by the University's Career Service (glasgowunisrc.org/services/student-opportunities-hub). A wide variety of employers post new positions regularly and the Careers team do their homework to ensure they're decent positions.

Another useful resource is Gumtree. This online noticeboard hosts listings for, well, anything: jobs, property, cars, pets and everything in between. One must be more cautious when browsing the jobs listings on Gumtree; when something seems too good to be true, it often is.

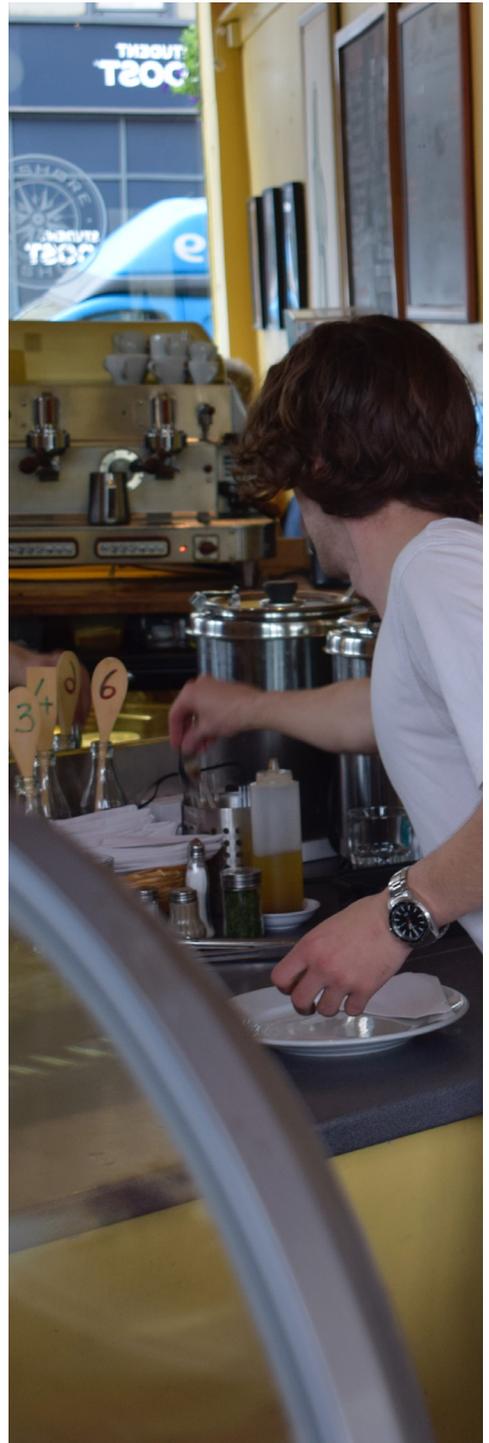
Word of mouth is one of the best ways to gain employment as recommendations from friends or course mates come from a trusted source and can easily be checked out. It is good to work with people you know or live with as getting to and from work is a lot easier, cheaper and safer.

If you're an international student, make sure to check your visa conditions before applying for a job – most student visas limit you to working a maximum of 20 hours per week during term time.

WAGES

At time of writing, the minimum wage rates are £10 per hour for 18–20 year-olds, and £12.21 per hour for those 21 and over. If you find yourself in a situation whereby you are not being paid minimum wage, then you should contact the SRC Advice Centre immediately (glasgowunisrc.org/advice/employment). They will be able to help raise the issue with your employer.

If you want to formally report your employer for failing to pay the minimum wage, contact ACAS on 0300 123 1100 (the SRC Advice Centre can support you with this process).



Sustainability

Climate change. Forest fires. Rising sea levels. They're all pretty scary, right? So, these days, a lot of us are more focused on how we can be more sustainable in our day-to-day lives.

When you think of a green, ecological utopia your mind might not immediately jump to Glasgow, however, in 2021 we played host to COP26 – the United Nations international climate change summit that saw researchers, diplomats and politicians from around the world descend on the Clyde to talk all things environment. Whether you're a full-blown eco-warrior or just doing your bit where you can, here are some tips on leading a sustainable life while you're studying at the University.

ON CAMPUS

The University takes sustainability and climate change pretty seriously. Visit gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/sustainability to find out a whole range of research projects, strategies and policies that the Uni has in place to try and be more eco. This includes "Glasgow Green: The University of Glasgow's response to the climate emergency" which sets out their plans to achieve 'net-zero' carbon emissions by 2030.

COP26 had a big impact on the city and the University, and there's a lot of money being invested into ensuring a strong legacy of the climate summit. For example, the University funds GUEST – the GU Environmental Sustainability Team – who run a variety of sustainable initiatives on campus including the Eco-Hub on the ground floor of the Boyd Orr Building, which opened in 2024.

For a more student-led approach to sustainability, be sure to check out one of the SRC's many environmental clubs and societies. These include the Bird Society, Environmental Law Society, the Marine and Freshwater Biology Society, GU Fashion Revolution, and the Mycology Society.

The SRC also have an elected Environmental Officer on council, and there are often a lot of environmental volunteering opportunities available through their SRC Volunteering service [page 34].



RECYCLING

For those unfamiliar with the recycling system in the UK, we tend to have separate bin collections for glass, mixed recycling (paper, plastic types 1 and 2, card, aluminium tins/cans) food waste, batteries and general waste. Glasgow City Council oversee recycling in the city, and you should have access to each of these bins either in your building, or a short walk away in the case of glass and food waste. If you're living in University or private halls, it's worth asking the accommodation provider what their rules are on recycling as these can differ slightly depending on what bins are available.

REFILL SHOPS

If you're looking for a more sustainable shopping solution than buying everything at Big Tesco, there are lots of refill shops and organic supermarkets scattered around the city. One franchise you'll find dotted around is Locavore. They have a refill shop down in Partick where you can go with your own container to get a range of dry foods such as pasta, rice, nuts and spices at pretty decent prices. A lot of the other produce can be pretty pricey, especially if it is organic, but you can often find some good bargains if you hunt around.

FIGHTING FAST FASHION

One of the big contributors towards climate change is the fast fashion industry. The mass production of cheap, poorly made clothing has a huge impact in terms of CO2 emissions. A good way to fight back against this is to explore some of Glasgow's amazing charity shops, vintage shops and vintage clothing sales. Each of the social unions will likely host vintage clothing sales during the year, some where you can buy clothes by the kilo for as little as £20.

If you prefer shopping online, second-hand platforms like Depop, Vinted and eBay are great for picking up bargains and clearing out your wardrobe sustainably. Many students also use Instagram to buy, sell and trade vintage pieces locally. For more on shopping visit page 87.

GROW YOUR OWN

Food waste is another big culprit in the list of polluters. Growing organic and sustainable fruit and veg is a great way to combat your emissions, and to get involved you should look no further than Glasgow University Food Co-Op. This student-led society provide locally grown veg boxes from as little as £5. These can be collected from the Eco-Hub – to find out more and sign up, visit their Instagram: [@glasgowunifoodcoop](https://www.instagram.com/glasgowunifoodcoop).



Faith

The diversity and mixture of different faiths and religions within the University of Glasgow is one of the aspects which make this University – and this city – so special. You will find it not only very easy to share your faith and get involved in active societies and communities, but you can also learn a lot about other faiths, religions and ways of life.

UofG has a large number of faith groups on campus for students to join and get involved. If you can't see a group which appeals to you, you can always come together and form a new one.

UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

The University runs a multi-faith chaplaincy, which has a full weekly schedule of events, and is also available for bookings throughout the academic year. Whether you are looking for space for a one-off event or a regular meeting, the chaplaincy is able to accommodate various needs and purposes.

The interfaith room has allocated fellowship times for a variety of religious societies. For more information on the religious services and support provided by the University Chaplaincy visit their website at: gla.ac.uk/services/chaplaincy.

CLUBS & SOCS

If you're looking for other students at University who share your faith, then Glasgow has student societies for the majority of religions and beliefs. Having a close-knit community in which to share experiences and seek advice is essential for academic and personal development of students with a faith or religion.

Some of the biggest of these groups are the Catholic Association, Christian Union, Hindu Society, Jewish Society, Muslim Students Association (GUMSA), and Sikh Society. A full list of religious societies can be found on the SRC website at: glasgowunsrc.org/clubs – select the 'Faith' category. If you don't see a group that represents your faith or beliefs, you can apply to start a new one through the SRC – it's a straightforward process, and support is available to help you get set up.

The SRC also regularly collaborates with faith-based societies to support celebrations of major religious festivals, such as Diwali, Ramadan, Christmas and Passover – whether through event funding, promotion, or practical support. If you're keen to bring your community together for a celebration on campus, get in touch with the SRC early in the year to see how they can help.

WIDER COMMUNITY

Glasgow has a wide variety of religious institutions and organisations with diverse and welcoming faith-centric communities within each. Within Glasgow's West End there are numerous places of worship within walking distance of campus; the chaplaincy website has a helpful list of organisations, organised by religion, so don't be afraid to venture outside of the University and its societies to find somewhere you can feel at home expressing your religious views, or to find a community which shares your own faith.





LOOKING TO SELL OR BUY COURSE BOOKS?

The SRC runs a **Secondhand Book Marketplace** so students can save money buying course texts and make money selling their old books as well. It's free, easy to use, and available for all University of Glasgow students via the My SRC app and SRC website.

Scan to
visit our
website!



LGBTQ+

The University of Glasgow is a fully inclusive, safe and supportive environment for people of all gender identities and sexual orientations. A strong network of student groups represents LGBTQ+ students with support from both staff networks and University-led committees. The LGBTQ+ community in Glasgow aims to promote equality, diversity and social interaction throughout the city.

There's plenty to get involved in within the communities at the University through clubs and societies. There are dozens of events, festivals and campaigns taking place throughout the year. It's important to have a strong support network of people who you can relate to and share experiences with.

REPRESENTATION

Representation within the University for both LGBTQ+ students and staff is something which Glasgow prides itself on. The University is fully committed to equality for LGBTQ+ staff, students and potential staff and students, and its Equality and Diversity Policy includes detailed appendices on sexual orientation and gender equality measures in place.

The LGBTQ+ Officer is an elected SRC Council role representing the interests of LGBTQ+ students at University level, they can be contacted via lgbtqplus-officer@src.gla.ac.uk if you feel like you need representation within the University.

The Gender and Sexual Diversity Equality Group (GSDG) brings together the University's Sexual Orientation Equality Champion, reps from the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Unit, SRC and both staff and student LGBTQ+ networks, and provides students with a safe place to discuss issues affecting them on campus.



CLUBS & SOCS

Glasgow has a thriving LGBTQ+ community with a dedicated society for students. The Glasgow University Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Queer+ Students' Association (or GULGBTQ+) was formed to provide an open and welcoming space for people under the LGBTQ+ banner.

They run a number of special events throughout the year to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community both within and outwith Glasgow. They also get involved in campaigning on and debating issues relevant to the community. GULGBTQ+ meet regularly on campus during term time and can be found on Instagram [@gulgbtqplus](#).

PRIDE

The official Glasgow Pride was back this year and takes place in July. There have been some controversies around the Glasgow's main commercial Pride event in the past, with claims that it has been co-opted for commercial gain by big businesses.

Some LGBTQ+ communities have set up their own Pride events in response, including Free Pride which takes place usually later in the year (see [@freepridegla](#) on Instagram for updates). If in doubt about what Pride to go to, look on the SRC's social media pages as they are usually attending or holding their own events.



OFF CAMPUS

Off campus, Glasgow also has a number of clubs, societies and groups which can be found all over the city. LGBT Youth Scotland is an organisation who offer a wide range of groups, activities, volunteer opportunities, and events for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender young people and their friends.

They also run groups and drop-ins in Glasgow and have information about what other LGBTQ+ youth and community groups are running across Scotland. Their website is: [lgbtyouth.org.uk](#).

Groups like LGBT Health and Wellbeing ([lgbthealth.org.uk](#)) and Scottish Trans ([scottish-trans.org](#)) also offer free resources and services for trans and non-binary people in Glasgow and across Scotland.

For info on LGBTQ+ nightlife check out the **YOUR CITY** section, page 83.



Glossary

ARC

Short for the Advanced Research Centre – a shiny new building on the Western Campus used for interdisciplinary research, but also has events, exhibitions, and a public café.

CAMPUS REDEVELOPMENT

The University has been tearing down lots of buildings and throwing up loads of new ones over the past few years at a cost of £1 billion. This is why parts of the campus look like a building site.

CHANCELLOR

Head of the University and elected to the post by the General Council. The Chancellor confers all degrees at the University. This position is currently held by Dame Katherine Grainger DBE.

CLOISTERS

The large, pillared space between the quadrangles underneath the Bute Hall in the main building. Looks like Hogwarts.

COLLEGES

The University is made up of four colleges which cover different areas of academic study and research. These are Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences (MVLS); Science and Engineering; Arts & Humanities; and Social Sciences.

COURT

University Court is the governing body of the University, much like a board of directors.

FIRST

The highest class of undergraduate degree. Equivalent to an A.

FRASER BUILDING

A useful building at the centre of campus, next to the Library. Contains student services and the Barclay Medical Practice.

FRESHER

A student in their first year of University. Probably you.

FRESHERS' / WELCOME

HELPER

A current student volunteering during Freshers' / Welcome Week for one of the student organisations. Often chanting and wearing coloured T-shirts.

GENERAL COUNCIL

The body of all graduates and senior academics of each University providing the advisory part of the University governing structure as outlined in the Universities (Scotland) Act 1858.

GILBERT SCOTT BUILDING

The building that most people refer to as the Main Building, designed by architect Sir George Gilbert Scott.

GILMOREHILL

The name of the hill on which the University sits, home of the main campus.

GLASGOWUNISRC.ORG

The SRC's official website. Useful.

GPA

Grade Point Average, the formula which calculates your work's grades against the credits they are worth to see what your marks actually mean.

GUARDIAN

The University's student newspaper [page 32].

GUM

The University's student magazine [page 33].

GUSA

Glasgow University Sports Association [page 16].

GUU

Glasgow University (student) Union [page 12].

HUNTERIAN

An art gallery and a museum situated on campus [page 66].

JMS / THE JIMMY

The James McCune Smith Learning Hub – fancy building and study space on University

Avenue. Lots of escalators.

MACKINTOSH HOUSE

The house with the door halfway up the wall, next to the Library; a replica of the house Charles Rennie Mackintosh lived in (famous local architect).

MAIN GATE

The large stone archway leading into the main University campus on Gilmorehill.

MCINTYRE BUILDING

Home of the SRC and associated student media [page 10].

MOODLE

The University's virtual learning environment (VLE), where you'll find lecture slides, assignments, forums and links to course resources.

MYGLASGOW

The student portal linking you to email, enrolment, timetables, fees, Moodle, and other key systems.

QMU

Queen Margaret (student) Union [page 12].

QUADRANGLES

Or quads, the greens either side of the cloisters in the Gilbert Scott Building.

RECTOR

Head of University Court, elected by students every three years. Currently held by Dr Ghassan Abu-Sittah.

REGISTRY

Admin legends: registering students, examinations, distribution of grant and loan cheques, financial aid, tuition fees and graduations.

SAFEZONE

The University's campus safety app. Allows you to check in, request help, or contact emergency services while on or near campus.

SCHOOL

The University is made up of twenty-five schools and research institutes, which are home to academic disciplines that are closely related. Each school sits within the college with which its area of study and research most strongly identifies.

SEMESTER

The academic year is split into two semesters. September to December and January to June.

SRC

The Students' Representative Council is the representative body for students registered at

the University. It also publishes the Guide.

SRC VOLUNTEERING

Part of the SRC. Offers volunteering opportunities to students.

SUBCITY

Radio station based at the University [page 30].

SUB CRAWL

15-stop pub crawl using the Glasgow Subway [page 108].

THIRD

Confusingly, the fourth class of undergraduate degree. Equivalent to a D.

TWO-ONE (2:1)

The second-highest class of undergraduate degree. Equivalent to a B.

TWO-TWO (2:2)

The third-highest class of undergraduate degree. Equivalent to a C.

WESTERN CAMPUS

The new development site on the site of the former Western Infirmary, home to the ARC (Advanced Research Centre) and more buildings still under construction as part of the £1bn campus expansion.

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Spotted a vacant position that you'd like to fill?

Look for the GUSRC Elections in October 2025 and March 2026!

Credits

The Guide is produced by Glasgow University Students' Representative Council.

EDIT

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COPY

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PHOTOGRAPHY

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DESIGN & LAYOUT

Jamie Small – sprooter design

PROOF

Michael O'Brien, SRC Advice Team

THANKS

Gladstone Media (printing), Mrs Marissa Small

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