

2013-2014
THE GUIDE

Your handbook to life at Glasgow University





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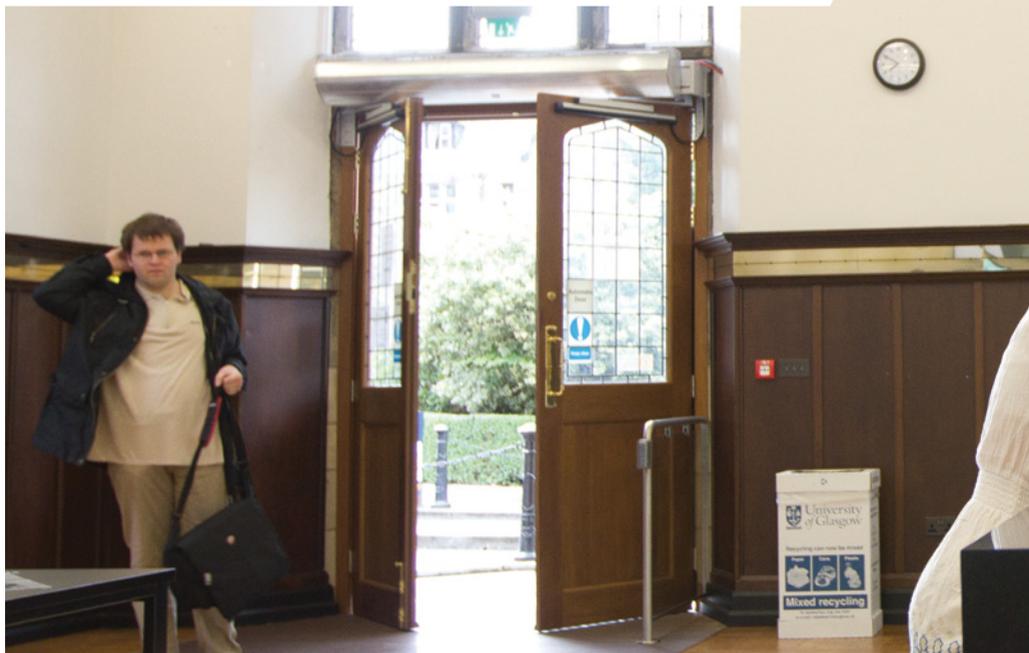
The Guide 2013-2014

Glasgow University Students' Representative Council (GUSRC)

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WELCOME



Welcome to The Guide - your handbook to life at Glasgow University. This book is produced by the Students' Representative Council (SRC) to give you a head-start at the University and living in Glasgow.

The SRC was founded 127 years ago by students looking to collectively represent themselves to the University.

It might seem odd that an organisation like this would be writing a book about everything from university sport and volunteering to the best techno nights in the city and bike routes, but in the past 100 or so years it has picked up quite a package of accessories and appendages along the way and these days is as concerned about your general well-being as it is about your degree.

The SRC's many services are scattered throughout this book, popping up where relevant, but if you're a "gotta catch em all" type, here's a list: *the Advice Centre; campus to halls minibus; volunteering; student media; clubs and societies; academic representation; printing, scanning, binding, faxing; 2nd-hand bookshop; the Gilchrist Club; campus tours and the newest addition, the Welcome Point.*

If you're looking for a good place to get further information about any of the SRC services you read about in this book, the Welcome Point in the John McIntyre building is the best place to go. It's a new space with information screens, iPads for checking the uni websites and a desk which is mainly staffed by students or recent graduates who know the uni and the src inside-out.



The Welcome Point in the John McIntyre Building, the gateway to many of the activities and services in this book.

The four main sections of this book are:

- » **Campus Life** – with interview with the unions and the other student bodies as well as sections on volunteering, clubs and societies and student media.
- » **Studying** – with guides on the library, essays, exams and buying books as well as advice on appeals and complaints.
- » **City Life** – a series of guides on the cultural and fun sides of life in Glasgow.
- » **Living** – some indispensable advice on day to day life as a student – from how to get around to dealing with landlords to looking after your health.

Hopefully you will find some tips and advice in these pages that prove useful, the Studying and Living sections are packed with expert advice gathered from hundreds of cases at the Advice Centre, the City Life section was put together by some recent graduates who live and breath Glasgow life and the Campus Life section offers some rare straight talking interviews in an attempt to sidestep the usual self-agrandising pr speak of campus politicians in favour of real insight into the students running these organisations. And even if there's nothing of immediate use, hold onto The Guide, as it might prove its use when you come to finding a flat, a job or end up needing to appeal an exam result.

CONTENTS

▶ **CAMPUS LIFE**

<i>Student bodies</i>	10
<i>The SRC</i>	12
<i>The unions</i>	14
<i>Sport</i>	18
<i>Gilchrist Club</i>	20
<i>Student media</i>	22
<i>Clubs & societies</i>	26
<i>Volunteering</i>	28

▶ **STUDYING**

<i>The library</i>	34
<i>Buying books</i>	38
<i>Study, essays & exams</i>	40
<i>Academic appeals</i>	44
<i>Complaints</i>	46
<i>Support services</i>	48
<i>Academic Representation</i>	50

CITY LIFE

<i>Idylls in the city</i>	54
<i>Beyond the city</i>	58
<i>Museums & galleries</i>	60
<i>Visual Art</i>	62
<i>Theatre & comedy</i>	64
<i>Cinema</i>	66
<i>Lunch</i>	68
<i>Eating out</i>	70
<i>Bars</i>	72
<i>Off-licences</i>	76
<i>Clubs</i>	78
<i>Live music</i>	82

LIVING

<i>Getting around</i>	88
<i>Food</i>	92
<i>Physical health</i>	94
<i>Mental health</i>	96
<i>Sex</i>	98
<i>Drugs</i>	100
<i>Home & halls</i>	102
<i>Flat hunting</i>	106
<i>Signing the lease</i>	112
<i>Moving out</i>	114
<i>Money</i>	116
<i>Jobs</i>	120



CAMPUS LIFE

Glasgow Uni is a vibrant patchwork quilt of groups, all unique in some way, but ultimately there for you to get more than just a degree out of university.

Student bodies **10**

The SRC **12**

The unions **14**

Sport **18**

Gilchrist Club **20**

Student media **22**

Clubs & societies **26**

Volunteering **28**

campus life...

STUDENT BODIES



Whenever student politics and the non-academic side of campus life is brought up you'll constantly be reminded of the fact that Glasgow's system is unique.

The normal setup everywhere else in the country is that there is one all encompassing Students' Union or Association which is both the representative body for students and the provider of entertainment, food, sports, clubs etc. The idea is that the money from the bars can go back into welfare and volunteering services and that there's a single group to represent student views to the University and wider world.

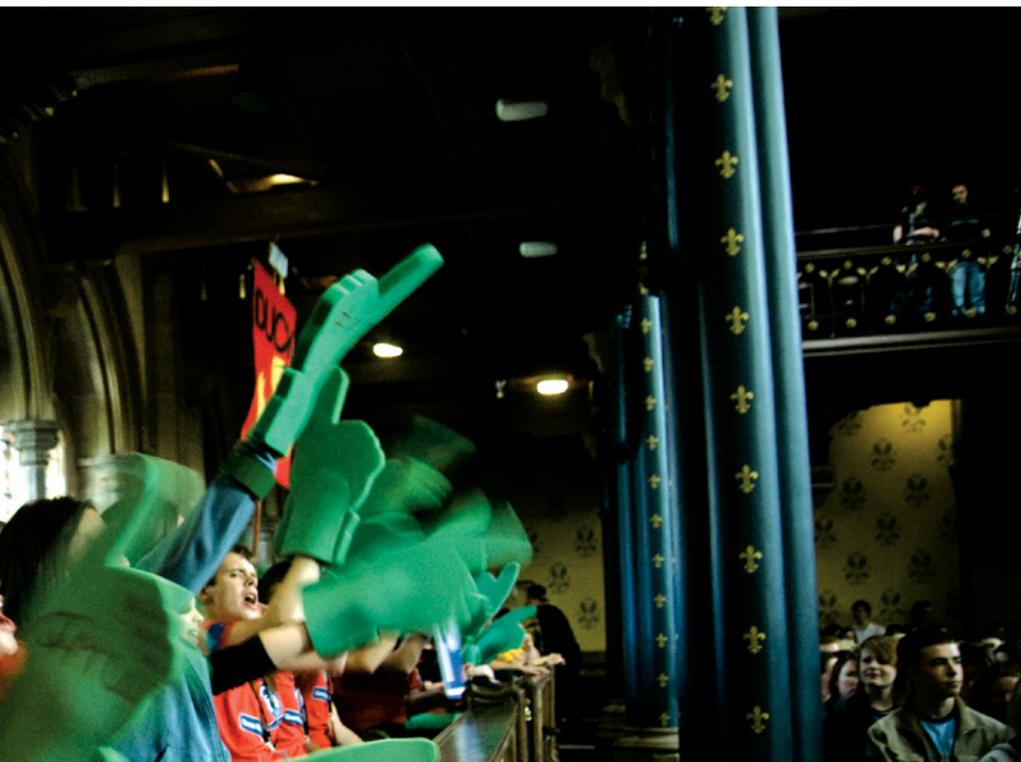
At Glasgow, there are four main bodies. The acronyms will be repeated throughout this and many other documents - SRC, GUU, QMU, GUSA. It's essentially a historical hangover from the days when men and women had separate unions and the

representative and sports bodies were independent from the unions. Both unions have admitted all students for decades now but unlike the rest of the UK's universities, they never merged.

The independence of each organisation leads to a greater variety of opportunities and services, some of which are in competition for your money and time.

One example of the benefits of the system is this book which is produced by the SRC. As they don't have a night club, shop or cafe to run they are free to tell you about the wide range of life in Glasgow ^[see p53], giving you a leg up in a new city, without shooting themselves in the foot or displaying bias.

Try explaining the system to any of your mates at other unis, though, and you'll get some odd looks.



QMU Freshers' Helpers taunt the GUU's helpers during Freshers' Address, but it's only a bit of fun, right? [see p14]

Other groups and services

As if that wasn't enough, there are literally hundreds of individual organisations at Glasgow University which contribute to what the University calls "the student experience", all with varying allegiances and degrees of independence.

As well as the four main student bodies, student media, volunteering groups, the Gilchrist Postgraduate Club and clubs and societies are all detailed over the following pages, but there are a couple of others to look out for.

▶ ***GULGBTQ+ Student Association***

LGBTQ+ offers a wide range of both welfare and social activities to students on campus. The welfare side of the society includes a dedicated welfare officer, monthly welfare drop-ins and talks, presentations and

workshops on specific issues and concerns. Social events in the past have included pub/club crawls, quizzes, debates and film nights.

▶ ***Chaplaincy***

The Interfaith Chaplaincy run religious services and an interfaith prayer room as well as weddings and concerts. Their team includes people in faith groups from across the religious spectrum – they are a broad organisation and even have a Humanist on their team as an advisor for people of a non faith background.

▶ ***Mature Students' Association***

Provide and manage study space; rest areas; computing, printing and photocopying facilities; a meeting/communal study room and kitchen along with a programme of social events for mature students. Based on Southpark Avenue, opposite the Stevie.

campus life...

THE SRC

Ever the practical organisation – they even produce this book! – the Students' Representative Council is a key component in the engine room of everyday campus life: from running the joint university and SRC Welcome Point to providing halls minibuses, the Advice Centre, student media and the numerous week-long events they run throughout the year. You'll find further mentions of the SRC's various services cropping up throughout this book.

However, as this year's SRC president Jess McGrellis explains the organisation has an extremely important representational role which is crucial for all students whether they realise it or not. Now pay attention at the back – this affects you.

What is the SRC?

» *We're the representative body at Glasgow University. Every student is a member automatically – all 25,000 of them and it's our job to represent these students at every level in the University. Basically we're here to tell the University what students think and what they need.*

The frontline services provided by the SRC are quite apparent to students but representation side of things probably go unnoticed. Can you tell us a little bit about the SRC as a representative body?

» *We have a council of around 45 students. The roles range from academic representation, that includes college reps and school reps to the welfare representation side of things for example our gender equality rep and disability equality rep.*

» *Really it's about these offices feeding back to the executive and to their colleges and*

schools about what the learning experience is like for students, what it is they need and what might be done differently. It's a feedback mechanism from students to the University.

How are students going to encounter this aspect of the SRC's work? Are there calendar highlights to lookout for?

» *Every student will encounter the SRC through the Class Representative system. Every class you will be in will have a class rep who will take part in the likes of SRC class training [see p50]. We also have the SRC council elections beginning in October: there are a few positions left so if anyone is interested in running please go for it.*

Would the class rep position be a good place to get started working with the SRC? What other opportunities are available?

» *The class rep position is definitely one of them. But we do offer a lot of other things. There is welfare week in November, where there are lots of different activities going on such as workshops.*

» *There's also loads of fundraising opportunities throughout the year so if you're interested in any of these aspects or volunteering [see p28] for example then please contact the SRC and we can give you information on how to get involved.*

With other students bodies there is usually a big social aspect involved. Are these social opportunities available working for the SRC.

» *Yes absolutely. The fundraising events I mentioned earlier are very social and there are usually a lot of people gathering together at these. Similarly, we're a very social bunch*



SRC President Jess McGrellis in the studio of Subcity Radio, one of the SRC supported student media

at SRC council and we like to get together in a social capacity as well as meeting to just talk about work. The SRC is a great opportunity to meet new friends and not just to do something that looks good on your CV.

Would you say there's any aspect of the SRC's work which is sometimes overlooked. What would you say they do in the background that is of real importance to students.

» We do a lot of high representation work that many students might not realise. A recent example would be a fight we've been having with Scottish Water about their policy of charging students living in halls of residence for water, which is unfair as students who live in private accommodation don't face the same fees.

» This is a campaign we've been working on for sometime and the good news is the Scottish Government have just announced

that they have decided to reverse this policy. A success for us and for the students.

What do you hope to achieve this year through the SRC.

» At the moment we are redeveloping our website which is really exciting as I think it will be an opportunity for us to promote what we are doing and will encourage students to get in touch with us. It will make it easier for them to let us know about issues affecting them that we might not be aware of.

» Another thing we are working on is tackling the University's contentious debt policy. The University is currently chasing overseas students, for example in Hong Kong, for nominal sums like £3.62 debt. The cost of chasing these is more than the debt itself and pales in comparison to the fees these students paid. It's a bit of a ridiculous situation and we're trying to get them to take a step back and look at the effectiveness of their policy.

campus life...

THE UNIONS

Glasgow University Union & the Queen Margaret Union.

Glasgow's unconventional union system is something that all involved are very proud of and like to shout about. As presidents of the GUU and the QMU respectively, Gavin Tulloch and Calum MacInnes are two people inclined to shout loudest. Chances are you've already encountered them at full volume, with their union's t-shirt proudly on their backs and a PR mob in tow.

As similar commercial enterprises competing for your valuable attention, the unions traditionally try to maintain a healthy rivalry. As a student, the trick is to work out what you want from each union. Gavin and Calum sat down and used their indoor voices to explain what the unions are, what separates them, and how they believe having two unions actually greatly improves the range of services on offer to students.

Beyond the obvious stuff like cheap booze, what should freshers know about your union that will make them want to go there?

» *Gavin (GUU): I think it's the variety of activities that we have. Not only do we have things like debating and entertainment such as clubnights but we also have games like quizzes and other fun things like that. We also have great facilities – there are two libraries which are very popular during exam period. What people like most about them*

is that they are a bit more relaxed than the main uni library. There's one which is silent study and the other is a bit more relaxed where you can talk in groups. We also have things like a billiards hall which boasts 8 full sized tables - more than any billiards hall in Glasgow. Then there's the catering services, shop services and the coffee shop.

» *Calum (QMU): I'd like to start by not neglecting the cheap booze – there's pints from £1.90 in Champions' Bar [laughs.] Obviously we have our bars and our catering facilities and we've built a lot of new things this summer actually. We have a coffee shop which is really good, a new catering unit and our committee rooms which are available to hire by clubs & societies.*

As well as using the services, the really good thing about it is you have a chance to get stuck in and have a say in how it is shaped or run, or run it yourself. Like our Social and Events Committee give you a hand in running the clubnights that happen at the union or running the entertainment or social stuff that we do through the week. We also have other opportunities like the Campaigns and Charities Committee or the Publications Committee that makes qmunicate, our magazine. There's just a broad range of services like that which you can enjoy but that you can actively get involved in and shape.



QMU President Calum MacInnes on the balcony of Qudos, the QMU's main venue space

Is that the same down at the GUU in terms of how it's run?

» *Gavin: There's various levels of involvement at the GUU. You can be a committee member which means you are there to run and plan events. You can also become a board member by standing for election which, if successful, would see you sit on the board of management for a charity. If you get to one of the executive positions you become a trustee as well which is something unrivalled when it comes to putting on CVs and going for jobs.*

What do you consider the jewel in the crown of your union to be?

» *Calum: One of the things we do really well is qmunicate magazine, which is something that is different every year because we have such a wide variety of students who come in and want to contribute something a little bit different. The publications committee meet weekly to discuss content, design, distribution, all these sorts of things and it*

is something that is really rewarding to see your own work reproduced in a professional format. It's something that is great for your CV if you are wanting to build up that kind of experience and it's a physical testament to the effort you put in outside of your class to do stuff at university.

On the other side of it - Friday night. Just cause... Friday nights at the QM are bangin'.

» *Gavin: When you come to GUU you notice immediately that it is steeped in tradition and one of the things that epitomises that tradition is debating. It's one of the things we are historically very strong at. We have won the World Championships five times which is the most it's ever been won in the world. It's not only competitive debating you can get involved in, although it is something that can be good to do as if you are good at it you can end up being sent all over the world.*

...the unions

In the past we've sent people to Belgrade, Botswana and the Philippines. The competition is in Shanghai next year. We are the only student union in the country apart from Oxford and Cambridge that fully funds this kind of debating activity. We also have parliamentary debate: they are more open and people can go along to them. They are more fun and a bit more light hearted and people get to debate controversial issues.

How would a fresher get involved in Union activities?

» *Calum: Well, there's the level of just enjoying it. Membership is open to all students and it is completely free so you can just walk in and join in your first week and get committed to it for four years and that is cracking. If you want to take a hand in the stuff we were talking about in shaping the services or skilling-up and helping run the union, then there's lots of ways to do it. You can get involved in committees and the likes of the Publications Committee meets weekly and you can go along and contribute. You can run for board, stand for election and help shape things that way too.*

» *Gavin: You'll see from the Freshers' Week programme that it's the unions that run most of the activities during the week so really that's the best time to get involved as you can test things out. Freshers' Week is key to get involved, however there are lots of introductory things thereafter which everyone is welcome to come along to and I think we both have quite a friendly atmosphere in our unions and a welcoming atmosphere for anyone who wants to come – especially freshers.*

The University of Glasgow is unusual in the way the student bodies are set up. Can you try and explain how the unions are different from other student bodies on campus and how they are different from one another.

» *Gavin: I think the QMU & GUU offer more of a student experience – we offer the activities and the social side of University and we're there to support that.*

» *Calum: I'd say the same. We have these different bodies because of the history at the University but I think that the fundamental aim of both of them is the same. It is about providing the extra curricular, social side to university. Just fantastic opportunities.*

I'd say the big thing that makes us different is that the things we do well are different things. Which is good. And I think it's nice to have this on campus. It's not like we are locking horns and there is a blood thirsty rivalry or anything. It's great to have this variety on campus, to have a place that is steeped in history and it's great you can have somewhere that offers the list of services we have at the QM. I think that it's a fantastic choice to have when you get on campus and I'm really glad to have it.

» *Gavin: What you find as well is that the nature of the student bodies, especially between the Unions which is particularly evident during Freshers' Week is that because there are two and we are both pushing to put on the best experience possible, that pushes the standard up which you might not get at any other University because we want it to be as good as possible and there is that competition there as well.*

What do you think is different about the experience the unions can offer compared with other bars and venues in Glasgow?

» *Calum: I think that we are really responsive to students wants and needs and that's not an off the cuff statement - students get involved, students shape the services, students say what they like and they don't like and that's why the services are the way they are. People come along and enjoy them because they've had a hand in making them and they can get involved in making them if they don't like them or want to change them. I think that is what we do that is really different. That and, before you even try to get involved they're already completely aimed at you as students and shaped in that direction. That's what makes it different.*



GUU President Gavin Tulloch in the union's Elliot Library

» Gavin: I agree completely. The services are there specifically for students that you might not get elsewhere. Also they are run by students so we know what students want and we are trying to put that on and students can approach us comfortably if they know they aren't getting what they want.

What was your personal experience in getting involved in the Unions? Is there any advice from your experience you would like to share?

» Calum: For the first two years I was a QM member, I was really keen on it. I wasn't involved running it or involved in shaping any of the entertainment or social stuff that we do. But I loved it.

Then I went away to Germany in third year to do my year abroad as part of my course. There was no equivalent setup in place for students, there was no structure there for students, by students, to serve students.

When I came back I really appreciated how much it had helped me in my first two years at Glasgow and I just really wanted to get on board in shaping the services and making it better for everyone. I decided I wanted to keep on doing it and that's why I'm doing it this year.

» Gavin: The thing that got me involved in the Union wasn't the social side but the debating side, which of course has its own social side as well. It was debating I got involved in right from Freshers' Week. I got involved with the debates committee for a couple of years and became debates convenor so it was just a progression through the ranks so to speak. What's been good about that is that it has opened up a variety of other opportunities for me as well – going through debating has opened up the social side and the gaming side that I maybe wouldn't have been involved in otherwise.

campus life...

SPORT

The Glasgow University Sports Association is the student body that's responsible for representing students in all matters concerning sports and recreation. Some of their remit includes funding, facilities, transport, affiliations to governing bodies and running recreational leagues.

We caught up with GUSA President and all round nice guy Stuart Law to find out exactly what the sports association offers to students at the University of Glasgow.

What is GUSA and what does it provide for Students?

» *GUSA provides sport and recreation to students at Glasgow, whether it's through club sport or going for a run or swim in the Gym.*

Can you talk us through the facilities at the Stevenson Building?

» *Over at the Stevenson Building we've got a swimming pool, steam room, sauna, cardio suite, strength and conditioning suite and two squash courts. On top of that we have off-campus outdoor facilities [Garscube] which have grass pitches, synthetic pitches, tennis courts and a cricket oval.*

How does your membership work? Does it involve classes?

» *You join the Sport and Recreation Service (SRS) which costs £60 for the year. This works out as one of the cheapest gyms to join in the UK for students. It entitles you to entry to the Stevenson building and Garscube facilities. It also allows you to go to drop-in sessions or exercise classes like super circuits and boxfit. Which, for £60, is a pretty good deal!*

Could you maybe clarify what the SRS is and how GUSA is tied with it?

» *GUSA works in partnership with the SRS. We provide the sport and they provide the facilities. A lot of them are permanent staff so they provide the newly elected student reps of GUSA guidance and advice. GUSA then gives the student view on how best to provide sport to the University community.*

What club sports are available?

» *We've got 48 sports clubs, from which 85 teams compete in British Universities Colleges & Sport (BUCS) on a Wednesday and Saturday afternoon. This year Glasgow Uni won the award for being most improved University at BUCS, which meant we had jumped up the BUCS points table by the highest margin. BUCS is a big governing body that has around 70 different sports which Universities around the UK enter into.*

» *On top of that, clubs have other competitions they play with some Scottish leagues and more local stuff in and around the Glasgow area. Because we have 48 clubs there is something for everyone; from aikido to basketball to American football – there is a real range.*

Would you say it is available to people of all skill sets? How would a beginner get involved? Is there anything during Freshers Week?

» *If you are a complete beginner to a sport you can go try it in Freshers' Week at one of our taster sessions. You can try something new that wasn't available to you at school - I'd never heard of ultimate frisbee til I came to University. On the opposite end of that, we do cater right to the top end of elite athletes as well. We have a great bursary scheme that caters for the best of the best.*



GUSA President (and tennis ace) Stuart Law in on of the Stevenson Building's squash courts (it was raining ok...)

Student bodies typically involve social aspects. How does GUSA fall into this bracket?

» *We have fundraisers throughout the year like the big GUSA quiz. In the past we've done things like talent shows, fashion shows - that sort of thing. We have our annual awards dinner - the GUSA ball - which is in February each year. This is to celebrate club sport and the successes of our teams. 750 students usually attend and it's really good. We also have our annual GUSA Freshers' Week Party held in the GUU Debates Chamber. There's a different fancy dress theme every year and it's always a lot of fun.*

The Commonwealth games are coming up next year. Are you getting any use of the new facilities?

» *We're using the Emirates arena (the velodrome) for quite a lot of stuff this year. We've had to deal with the closure of the Kelvin Hall which has been a bit of a nightmare as*

a lot of our indoor sports would have taken place here but now we have to outsource them to different venues around Glasgow, whether they be secondary schools or Commonwealth facilities. We're hoping to get that nailed down this year and look forward to the extension of the Stevenson facilities when that happens in the near future.

If there's one thing about your experience in the GUSA that you would like to share with a fresher what would it be?

» *Get involved during Fresher's Week and stay involved. 100%. I honestly think my university career would have been completely different if I hadn't done sport and I don't think I would have enjoyed it half as much. It is different for different people but for me getting involved in GUSA in first year was the best decision I've ever made. I don't know if I'm going to use my degree after university but at the moment I'm doing something that I love and it's really good.*

campus life...

GILCHRIST POSTGRADUATE CLUB

Social and study space for postgraduate students

The University of Glasgow has over 6,000 postgraduate students studying, researching, teaching and looking for a decent coffee. The Gilchrist Postgraduate Club opened in October 2012 as a social hub and relaxed study space for postgraduate students and staff at the University. It's located on the ground floor of the Main Building next to the Main Gate and houses a café bar, study areas and a seminar space.

Postgraduate students have a different set of needs and expectations from the rest of the student body and as such the other social and study spaces on campus aren't always a good fit. The club's facilities were designed with the specific needs of postgrads in mind. Access is limited to postgrads and staff via a swipe card system using GUID like the library, so only postgrad students will be able to access the "best coffee on campus" claim. (A potential human rights issue to be taken up by disgruntled coffee loving undergrad law students perhaps?)

Café-bar

The club's café serves a selection of sandwiches, toasted paninis and soup alongside proper barista coffee and smoothies. It is also a fully licensed bar serving wine; world beers, including draft Leffe

Blonde; and a wide range of spirits and single-malt whiskies.

Workspaces

Round the corner from the main café area are a row of secluded booths for group meetings and study. They're kitted out with plasma screens with points for connecting laptops so you don't need to crowd round a tiny screen when reviewing presentation material.

The club's other main asset is their seminar room, which is free to book for any postgraduate related event and comes complete with a full AV setup for presentations. The room holds 60 people although it can also be arranged in a boardroom style for smaller meetings. Unlike most other rooms on campus, it is not booked via the university's central room booking service – all you need to do is fill in a form at the club.

Events

As this will be the first full year the club is open, there isn't yet an established programme of events. This is set to change starting with Welcome Month, a four week



Burns Night in the Gilchrist Club

Representation

programme of events designed as a sort of extended freshers' week for postgraduates where students can socialise with other postgrads from different schools and also hear from various services and groups at the university. The calendar includes a beer festival, murder mystery, a fortnightly quiz, poetry group and live comedy as well as "Why Not Wednesday" which will have different taster sessions each week. The club hopes that many of these events will prove popular enough to become regular fixtures throughout the year.

The space is managed by the SRC which means students have a direct means of influencing the running of the club. The SRC have a Postgraduate Convenor position available for each college at the university. Part of this role is to work with the SRC's Postgraduate Development Officer who manages the club on how the club can best provide for the postgrad community. These positions will be up for nomination and election this autumn so keep an eye out if you are interested.

campus life...

STUDENT MEDIA

Listen, read, watch... Contribute?

When the University's PR people came up with their 'more than a degree' angle (sounds nice doesn't it?) they probably didn't think that you would be up for three days on coffee trying to hit a deadline that wasn't for your course or putting on dance music events in clubs around Glasgow but that's exactly the sort of wholesome extra-curricular activity getting involved with student media during your time at Glasgow offers. Whether you plan on making or consuming the media, the outlets based on campus offer a unique opportunity and can form an engaging part of your day-to-day university experience.

If you think there's even the slightest chance that you might be interested in getting involved with making media through the campus outlets, or supporting the people that do behind the scenes, then you should give it a try. All the media organisations will be happy to have new faces on board and can provide you with any relevant training you might need, so not having experience isn't an excuse. The opportunities available to you are as varied as the media organisations themselves, and if you get involved you'll get to shape what gets done.

If you plan on spending any time on campus, in the city or on the internet throughout your time at university, then you might consider using a little of that time to consume some

of the media produced at the University. Even if getting involved in making the media isn't for you, with the variety and quality of the outlets on campus, you should find an aspect of the University's media organisations that you enjoy consuming.

Guardian

The Glasgow Guardian's web and print-based journalism is known for providing both a practical opportunity for those students who wish to contribute to its production and for serving as a platform for the wider community to interact with the articles generated. With a history of journalism engaging with the university's somewhat unique political scene, as well as national student issues from an independent perspective. Its culture section aims to highlight "a world beyond Gilmorehill" with a preview, rather than review, led voice.

The paper is editorially independent of the SRC who support it financially (this is the case for all 4 SRC media groups) and almost all aspects of its operation are open to anyone who is up for pouring some time and love into it with a "you get back what you put in" culture at the heart of it all.



Working behind the scenes in each media organisation are teams of volunteers doing everything from audio editing to tweeting

Subcity

Positioning itself as more of a community radio station than anything else, Subcity eschews the usual 'student' prefix, choosing to replace it with a multitude of semantically indistinct (but presumably positive) labels such as 'freeform', 'independent' and 'collective'. Much less a symptom of an organisation unsure of its identity, Subcity's sometimes convoluted self-identification is more an indication of a multifaceted organisation chafing against conventional limitations and paradigms.

Although founded as a radio station, Subcity has grown into a key component in Glasgow's arts communities with a volunteer workforce consisting of a few hundred impassioned and innovative time-wasters pouring themselves into everything from planning the station's events, to tracking down obscure and elusive artists for interview.

Opportunities are available throughout the organisation in any role that already currently exists (there's a lot of them) or, if you think there's something missing, in areas where Subcity can develop.

...student media



GUM

Glasgow University Magazine is most notably Scotland's oldest student magazine. Despite its historical credentials, with every issue and their accompanying website, GUM aims to stay contemporary with the interests of their current student readership. Each issue offers a focus on the fresh and interesting which extends from their written and photographic content to the magazine's layout and design. This year they're launching with an issue dedicated to the issues and debate surrounding the 2014 Scottish independence referendum.

GUST

Glasgow University Student Television have been around for nearly fifty years and are no strangers to success, picking up annual national awards like it's no big deal. With access to a fully equipped television studio, editing suites and a range of filming equipment, GUST produces a variety of programming for a student audience. Programmes include live broadcasts, music video productions and comedy shorts. GUST has laid the foundations for past members to enter a career in the industry and there are plenty of opportunities to get involved.



Recording a live-session for Subcity Radio on location.

qmunicate

qmunicate is the QMU's in-house publication edited by their publications convenor – an elected role on the board of management. New issues are out fortnightly and consist of a mixture of magazine-style round-ups of recent events, features and comment pieces centred around a contributor and audience base within the QMU's community. qmunicate has been similarly popular outside of campus, picking up Best Magazine and other accolades at the Herald Student Press Awards twice in recent years.

GUUi

It hasn't been around quite as long as the other media outlets on campus however, over the past few years the GUUi has progressed beyond being merely a newsletter for the members of the GUU community with a range of features and comment pieces filling each edition. Similarly to qmunicate, GUUi is edited by one of the board of management – the libraries convenor – and like all student media is run by student volunteers and is always open to new contributors.

campus life...

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Although some people end up being best mates with the person they first sat next to in class, most people need to dig a bit deeper to find other people that they click with. Having a common interest usually helps and amongst the wide range of clubs and societies you'll easily find some like-minded folk.

Freshers' Fair is a great opportunity to meet the societies in the flesh. Otherwise check the selection of currently active clubs and societies listed on page 128 and for a full up-to-date list with contact info and meeting times visit glasgowstudent.net/clubs.

Three clubs and socs aficionados - Imogen Taylor (Pole Dancing Club), Laura France (Zoology Society) and SRC Vice President Student Activities, Breffni O'Connor explain how they got involved and give some words of encouragement for you fresh-faced first timers.

Can you tell us about your experience of clubs & societies at University of Glasgow

» *Laura: I joined ZooSoc in second year, in third year became social convenor and going into 4th year became president. It's been a good way to get more involved, meet more people on my course and expand my knowledge and skills.*

» *Imogen: I joined the GUPDC in first year and basically it's the only reason I stayed in uni. Although I have a few friends on my course, most of my friends are from the*

society. It's definitely made me branch out and meet people from different courses. I wouldn't have met these people from different backgrounds otherwise.

» *Breffni: What I really enjoyed was the real sense of camaraderie and the family feeling involved in being part of a society. Although halls are a great place to get to know people and build friend structures, those who stay at home might find it difficult to make friends in the same way. Clubs and societies fill the gap and provide the full Uni experience.*

What kind of activities or events have you taken part in since you have been a member of your society.

» *Laura: ZooSoc has talks which take place every week in the Boyd Orr Building however this year we are trying to start up some workshops. Blair Drummond Safari Park have agreed to give us part of the ground in order to carry out training days to learn mist-netting [catching birds] and also frog catching surveys. We've also had some big names from the zoological world come talk to us and we also show films and documentaries..*

How did you decide that you were going to get involved in the club you are involved with and how did you go about getting more out of it?

» *Laura: I'm a zoology student and I thought it was a good way to get the most out of my course. It's also a good way to get to know people in your course from other years.*



Glasgow University Mountaineering Club, one of the hundreds of clubs and societies available to join at the university

» *Imogen: I saw GUPDC on the Uni website and decided to check it out. In first year I went to as many classes as I could. A year later, I asked if I could help with the teaching as it is completely student led. I then helped set up extra classes and tried to go to lots of the socials. This year I was voted President. It was just a progression of being there, doing more things, speaking to more people and going up through the ranks.*

» *Breffni: I didn't join any societies til second year. If I look back I'm a completely different person to who I was in first year. Then I was quiet and didn't talk much and now you can't shut me up. Clubs and societies can offer so much in terms of developing personal skills which means a lot, so the more involved you get the more equipped you are going to be.*

Is there any last advice you'd like to give a fresher about joining a club or society?

Laura: Definitely join in first year. I left it til second year and I feel like I would have got a lot more out of it if I joined earlier.

Imogen: Yeah, just go for it. Try as many as you possibly can. Even if you are alone you will make friends instantly. Don't worry about being a little hermit. I was a little hermit and now I'm president. Go along and try it. Anyone can do it.

Breffni: When you're in fourth year you will regret not doing that sport, not joining that society you were interested in. Involvement in these groups will help when writing your CV. It shows your personality to employers and the fact you have gone through this process and stuck at it is admirable. You have a degree but at the end of the day you need more than that - Clubs & Societies can give this to you.

campus life...

VOLUNTEERING

If you like the idea of taking on something a little bit different and making a positive contribution to the local community or even further afield, then you should consider volunteering through the SRC's Student Volunteer Support Service.

SVSS can help find you a volunteering placement from over 27 projects. You can volunteer on your own or as part of a group and there are varying degrees of commitment – from one hour a month, to a few hours a week, so volunteering through SVSS is flexible enough to suit your busy schedule. There are a great many benefits to taking part in one of the SVSS projects and you don't have to have volunteered before to get involved.

The projects vary greatly, we've detailed a selection of them here, but visit glasgowstudent.net/volunteer for more.

▶ ***Elderly Befriender/ Buddy a Granny***

SVSS work with several organisations to provide befriending services for elderly residents in Glasgow. Volunteers can choose whether to work in a care home or at day centres which host interactive events. For those who are able and willing to take on a further challenge, SVSS also offers the opportunity to work with and befriend people suffering from Alzheimer's disease. Professional training and support are provided. Students studying Psychology or social care programmes may find this project particularly appealing, but it is open to all.

▶ ***The Culture Club***

Throughout the year, SVSS works with the Gilchrist Postgraduate Club to host cultural events which are open to all students. Beginning in Freshers Week with the chaotic 'Human Bingo', the events include the

hugely successful Burns Night and Chinese New Year which are traditional favourites, but be sure to look out for various cultural events which will be hosted throughout the year – great food, interesting music and people from all over the world. Students are encouraged to get involved with the group itself, so if you have some ideas or just want to meet new people with cultural interests, make sure you visit the SRC website or Welcome Point for more information.

▶ ***The Conversational English Programme***

This hugely popular project offers fluent speakers of English the opportunity to volunteer with an international student who wants to improve their conversational English. The project isn't about being a teacher – it's just an opportunity to give someone the chance to develop their English outside of the lecture theatre and engage in conversation so they can practice what they've been learning. If you take on the role of a 'tutor' it appears on your Higher Education Achievement Report and you can get an opportunity to learn a little bit of another language yourself. This is an especially great opportunity for people studying Modern Languages, but anybody can get involved and everybody is welcome.

▶ ***Glasgow University Service to the Homeless (GUSH)***

GUSH tries to help make a difference by providing a soup kitchen style service twice a week in cooperation with Emmaus Glasgow and a local Mosque. Students work in small teams, so it's a great way to meet like-minded individuals. There is also a GUSH committee which all volunteers are encouraged to join. The project is designed to be flexible and with such high demand, new volunteers



Chinese New Year – Volunteers have the opportunity to help organise cultural events throughout the year.

are generally only expected to take one 3 hour shift per month.

► ***Classroom Support***

This project helps secure placements for students in nurseries, primary schools and secondary schools as well as additional support needs schools – the Classroom Support project is a fantastic opportunity to spend some time helping teachers in the classroom and is invaluable for those hoping to enter teacher training after their degree.

Students won't be expected to teach classes, but they will be needed to help teachers in the classroom, so if you have particular language skills or subject-specific interests, then SVSS may be able to find you a placement. Placements are generally for a minimum of one hour per week for ten weeks and volunteers will be required to complete a Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) application through SVSS before they can be allocated a placement.

Classroom Support is a very popular project and placements are in high demand, so applicants are encouraged to apply early in the year to avoid disappointment.

► ***SPLASH***

Splash offers students the chance to help out in swimming classes and hydrotherapy sessions for children who have additional support needs.

► ***Student Volunteers Abroad***

During the summer SVA sends teams of volunteers to developing countries including Malawi, Cambodia and Nepal. Projects are varied and range from HIV/AIDS awareness to teaching and construction work. SVA aims to work with local organisations on sustainable projects for the relief of poverty, to promote cultural links and encourage cultural exchange and to educate students on the social and environmental issues that affect the developing world.

A vertical stack of several thick, old books with yellowed pages and worn spines, positioned on the left side of the page. The books are slightly out of focus, creating a sense of depth. The background is a solid light blue color.

SECOND HAND BOOKSHOP

Save money on your course texts

John McIntyre Building (University Avenue)
0141 330 5360
bookshop@src.gla.ac.uk
glasgowstudent.net/services/bookshop

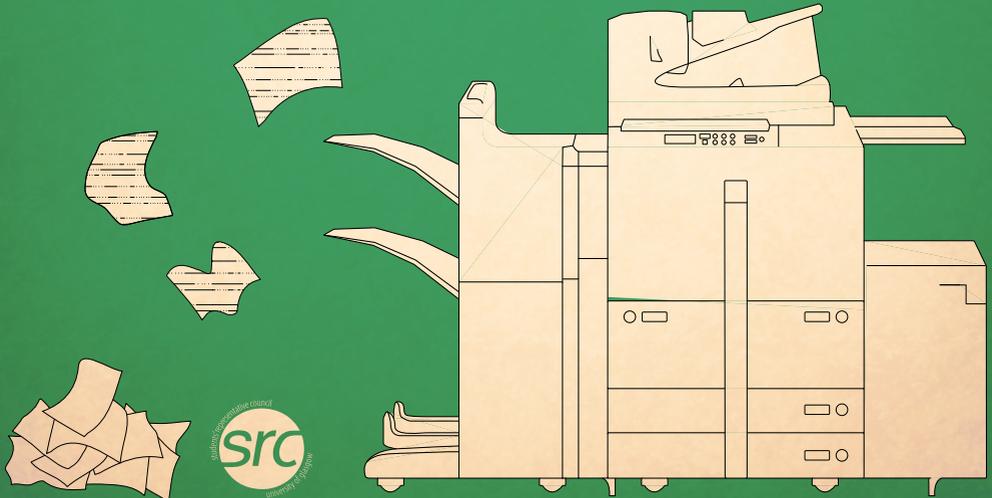
STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL
UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW



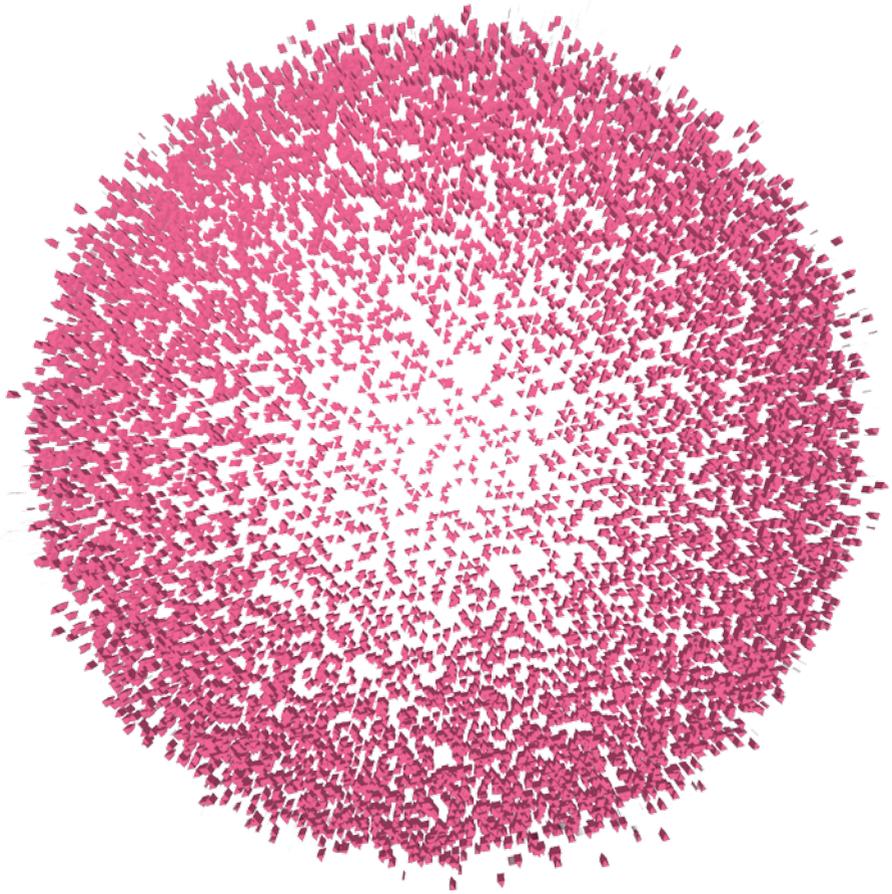
printing & binding

(and copying, scanning,
laminating, faxing...)

cheapest
in the
west end



welcome point – john mcintyre building



STUDYING

Getting the most out of your degree and where to turn if things don't go quite to plan.

The library 34

Buying books 38

Study, essays & exams 40

Academic appeals 44

Complaints 46

Support services 48

Academic Representation 50

studying...

THE LIBRARY

One of the oldest and largest university libraries in Europe. Massively useful throughout your degree, particularly for exams and coursework.

Glasgow University Library has study space for more than 2,500 students which, along with long opening hours (7.15am-2am, 361 days of the year), makes it flexible enough to accommodate the characteristically irregular study schedules of university life.

Taking a little time to familiarise yourself with its resources will make a substantial difference to your grades and will save you a fortune in library fines along the way.

During Freshers' Week, the University offers library tours which give useful background information and pro tips. But if you're too busy exploring the city and having fun, don't worry. The best way to get to know the library is by exploring it yourself (just remember the ground floor is Level 2), but don't forget your student ID card. Without it the security guards won't let you in no matter what the sob-story is.

Computers

The Library has over 800 computers available for use however, at peak-times it can be tough to find a free one. With this in mind try to be courteous when it's busy and keep Facebook to a minimum and leave your

computer free if you're going away for a lecture or lunch. If you have a laptop then it's a good idea to make use of the workstations and wi-fi provided. It's also worth remembering there are numerous small computer clusters around campus which are normally much quieter than the Library's.

Books

The Library contains over 2.5 million books, and also offers access to a hefty number of e-books and online journals, so there's no excuse for sparse bibliographies.

Main Collection

The main collection fills the shelves of levels 3-11. Most of these books may be borrowed for four weeks at a time (or 12 weeks for post-graduates), with five renewals.

Short Loan

Level 2 of the Library is home to the Short Loan section, for high demand books such as required reading for current courses.

Some Short Loan books may be borrowed for one week or 24 hours. Others can be kept for only four hours, or overnight, if borrowed after 4pm weekdays, or 1pm weekends.



The Hunterian Art Gallery (foreground) and The Library

Beware that in some cases there may only be one copy of an item. 4 hour (pink sticker) and 24 hour (yellow sticker) loan items are issued on a first come, first served basis.

As an undergraduate you can borrow up to 30 books (a maximum of 10 being from Short Loan); postgrads are allowed 40 (with 20 being allowed from Short Loan). Only two 4hr or 24hr loans may be borrowed and these can't be renewed.

Because these books are in high demand, even with the shorter loan periods, they can be difficult to get a hold of, especially before

a deadline or exam. To save this worry, it may be wise to buy your own copy of essential course reading [see p38], although check whether an electronic version is available first via QuickSearch on the Library website.

Reference Material

The Library stocks various reference collections including past exam papers, encyclopedias, newspapers and periodicals. Some of this material can also be found on the online library catalogue, so that's a good place to start. PhDs, theses and valuable manuscripts can be found in Special Collections.

...the library



Finding your book

With the sheer volume of resources made available to you with library access, there is a very good chance what you're looking for will be in there somewhere. But finding the book you are after by just wandering around is almost impossible.

The quickest way to do it is to use QuickSearch on the library website, use the QuickSearch stations located around the Library or use the mobile website m.lib.gla.ac.uk if you're using a smartphone or tablet device.

In both the Main Collection and the Short Loan collection, books are divided into subjects. You will find a list of which subjects are on which floors at the entrance to the library. Once in your subject area, the books are filed alphanumerically by their

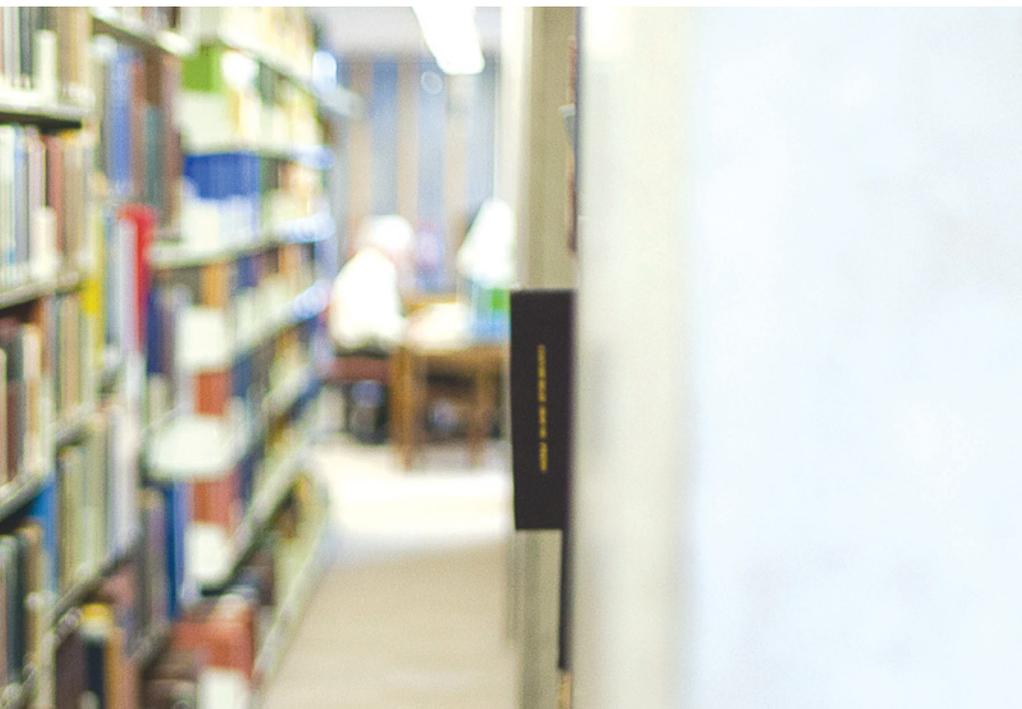
shelf-marks. Books of similar subject matter have similar shelf-marks, so you will often find many useful books nearby the one you were looking for.

Books already on loan

If you find that the book you want is out on loan, you can request it online. This means that when it comes in, you will be notified that the book is being held for you at the Library Services Desk on Level 2. If the book is not due in for over a week, reserving it will automatically give the borrower 7 days notice to return the item. Likewise, other people can put a call out for books which you have taken out on loan, so be aware that you may at any time be given 7 days notice yourself; yet another reason it's important to check your University email regularly.

Missing items

If you have trouble finding an item on the catalogue or on the shelf, go to the Enquiry Desk on Level 3. They'll help you find it, or they may be able to order it from elsewhere.



Borrowing and renewing

Books can be borrowed at the Library Services Desk or self-service machines, both on level 2. If you want to keep a book after the date it is due back, you may be able to renew the loan.

To do so, either:

- » Follow the Library links from the main page of MyGlasgow.
- » Take the book to the self-service machines
- » Contact the library by phone (0141 330 6705) or e-mail (library@lib.gla.ac.uk).

Renewing the item will not be possible if someone else has requested it online.

Returns

The quickest way to return books is in the book drop chutes. There are two – one

outside the building and one at the far end of the Library Services Desk. To return Short Loan books, you need to use the self-return machines in the Short Loan area. If you want to take new books out immediately you should return your books at the Library Services Desk or at the machines in the Short Loan section. This way your borrowing record will be updated straight away.

Fines

If you keep a book after the date it is due for return and have not renewed your loan, then you will have to pay a fine. The rates vary from about 5p per day for low-priority books to 50p per hour for books from the Short Loan Collection. If you owe the Library more than £2 in fines, then you will not be able to borrow or renew any books until you pay it off to below that level. 5-20p per day might not seem like a lot, but fines can accumulate quickly. Lost books cost a standard re-stocking charge of £25, even if the book is only a small paperback.

studying...

BUYING BOOKS

With so many books to buy for uni, you could easily spend your first loan instalment in one go. However, shop wisely and you can save a fortune...

First off, it's worth saying that you probably don't need to rush out and buy your own copy of every book on your course reading list. Unless the lecturer is stressing it as essential it's probably wise holding off to see which ones you'll actually need and which ones can be borrowed or bought later on.

Campus

▶ ***SRC 2nd Hand Bookshop***

JOHN MCINTYRE BUILDING

The SRC's bookshop is one of the many hidden gems of the John McIntyre building; it's tucked away near the top of the front stairs. You'll find most course texts and some general stuff in here at a significantly lower price than elsewhere. You can search to see if what you need is in stock on glasgowstudent.net/services/bookshop and reserve anything you want, though it should be noted that the booking system isn't available during peak times at the start of term. Come the end of the year you can hand your books in here and the staff will handle the hassle of sales for you, and you still get most of the money.

▶ ***John Smiths***

FRASER BUILDING

As a dedicated campus bookshop, John Smiths will have any academic texts you

can't find anywhere else. You'll pay for the privilege of their extensive selection and premium location though.

John Smiths offers course bundles (which can be helpful at the start of the year when you're buying in bulk), essentials like stationery and a cash-in-hand 2nd hand service.

Online

▶ ***Amazon***

Amazon are the people who essentially killed the high street bookshop (and with the Kindle they're sort of trying to kill the book as well), but despite this somewhat divisive track record you'd still be hard pushed to find a book supplier that's able to offer the same combination of good prices and ease of use. Amazon, and their competitors like The Book Depository, offer a massive selection of easily searchable titles at a low price with various shipping options.

You should pay attention to which shipping option you choose though: Amazon isn't a shop and you don't get to walk out the door with your purchases. It's bad enough waiting excitedly for a parcel of school books to arrive; it's even worse when they're late.



Local bookshops

Being the bohemian heartland of Glasgow, the West End has plenty of small bookshops, from the precision genre sorting of Oxfam Books on Byres Road to the piles of unsorted volumes in Voltaire & Rousseau on Otago Lane. These places are great for English Lit classics, although the odd pile of textbooks do get dropped in by lecturers and students as well.

Aye Aye Books based in the Centre for Contemporary Arts on Sauchiehall Street offers a small, but thoughtfully curated selection of interesting journals and books to provide a stimulating accompaniment to a day's gallery viewing or the perfect distraction from some "required" reading. It's worth a visit for those looking out unusual finds or coffee table books in an attempt to add a bit of variety to their newly acquired collection of school books. Caledonia Books on Great Western Road offers a similar experience with the added joy of second-hand treasure hunting.

Converting piles of unused books into cash is hassle free if you use The SRC's Second Hand Bookshop.

studying...

STUDY, ESSAYS & EXAMS

Introductory lectures

The first lecture for a course at level 1 does not usually contain imperative information from the course that you desperately need to pass exams. However, introductory lectures are a good way of becoming familiar with your lecturers and classmates (awkward glances around the room tend to start conversations revealing how everyone feels a wee bit lost at this stage), as well as picking up course guides, which contain all the necessary information about the structure and rules pertaining to your individual course. Although you can usually find these on Moodle along with any other course hand-outs, it can be useful to have hard copies of these filed for reference at home.

Attendance

Different departments have different rules on attendance, but most will enforce attendance at labs, tutorials and seminars more strictly than at lectures. Unless a register is taken at lectures then you can probably get away with missing a few, but don't make a habit of it. The information you gain at lectures will be the bare minimum expected when exams come around, so missing too many will put you at a real disadvantage.

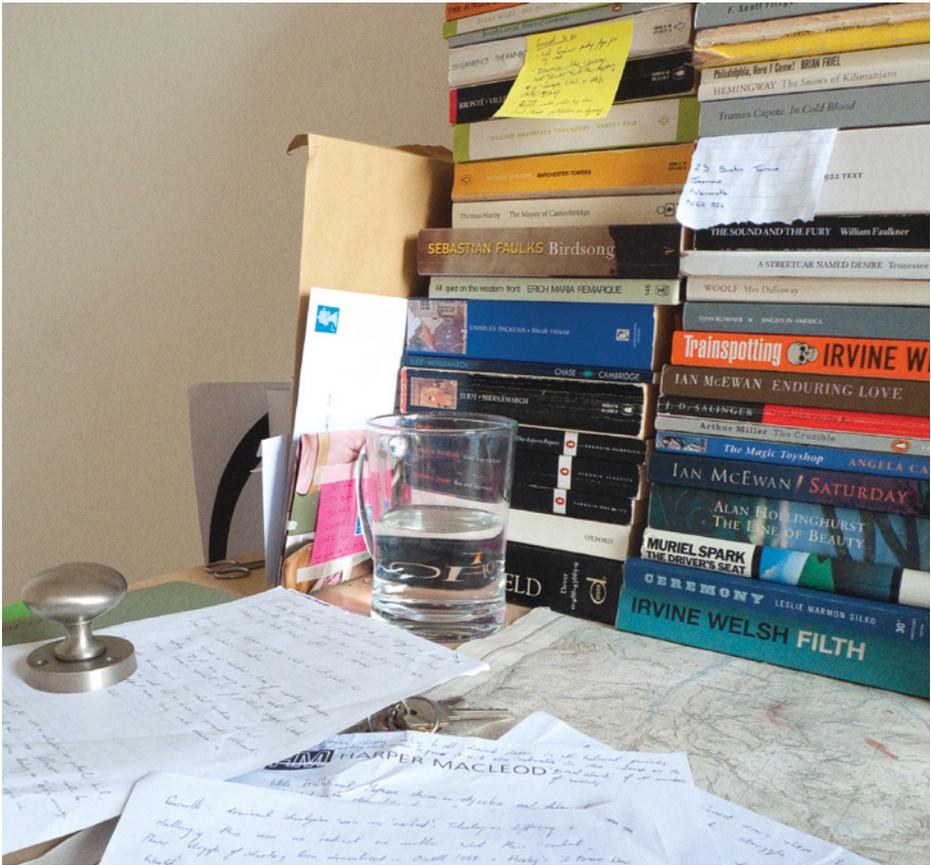
Missing labs and tutorials without good reason is even more serious: you will usually find that some or all of their content is assessed and you may be refused credit or asked to leave the course if you do it consistently. Consequently it's really important to speak to your department as soon as possible about any medical or personal reasons stopping your attendance. If you are experiencing personal problems then remember that the SRC Advice Centre can help or point you in the direction of someone else.

Student Conduct

There are many acts that are deemed to be a disciplinary offence, including cheating in exams, plagiarism and bullying. The full list can be found in the Code of Student Conduct and Code of Unacceptable Behaviour.

In recent years cases involving online conduct have become more common as a result of comments and photos posted online. It's important to remember that the intentions behind actions online can easily be misinterpreted and what might seem like a joke can easily end up hurting someone.

If you find yourself called to a hearing for a student conduct offence, seek immediate assistance from the SRC Advice Centre.



Printing & copying

When it comes to the number of machines available and convenience, the University Library's printing and copying facilities are hard to beat, however at 5p for a black and white A4 copy they are not the cheapest.

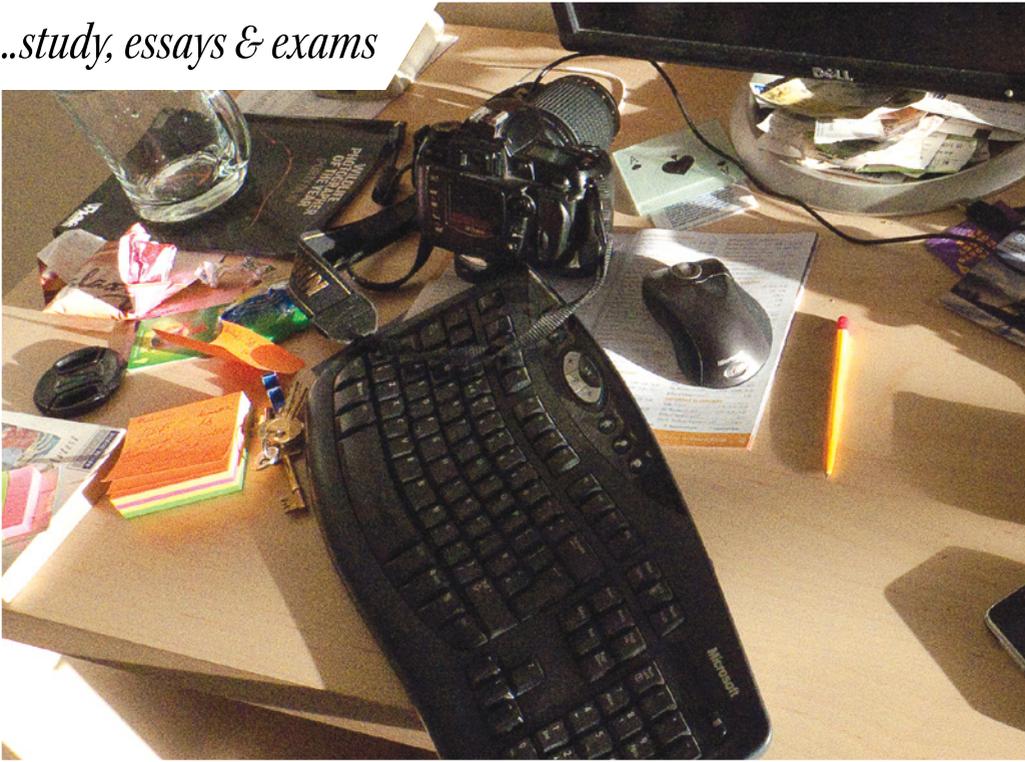
Another of the many gems of the John McIntyre Building is the SRC's printing and copying service. They offer the cheapest prices in the West End with prices going down to 3 pence per page if you top up with £20 or more.

A3 is double the price of A4 and colour starts from as little as 30p a copy. The machines also have a scan to email function if you want to save paper.

They have a range of related services available at similarly low prices including binding, laminating and (if you're looking for that genuine 1980s experience) faxing.

Keeping track of your notes can be a pain. See overleaf for some tips.

...study, essays & exams



Pro tips

Taking notes

Most people will tell you that note taking is absolutely essential for a relatively easy life at university. This is true. Importantly, you should take notes that you will actually be able to read in a week's time, never mind in the run-up to exams. This means that a few incomprehensible phrases scribbled on the back of a club flyer, or worse, the back of your hand to be washed off straight after class, won't fly. Working regularly to keep your notes readable and useful will not only make things easier in terms of organisation, the act of good note taking itself can help you retain information as you go along.

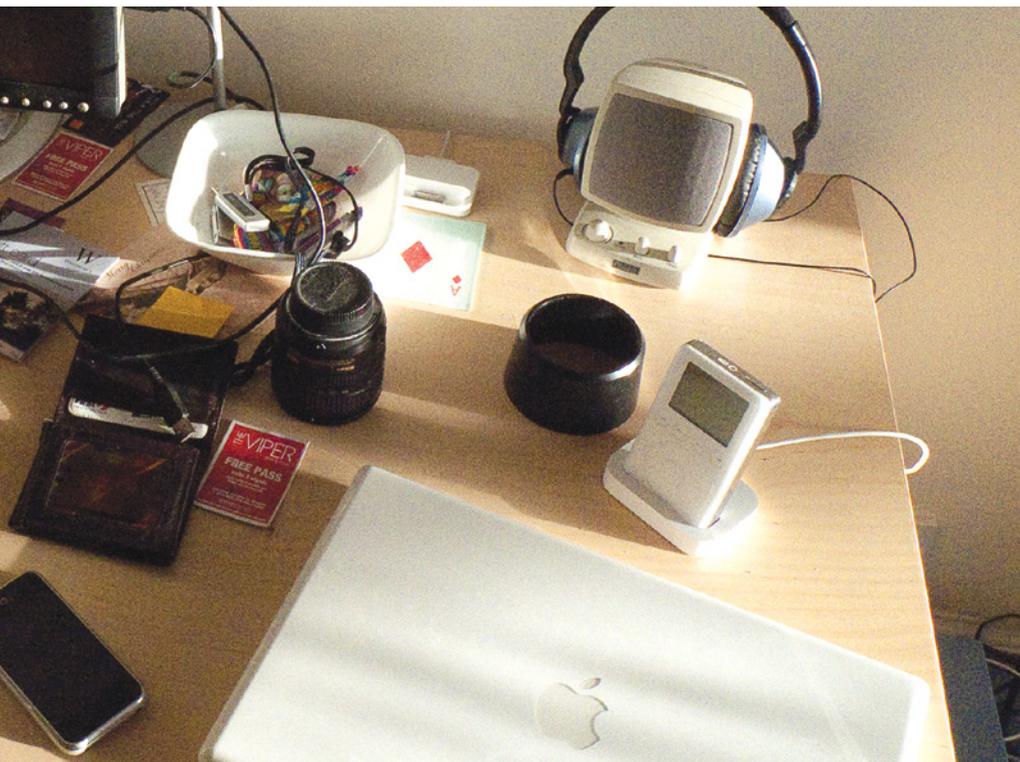
Suites of software and services designed specifically for note-taking and archiving, such as Evernote, will make keeping your notes organised a piece of cake: allowing you

do everything from scanning and tagging handwritten notes to tweeting essay ideas to yourself as you think of them.

Research

Most courses operate using two reading lists. First, the prescribed course texts that you really should buy see Buying books on p38, then a recommended list for further reading. Using this list will give you the opportunity to deviate from straight-up, descriptive and frankly dull essay writing and will put you on course to actually producing something more analytical and interesting than the average.

Going the extra mile in your research will set you apart from other students, and it's not nearly as difficult as it used to be, thanks to the internet. Although typing your essay question or course title straight into Google will likely get you some ridiculous results, more efficient searches can instantly widen



Having a permanent study space is essential if you want to get a well organised Post-it system on the go (pro tip: you do)

the scope of your research and drastically improve your essay.

Google Scholar allows you to cut out all the nonsense usually found online and search specifically for scholarly literature, including peer-reviewed papers, theses, books, pre-prints, abstracts and technical reports.

This makes it a particularly good way of keeping up with the latest research in your chosen field as the results are organised by how often they have been cited previously, meaning the top hits tend to be from reliable sources. Remember that as with most things on the internet, this is not entirely foolproof, so if you are unsure if an article is relevant or not check with your lecturer before relying on it in an essay.

Referencing

When using these new-found rich resources of information, it is important to cite

accurate references. In any piece of work done at university you must be seen to be giving credit to other author's concepts and ideas, providing the reader with evidence of the extent of your reading, and allow the reader to locate the cited references easily for marking purposes. More seriously, it is vital to avoid being accused of plagiarism - the University make it clear this isn't acceptable.

Departments tend to have their own preferred styles of referencing, but generally as long as your referencing is consistent throughout your work you should be ok. It can be tedious taking note of every page number, author, publisher etc and organising and formatting your bibliography, but luckily, the internet can come to the rescue once again. There are many sites that offer free automatic bibliography and citation makers. You just stick in some basic information and it does the rest, then just copy and paste. One less thing to worry about.

studying...

ACADEMIC APPEALS

You can appeal against various decisions that affect your study if you believe you can demonstrate one of two required grounds for appeal, which are:

- » Unfair or defective procedure
- » Failure to take into account medical or other adverse personal circumstances.

Which cases qualify?

Academic appeals are not just an automatic recourse for anyone who is unhappy with their grades. You need to have met the grounds for appealing, be able to present your case and show supporting evidence. There also needs to be a realistic remedy for the situation – for example it's not possible to simply have extra marks awarded because you were unwell on the day of the exam. A realistic remedy in that situation might be to sit the exam again as if it was the first sitting. You are also not permitted to challenge academic judgement, so the fact that you thought your essay was worth an A, and the marker thought it was worth a C, doesn't give you grounds for appeal.

Act quickly

If you believe that illness or other mitigating circumstances affected your academic performance in any piece of assessment or any examination, don't wait for the outcome of your exams before deciding to disclose your circumstances. Whilst it is understandable that you may be worried about talking to a staff member or your Adviser of Studies about sensitive personal issues, remember that unless staff are made aware of your

circumstances, they will not be in a position to help you. Most problems can be effectively dealt with without your academic performance suffering if they are dealt with at an early stage.

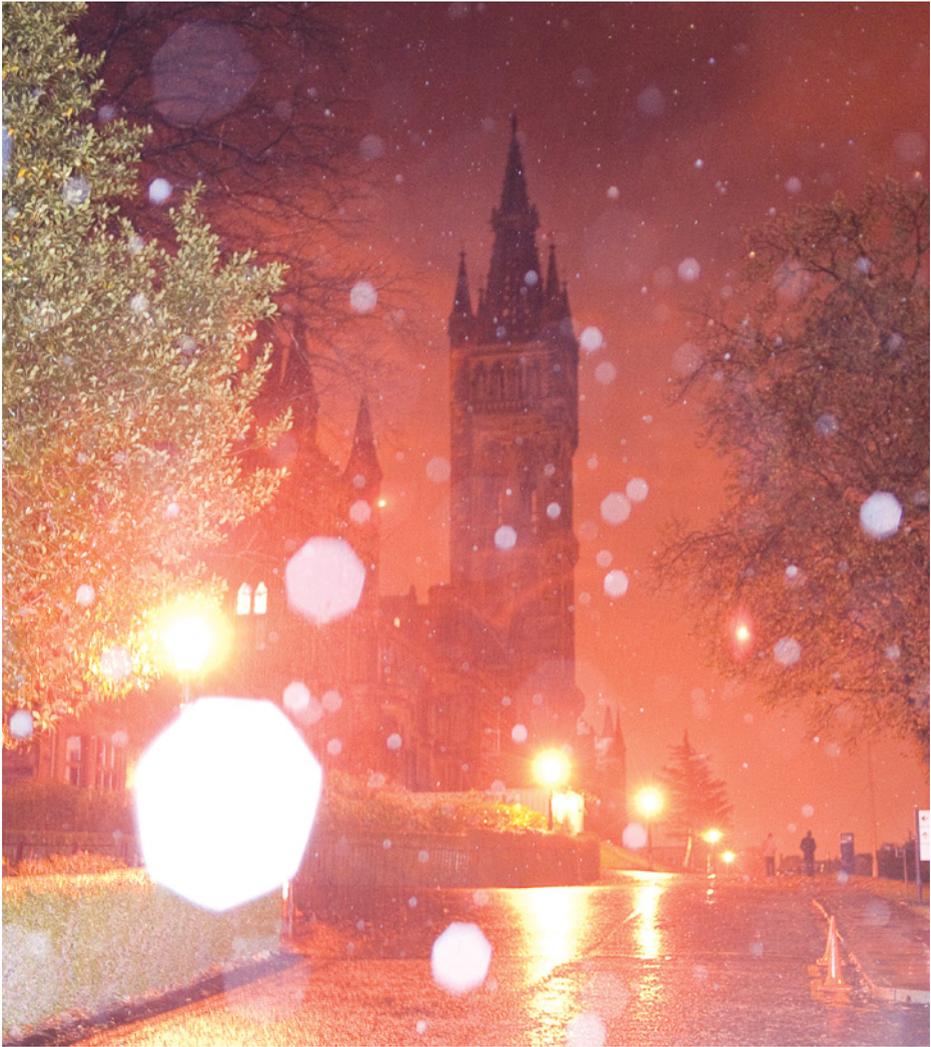
In accordance with the Code of Assessment in the University Calendar, it is your responsibility to bring any such circumstances to the attention of the Head of School within 7 days. Your Adviser of Studies or Postgraduate Supervisor is normally your first port of call in this situation.

The appeals process

If you decide to enter the appeals process, first approach your School to try and obtain an informal resolution of the problem. The Advice Centre can help with this if you don't feel confident about approaching staff, or aren't sure about what to say.

Consulting at School level won't necessarily avoid the need to go to a formal appeal, but remember that when you do approach the College to notify them of an appeal, they will themselves approach the relevant School for feedback on the case. If you have already had a good meeting with someone in the School then their report to College stands a better chance of being positive towards your case.

If you do wish to appeal, the first stage of a formal appeal is always to your College. You have 10 working days from the date of the decision to submit your 'intimation of intention to appeal' to the Head of Academic and Student Administration in your College. If



you are working towards an informal resolution of the problem you should still put in your intention to appeal to avoid running out of time (you can always withdraw it later if your informal route succeeds).

You then have a further 20 working days to submit a full appeal letter with all your evidence included.

Your appeal is likely to be dealt with under preliminary disposal (ie without a hearing), hence the need for a really comprehensive

appeal letter. Sometimes, though, the College Appeals Committee will want to hold a full hearing so they can ask you questions about your appeal. The SRC Advice Centre can help you throughout this process.

► **The SRC Advice Centre**

GLASGOWSTUDENT.NET/ADVICE/ACADEMIC

The SRC Advice Centre can be found on the ground floor of the John McIntyre Building. Open Mondays 10.30am-4pm, Tue-Thur 10am-4pm & Fridays 10am-3.30pm.

studying...

COMPLAINTS

If you are unhappy with an aspect of your course, a failure of the University to follow its procedures or the behaviour of another student or member of staff – a complaint can be a good way to address the problem.

You can find the University Complaints Procedure on the Senate Office website.

It is designed to deal with problems ranging from the quality of teaching or supervision to bullying and harassment.

Informal

The first thing to do is to consider an informal resolution of the problem. It may be that the person responsible doesn't realise that there is a problem in the first place. A calm discussion may be all that is required to resolve matters and maintain good relationships all round. The Advice Centre staff can help you prepare for this if you don't feel confident about approaching University staff, or aren't sure of what to say.

Formal

Stage 1

The first stage of the University Complaints Procedure is known as "frontline resolution" and simply requires you to raise the complaint with a member of University staff. This does not have to be in writing although it may be helpful to submit the complaint in this way as this may assist you in presenting your complaint as concisely

as possible. Should you wish to put the complaint in writing the University has a "Stage 1 Complaint form" which you can download from the Senate Office website

The time limit for submitting a complaint is normally 6 months from the date you first became aware of the problem although in some circumstances an extension of up to 12 months may be permitted by the University's Clerk of Senate.

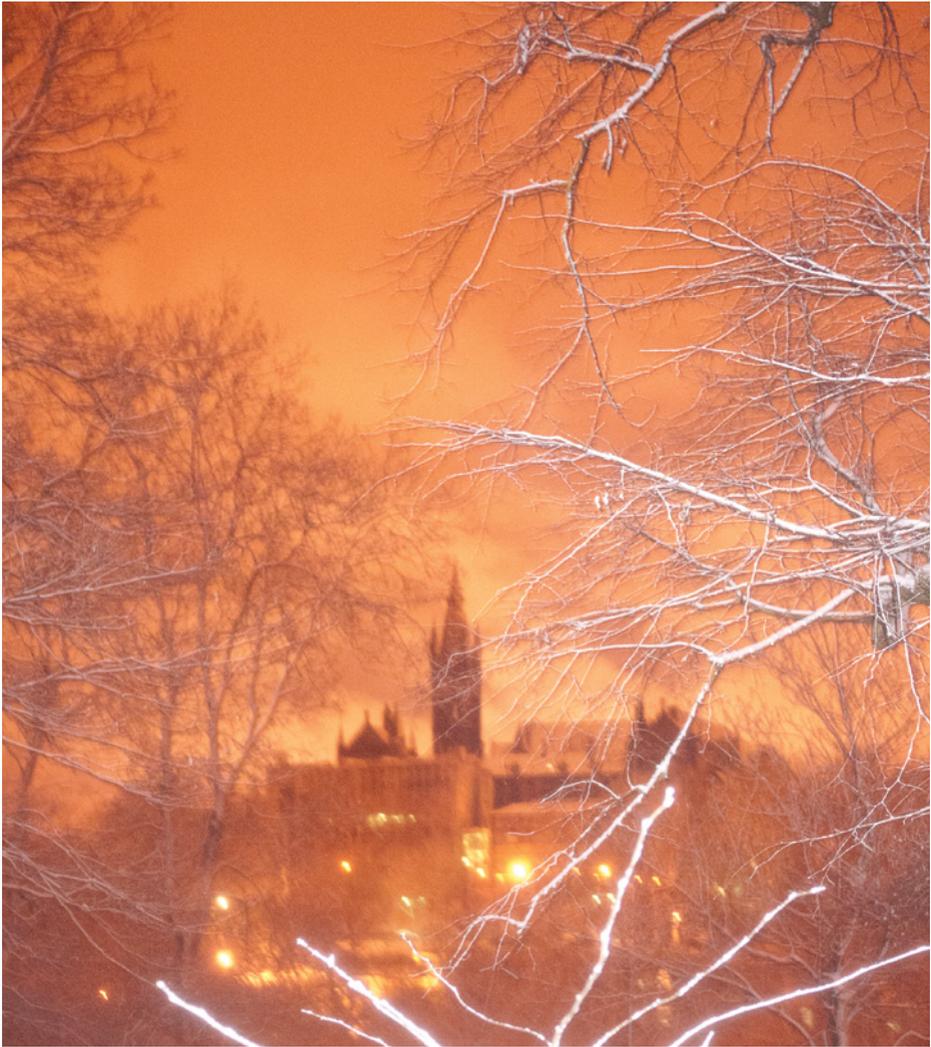
Stage 1 complaints should be investigated and a decision provided within 5-10 working days depending on staff availability.

Stage 2

If you're unhappy with the resolution offered after this first stage of the procedure you can ask the University to further investigate your complaint. To proceed to this stage you simply have to put your complaint directly to the Senate Office at the University by phone, email, letter or in person.

Ombudsman

If you have been through stages 1 and 2 and are not satisfied with the way your complaint has been dealt with, you may wish to consider a complaint to the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman, the form for which can also be found on the SRC website.



Support & help

At any time during this process, if you are at all unsure, want to talk it over with someone or would like to request representation, please contact the Advice Centre who will be happy to help and provide support. You can read more information, and “Tips for Writing a Stage 1 Complaint” on the Advice Centre website (glasgowstudent.net/advice/academic/complaints).

If your complaint is about harassment, the University has trained Harassment Advisors who may be able to help.

studying...

SUPPORT SERVICES

The University has a multitude of services there to help students throughout their time at Glasgow. Here are some of the key ones.

▶ **SRC Advice Centre**

JOHN MCINTYRE BUILDING

Luckily there are people who can help with academic issues, most notably, the SRC Advice Centre. The staff have a wealth of resources and can help with any problems you have in these matters, and more generally care for your welfare; all to ensure that you get the best from your university education.

Other than the Advice Centre - which comes up so often in this book its indispensability should be apparent by now - there are services for everything from improving study skills, assisting those with disabilities to supporting international students.

▶ **Adviser of Studies**

Usually the first member of University staff you come into contact with when you arrive, your Adviser of Studies is there to support you throughout your entire degree. It's worth developing a good relationship with your Adviser: their experience is invaluable. You never know when you might need them to help you out of a tight spot at some point in the future or give you a reference for your first job after university.

Your adviser should also be the person you speak to if you decide you want to change courses. They will be able to tell you if it will be possible (it often is in first year) and what steps you have to take to make it happen.

▶ **Disability Service**

SOUTHPARK AVENUE

The Disability Service co-ordinates support for any student who has a disability, chronic medical or mental health condition, a sensory impairment or access difficulties.

You should contact the Disability Advisers if you require any assistance in the Library, would like to apply for Disabled Students' Allowance, require particular exam arrangements because of your disability or experience physical access issues on campus.

The Disability Service also offers a dyslexia query service which includes a confidential interview and, where appropriate, a computerised diagnostic screening test. If you feel like there is a chance you would benefit from this service, no matter how trivial it might seem to you, it is better to get the help you need as soon as possible. Rest assured that you won't be wasting someone's time.

They also hold licences, and offer training on the most commonly used assistive software packages (MindGenius, textHELP Read & Write, ZoomText and Kurzweil 3000). These are available on the network in individual school and subject computer clusters. Scanners, large monitors, specialist keyboards and other peripherals can be found in The Assistive Technology Centre room on Level 5 of the Library.



Many of the key student services are based in the Fraser Building.

► ***The Student Services Enquiry Desk***

FRASER BUILDING

The Enquiry Desk functions as first point of contact for queries related to all student services and any other problems you might have. The Enquiry Desk can also help with things like getting a new student card, getting official university documentation or making an appointment with the university's Career Service.

► ***International Student Advisers***

FRASER BUILDING

The International Student Advisers can help you with all aspects of studying and living in Glasgow, from visas and immigration issues to advice on finance, registration with the police, employment and the support services available to you.

See Clubs & societies on p26 to find clubs that may be able to help you improve your English language skills whilst in Glasgow.

► ***Student Learning Service***

READING ROOM

The Student Learning Service provides learning advice and guidance to all undergraduate and taught postgraduate students

who are registered. The service runs a variety of workshops including sessions on time management, numeracy, essay writing, revision strategies and oral presentations.

► ***Student Network***

Student Network gives first year undergraduate or postgraduate students an opportunity to get academic advice from current students. You're paired up with a mentor, usually from the same School or college, so you can get independent advice and ask specific questions about your classes or School that other advice services might not know the answers to.

► ***Nursery***

HILLHEAD STREET

The University has a nursery that can help balance looking after a child with university life. Running from Monday to Friday 8am-6pm throughout the year, there is provision for children below school age. Competition for places is stiff so it's a good idea to put your child on the waiting list as soon as possible, and try to organise alternative child care arrangements in the meantime. The Nursery costs just over £27 per day as of August 2012, but it is possible to apply for subsidies through the University Court, which can help with the costs.

studying...

ACADEMIC REPRESENTATION

Academic appeals, official complaints and the Advice Centre are all exactly what you need for individual and immediate problems at the University but what about more systematic or long term issues that affect a course or students as a whole? This is where the various elements of the University's academic representation structure come in. This is the largely unseen side of the SRC on campus but one of the most important.

Class reps

Class reps are seen as the foot soldiers of academic representation; they are the eyes and ears on the ground acting as the first point of contact for students who have a problem with, or wish to give a suggestion to staff about, a class as a whole. They allow students to air their views to the academics that run their department on issues like course content, teaching and resources.

Any student at the University can become a class rep and a parallel structure also exists for postgraduate research students. Each class lecturer will organise an election in the first few weeks of each semester.

Class reps receive full training from the SRC at the beginning of each semester covering the role, support structures as well as skills like promotion and negotiation. Following this, class reps will attend regular Staff Student Liaison Committee meetings where any issues that have arisen can be discussed.

Because they operate as a part of the SRC, any recurring problems which class reps raise are passed through the system from class reps to college / school convenors and to the Vice President for Education who can take action on behalf of the students and better inform SRC policy making decisions.

Becoming a Class Rep is a very rewarding role. Most students benefit from this position as they acquire and enhance their skills of communication, time-management and delegation. The role is also recorded on your Higher Education Achievement Report.

College & school convenors

College and school convenors sit on the SRC Council and are elected by their peers every year. They play an important role in raising issues within colleges or schools to council as well as sitting on college level committees with university management.

You can find a full list of college & school reps and their contact details on the SRC website. Elections for vacant college and school rep positions will be held in October 2013. If you are interested in running to be on the SRC Council see the SRC website for full details.



Current Rector, Rt Hon Charles Kennedy MP in the GUU (where he was president in 1980-1981)

Student Voice

Student Voice is a space on the web for students to interact with class reps, their College Conveners and School Reps and discuss their learning experience.

Some school staff can also comment on posts and should post up minutes from any Staff Student Liaison Committees, the outcomes of any student feedback they've received and other similar information.

The Rector

Historically, the Rector is one of the senior posts within the University and is currently held by Liberal Democrat MP Charles

Kennedy. Although the Rector is not active in University strategy or policy-making, the role can be important as a public spokesperson and representative for student issues.

The position is contested every three years with the next rectorial election in February 2014. It's up to students to nominate candidates and run their campaigns so if you have anyone in mind that you think would fit the role, get some friends together and look out for the nomination material from the SRC.

It can be anyone of standing that you think will be able to voice student concerns. Previous Rectors have range from anti-apartheid campaigner Winnie Mandela and nuclear-weapons whistle-blower Mordechai Vanunu to Scottish actor and comedian Greg Hemphill.



CITY LIFE

Glasgow is culturally and visually one of the best cities in Europe - make the most of it.

<i>Idylls in the city</i>	54
<i>Beyond the city</i>	58
<i>Culture</i>	60
<i>Lunch</i>	68
<i>Eating out</i>	70
<i>Bars</i>	72
<i>Off-licences</i>	76
<i>Clubs</i>	78
<i>Live music</i>	82

city life...

IDYLLS IN THE CITY

In keeping with 'guidebook to Glasgow' protocol and focusing on the pseudo-interesting minutiae which dictate such conventions, you should know that Glasgow translates as 'dear green place' - do have fun dropping that one to some potential acquaintances during the first few flat parties of the year, now. That basically means that Glasgow has its fair share of parks and green areas for you to enjoy.

West End

As a student in search of the outdoors, you're lucky to be based in the West End. The West End is one of the most affluent areas in Glasgow which offers several benefits for the dazed fresher in search of daylight/vitamin D: outdoor areas here tend to be clean, safe, well-maintained and generally are the sort of places yummy mummies push vintage perambulators around. Most of the park areas in the West End focus their appeal on the banks of the River Kelvin.

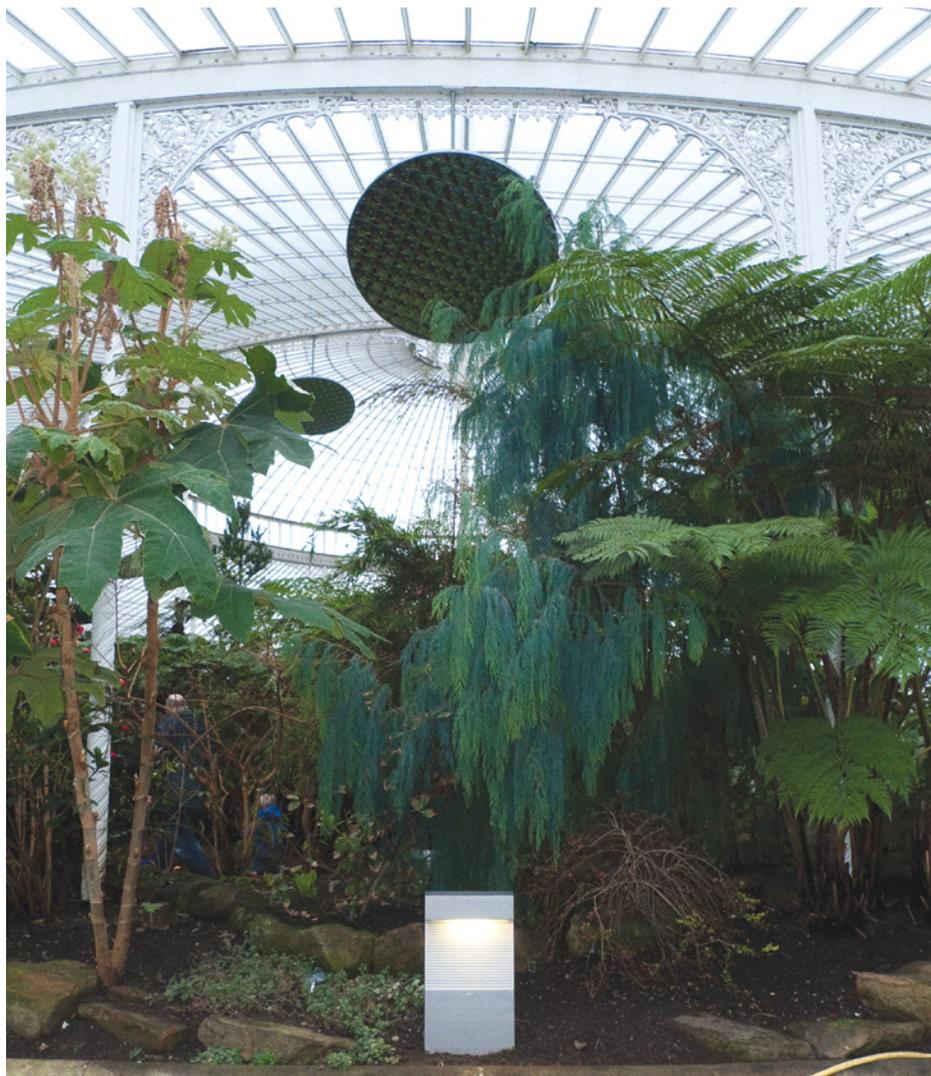
► ***Kelvingrove Park***

One of Glasgow's most notable parks, Kelvingrove, is a perennial favourite with

students and West End locals alike. As with all icons though, Kelvingrove's reputation is partly deserved and partly hype.

Don't be fooled or seduced by "The Hill" (if you haven't discovered what this is yet, consider yourself lucky, but come summer you're sure to find out). Proving about as popular an accompaniment to the good weather as a swarm of irritable wasps, sunburn or rain, you'll definitely find yourself sitting in the Hill on one of those Sunny days at the start of the summer with your fellow classmates. The novelty will soon probably wear off though due to the somewhat raucous nature of your fellow hill-mates and the unbearable stench of BBQs in metal trays.

Kelvingrove is best enjoyed when it's quieter. As a student whose location lets you make the most of the park easily, this doesn't necessarily limit your visits to during the colder, wetter weather or off-peak times either (not that they aren't pleasant options, though). Exploration is key and straying away from the main thoroughfares, such as up the hill towards Park Circus or the smaller area of the park separated by Kelvin Way, is a good way to get the most out of Kelvingrove.



► *Botanic Gardens*

As a more structured, self-sustained space than Kelvingrove Park, the Botanic Gardens with its warden, higher fences and closing times can in some cases present a more appealing picture.

The Botanics' lawns get just as busy as Kelvingrove during spells of good weather, but this space tends to cope better and the vibe is decidedly less manic.

The added options of getting to look at tons of goldfish (these king-sized ones should make up for the lack of pets in halls) and being able to walk through glasshouses populated by the sort of plants they genetically engineered in Jurassic Park is an added bonus as well. You should make sure you venture beyond the front lawns and the main glasshouses at the Botanics too; other areas of the Gardens really make the most of being situated on the banks of the Kelvin.

...idylls in the city



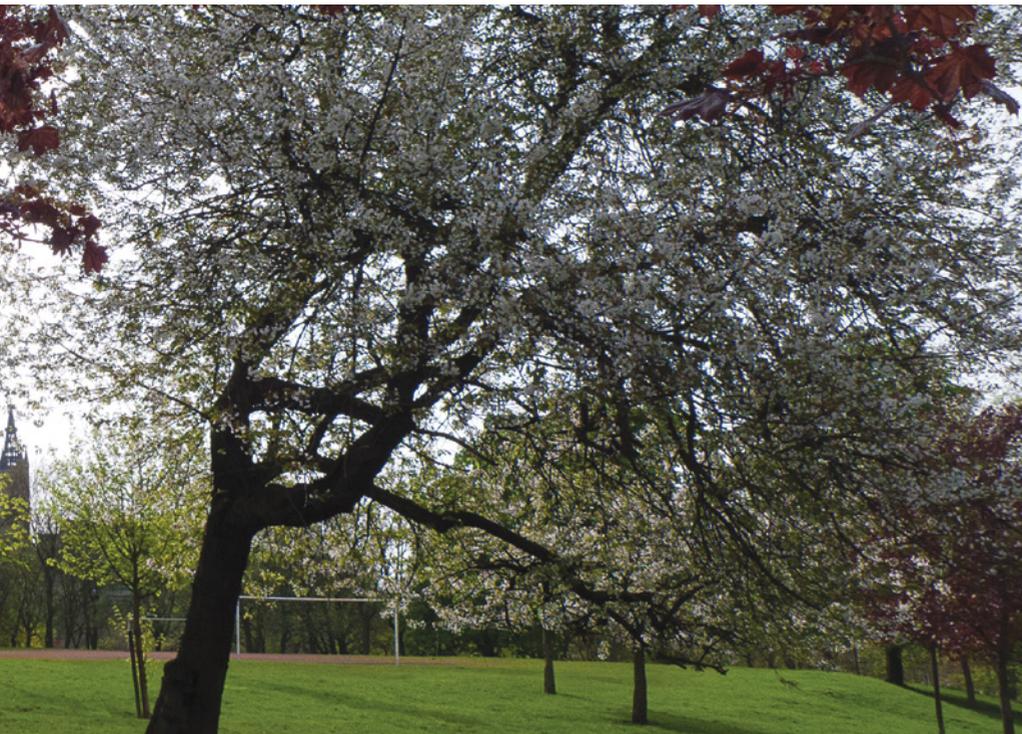
► ***Kelvin Walkway***

The Kelvin Walkway is one of the most enjoyable and under-appreciated facets of Glasgow's botanical gambit. Despite following along the banks of the river which shapes the Botanic Gardens, Kelvingrove Park and the West End in general, part of the appeal of the Kelvin Walkway is how removed it is from its urban surroundings.

From spending your time in the West End (or in Kelvingrove or the Botanics) your experience of the Kelvin might be one of casual familiarity - the river is almost seen as a novelty addition to the West End's cultivated image as a bohemian oasis in the city. Take a trip along the Kelvin Walkway and you'll soon realise that the converse is true: rather than being just another reference to cite in

evidence of the West End's European cultural credentials, the Kelvin defines the area in ways beyond its geography.

Following those curious little paths which you'll find yourself squinting to spot from most of the bridges which cross the river (the Walkway can be joined and exited at several points along its length), the Walkway lets you see the West End from a unique perspective which is almost unimaginable for those used to walking its busy streets. The beautiful architecture and engineering of various tunnels and bridges, hidden nooks and crannies you never knew existed and some otherwise inaccessible lush greenery line the banks of the Kelvin. The Kelvin Walkway is one of the best ways to get to kill 20 minutes in the West End.



Further afield

► *City Centre*

Even within the city centre, Glasgow offers a few green areas for the use of its inhabitants.

Just beyond the Trongate and equally accessible along the banks of the River Clyde (this is a particularly good cycling and walking route [see also p58]), Glasgow Green is the major park in the centre of Glasgow. The Green is pretty much exactly that; it's a wide-open green space (which is notable enough given its location) and it houses various sites of historical and cultural interest including the People's Palace museum. The Green is also home to the Templeton Building, a former carpet factory and now the site of the West Brewery - you don't get that in Kelvingrove, do you?

The Necropolis is just past High Street, next to Glasgow Cathedral, and is the site of some

of the city's best (and most permanent) relaxation. A cemetery might not be always be listed amongst a city's most desirable locations to visit, but the view the Necropolis provides of Glasgow is, eh, to die for.

► *Greater Glasgow*

Chances are, any Glaswegian you'll meet will probably try and convince you that their local park is one of the best in the city. A good proportion of Southsiders will swear that Queens Park or Bellahouston is superior to Kelvingrove, and those living in the west or staying or studying at Garscube campus will no doubt brag about the idyllic Dawsholm Park.

Glasgow's largest park, Pollok Country Park, comes with a host of aforementioned pseudo-interesting minutiae and awards. Perhaps most notably, it contains the Burrell Collection [see p61]. It's definitely worth visiting at least once - you'd be best dedicating a day to it.

city life...

BEYOND THE CITY



Glasgow's industrial history is all around as you go about your day, but look through the gaps and you can often see glimpses of hills in the distance. This postcard-worthy Scottish countryside (pictured) is actually only about 10 miles away from the West End.

Day trips

There's plenty of sights well within a few hours' travel with the West Coast being well served by bus and rail.

► **Loch Lomond**

Loch Lomond is the largest lake in the UK and is surrounded by some great hills, walks and a National Park. You can get to its southern-most point, Balloch, in 40 minutes by train (£5 return from Partick), which is ok for touristy stuff, but push on further (by bus or bike) to Balmaha, Rowardennan or Inverbeg for the really beautiful stuff.

► **Largs**

South of Glasgow on the West Coast, Largs was a popular seaside resort back in the day. The pier might not be much fun now, but there's still legendary ice cream to be had from Nardini's Café. The Vikingar! centre's

interactive history of Viking life is worth a visit as is the estate of Kelburn Castle which features a graffiti-covered castle and some stunning scenery. Trains from Glasgow Central are £9 return.

► **New Lanark**

A restored 18th century cotton mill and village on the banks of the Clyde. It's one of five UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Scotland and the visitor centre is highly rated by all the tourist boards and guides. £7 return from Glasgow Central and another £7 entry to the visitor centre.

Walking & cycling

► **Forth & Clyde Cycle Path**

Route 75 of the National Cycle Network runs from just west of Glasgow to Edinburgh following a variety of canal paths, old converted railway lines and country paths. It's signposted the whole way and is a flat easy ride easily doable in a day. There are a few train stations along the way if you want to skip any of it and you're never that far from civilisation if you need to stop for lunch.



► *West Highland Way*

A footpath running from near Glasgow in Milngavie to Fort William. The 96 miles take in some of the most stunning parts of the country and, although there are a few hills, most of the route is easy going. There are plenty of hostels and B&Bs along the way who are used to muddy boots and organising the forwarding of luggage and the like, although it's also legal to camp in most places along the route. The whole route takes most people about seven days although there are train stations at some points, so only doing a section is possible too.

Wild camping

One of the best things about exploring Scotland is the right to wild camping. Wild camping is lightweight, done in small numbers and only for a couple of nights in any one place. These rights apply to most parts of the countryside other than in active fields, near roads, buildings or historical sites. Basically, as long as you are not affecting anyone by being there and are responsible, you are allowed to camp. The exemptions are the east side of Loch Lomond and Glen Coe during the summer due to overuse.

The main thing is to leave no trace of your stay so take away all your litter, remove all traces of your camp site and don't cause any pollution. The Scottish Outdoor Access Code website has the details on how to enjoy this freedom responsibly within the law.

Islands

Scotland has 790 offshore islands, of which around 100 are inhabited. Choppy ferries to beautiful islands are a brilliant way to escape from the city, and most are easily accessible from Glasgow.

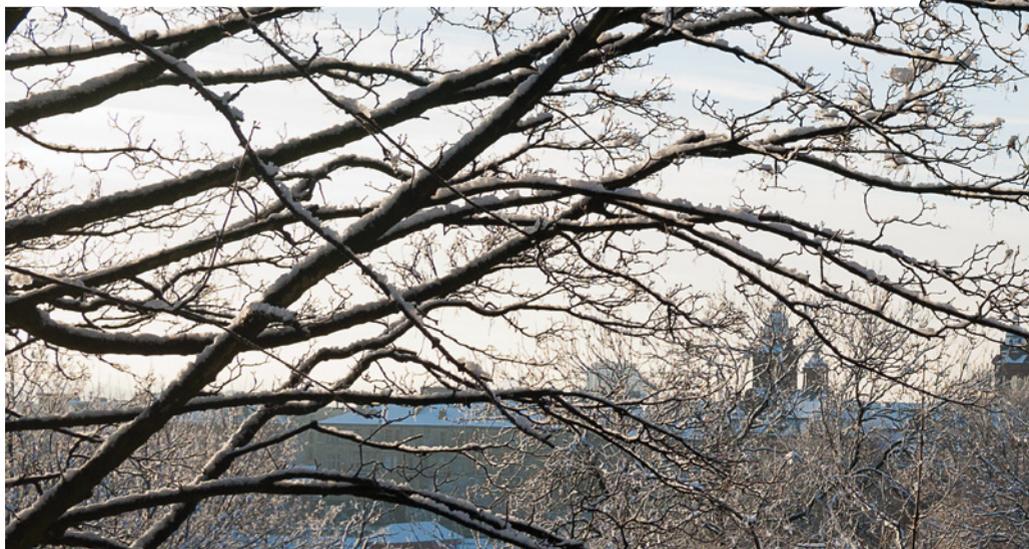
Buses can take you to all of the major ports in one way or another from Buchanan St Bus Station and, as ever, are usually cheaper than trains, especially at the last minute.

Useful websites

- » Visit Scotland
- » Undiscovered Scotland
- » Sustrans (cycling)
- » Traveline Scotland

culture...

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES



It's no secret that it tends to rain in Glasgow (just you wait). One upside to this is that it's pressured the government to make sure there's tons to do when the weather's not so great, with the result that it was named European City Of Culture in 1990. Since then, the many museums and galleries have been doing a brilliant job of making sure the title could never be disputed, with consistent high profile exhibits and a lot of investment. And - best of all - it's all totally free, unless stated otherwise.

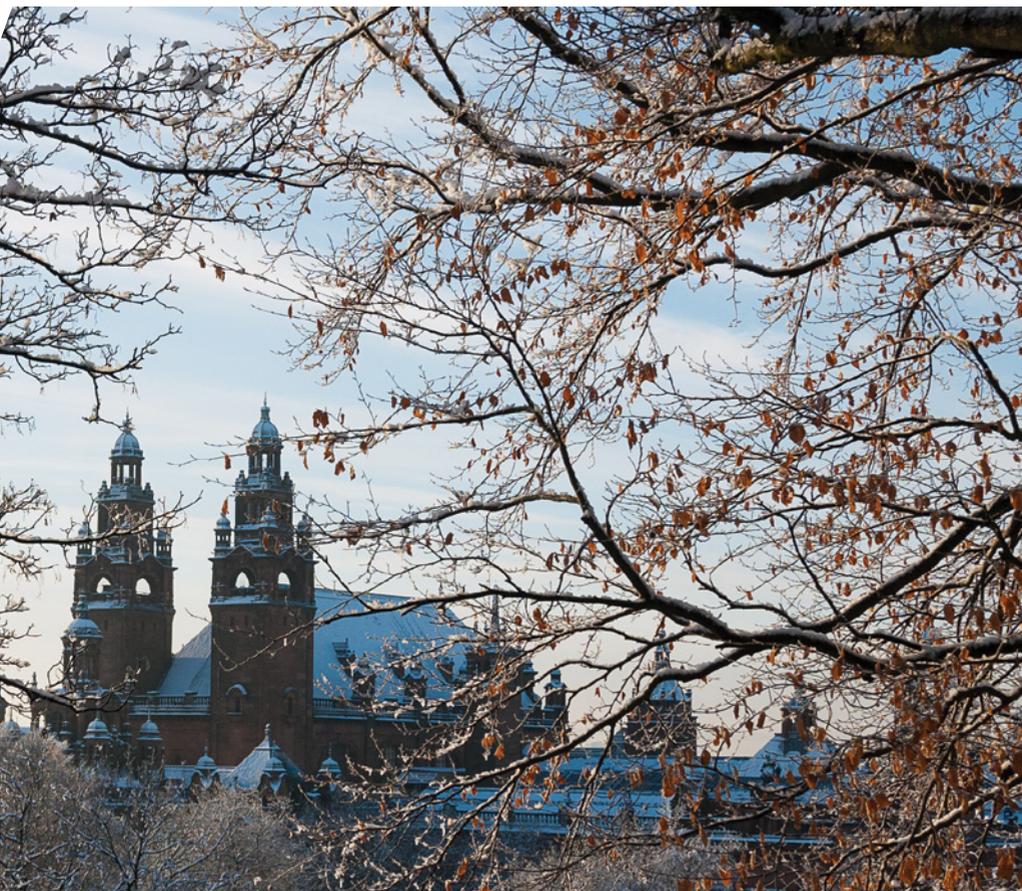
► **Riverside Museum**

European Museum of the Year 2013 - formerly the Museum of Transport, the slightly more appealingly-titled Riverside Museum is actually one of the most interesting

places to spend one of the many rainy days. Designed by world-renowned architect Zaha Hadid, it's basically a paean to the city's transport through the ages, with vintage subway trains, trams and cars and full-size reproductions of how Glasgow's streets used to look.

► **Kelvingrove**

Situated behind the University in Kelvingrove Park (pictured), this huge museum contains an impressively varied and fascinating collection of work: from art by Dali, Matisse and Rembrandt to armour, fossils, stuffed animals and a completely restored Spitfire. The building itself is reason enough to visit.



Kelvingrove Museum seen from the front of the University's Main Building

► ***The Burrell Collection***

Make the effort to venture out to the Southside (no excuses - get the train from Glasgow Central to Pollokshaws West, and it's right next door) and witness the marvels donated to the city by wealthy industrialist and geeky collector Sir William Burrell. An idiosyncratic collection of artefacts and art await you, in one of the prettiest hideaways in the city, Pollok Country Park ^[see p57].

► ***Hunterian Museum & Art Gallery***

The Hunterian is not only one of Glasgow's best cultural attractions but it's also right on your doorstep. The museum is housed in the University's Main Building whilst the

gallery is attached to that house with the door half-way up the wall next to the library (which, incidentally, is also worth a visit). The Hunterian holds a number of permanent collections related to the University and also displays guest and touring exhibits throughout the year. The perfect way to kill an hour between classes.

► ***GOMA***

Just off George Square, the Gallery of Modern Art is, if not quite the soul sister to New York's MOMA, then a scaled-down version of something just as thoughtfully curated, exhibiting a range of work from both established artists and those set to be the next big names, whether local or international.

culture...

VISUAL ART

From the unavoidable legacy of Charles Rennie Macintosh to the current spate of Turner prize winners, there is a bold, vibrant art scene running both above and below the ground. Once you know where to look, it's impossible to miss, and too exciting not to get involved in.

► *Trongate 103*

TRONGATE, MERCHANT CITY

This buzzing hub in the heart of the Merchant City is home to eight different creative organisations, including the independent Transmission gallery and Cafe Cossachok, a Russian cafe and exhibition space. With four floors of varied artist production facilities - from printmaking, ceramics and painting to photography and film - it's well worth taking a look, whether you're interested in making your own art, craft or media work, or simply want to gawp at others' achievements.

► *The Old Hairdressers*

RENFIELD LANE, GLASGOW

Located opposite Stereo [see p62], this bar come visual arts space plays host to a range of exhibitions, music events and performance art pieces from up-and-coming local talent to more established artists alike. The bar on the ground floor is great for a drink and to relax but the main exhibition room tucked upstairs is the real gem of the space.

► *The Glue Factory*

FARNELL STREET, MARYHILL

The Glue Factory is a newly established venue for cross-artform exhibitions and events. It is a not for profit organisation run by a committee of volunteers and manages to support itself by renting out the cavernous, industrial main warehouse spaces for events

which usually have some sort of connection or tie to the Glasgow Art scene. It plays host to an extremely diverse range of exhibitions and provides studio space to a number of budding Glaswegian artists; notably their risotto and screen print.

► *SWG3*

EASTVALE PLACE, WEST END

Gallery, studio and exhibition space by day, gig and club venue by night, SWG3 is occupied half by people with silly haircuts and big glasses looking to see some of the coolest bands and DJs, and half, well, artists with silly haircuts and big glasses looking to make some of the most innovative work in the city. Located next to Maclay Halls in an old warehouse, it's a lesson in industrial chic, Glasgow-style.

► *CCA*

SAUCHIEHALL STREET, CITY CENTRE

A constantly evolving space, the Centre for Contemporary Arts does what it says on the tin, hosting every type of arts event going - including film, dance, performance art and spoken word - as well as having a great cafe, bar and bookshop to boot. Worth watching for the gems, including mini arts festivals such as the Refugee Week Scotland Film Festival to the Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival.

► *Tramway*

ALBERT DRIVE, SOUTHSIDE

Respected and revered worldwide as an arts space, this renovated tram terminus, situated about a minute away from Pollokshields East, is host to performance and visual art from the cream of the crop - both international and homegrown.



Most of the city's best arts venues are housed in converted warehouses or other industrial buildings (above: Tramway)

culture...

THEATRE & COMEDY

Spanning beautiful auditoriums, converted churches, sweaty basements, underground railway arches and the pavement itself, Glasgow's thriving theatre scene really is something to be proud of.

Whether you're after Shakespeare from internationally revered veterans, new interpretations of Brecht or Chekhov from new Scottish companies, or experimental live art from boundary-breaking art graduates, you'll probably find it. And if not, do something about it - there are, as ever, myriad ways to become a part of it yourself.

Put down the DVDs and see the action being played out right in front of your eyes.

► ***King's Theatre & Theatre Royal***

Glasgow's most traditional theatre spaces: this is where you'll find mainstream, large-scale shows from London's West End, as well as high-end opera and dance. Home to the Scottish Opera, the Theatre Royal is also the prime venue for the Scottish Ballet, Royal Shakespeare Company and the Royal National Theatre. Whilst its camp-as-Christmas cousin the King's is all about the cheese - think Dirty Dancing and Calendar Girls, and all things panto. Ideal for parental visits or alternative pre-club fun - unless your parents are particularly avant-garde.

► ***Citizens Theatre***

As the name suggests, the Citz, as it's fondly known by veterans and the involved local community, generally puts on accessible, entertaining plays, often with a bent towards Glaswegian or Scottish social history. That's not to say it's without a contemporary edge; their new artistic director has promised to take things a little more left of field.

► ***The Tron***

Straddling the boundary between contemporary and classic, the Tron showcases dynamic new writing from the past ten years from Scottish and international writers, including new interpretations of 20th century classics. It's a good place to introduce yourself to slightly more challenging work, offering enough grit/intellect to make you feel you've exercised your brain cells without venturing too far from your comfort zone - or, with its Merchant City location and busy bar, an alcoholic drink. Watch out for new festival Mayfesto in, you guessed it, May, which focuses on political and global issues.

► ***The Stand***

Home of comedy in Glasgow. Focused on local and emerging talent, The Stand offers a good night-out seven nights a week. Tuesday's new talent night 'Red Raw' is as hit-and-miss as the name suggests but the £2 entry normally turns out to be a bargain.



► *The Arches*

Shattering any preconceived notions of what thea-tar should be, if you want to see something more edgy and risk-taking, this is where to go. A haven for young experimental performance artists, the Arches' work over the past few years has favoured interactive or immersive 'experiences' over narrative theatre. The quirky space also means they can push the boundaries a little further, whether by erecting a full-scale wrestling ring in a club space or hosting promenade pieces led by a troupe of bald Russian dancers in the basement. The bar and restaurant is full of interesting types on performance days: go and mingle, and/or people watch.

► *Òran Mór*

Their lunchtime A Play, a Pie and a Pint events offer just that, proving an informal way to see both new and old plays whilst sitting at trestle tables in the underground venue space. There's always a veggie choice of pie, and 'a pint' can translate as a glass of wine or soft drink.

Prices start at £8 for students and, operating on a first-come-first-served basis, tickets are released at 12 noon from Monday-Saturday and tend to go pretty fast (often depending on the weather).

culture...

CINEMA



Recently there's been a renaissance within Glasgow's film community centred around identifying Glasgow as 'Cinema City'. The title is in reference to the city's cinema-going heritage and a golden age when Glasgow offered more cinemas per person than anywhere else outside the USA. Nowadays you'll have to settle for considerably fewer cinemas, colour televisions in your home and the internet (Netflix's pixelated sub-blockbuster fare can be such a cruel mistress...) - so much for progress, huh.

What Glasgow has lost in its number of cinemas it hasn't lost in its affection for film, though. Far from the cringe-worthy practice of giving yourself a contrived nickname, Glasgow fully deserves its 'Cinema City' moniker. Home to huge multiplexes, an IMAX with the largest cinema screen in Scotland, a variety of independent and art-house production companies and distribution spaces, and a film festival which has quickly established itself in the city's film calendar - Glasgow is Cinema City.

High street cinema

Glasgow might have reduced its number of cinemas over the years, but its current provision is more than enough to cater for the blockbuster audience. The Cineworld found on Renfrew Street might be only one cinema, but by building up (and up and up... try taking the escalators if you want any more proof, it is the tallest cinema in the world after all) it has made its dozens of predecessors fairly redundant. Spanning several floors, Cineworld houses 18 big screens with the sort of surround sound that makes your seat shake and is the most obvious choice for catching mainstream movies in the city. Closer to campus, the Grosvenor on Ashton Lane offers a more modest 2 small screens and one of Glasgow's staple pronunciation challenges for out-of-towners (the polyglots might also want to try and wrap their brains around Cessnock, Milngavie et al).



The GFT's main auditorium during a pre-screening talk (above).

Arthouse cinema

Alongside other projects centred around helping the local community engage and experience the moving image (such as the Glasgow Film Festival and the Cinema City programme). The Glasgow Film Theatre (GFT) acts as one branch of an organisation known as Glasgow Film. Beyond this, the GFT forms a very important location for cinema in Glasgow. Still housed in its impressive art deco Rose Street residence and with an impressively consistent programme of art cinema, world cinema, low-key independent imports, and various special features, it's only too appropriate that the GFT serves as a hub for Glasgow's continued affinity for cinema.

Just down the road from the GFT, the Centre for Contemporary Arts (CCA) on Sauchiehall Street offers a regular programme of obscure and challenging screenings which you're unlikely to catch on public release anywhere else. The CCA, GFT and Glasgow's several other exhibition spaces (such as Trongate 103 ^[see p62]) also house various discussion groups, educational programmes and production collectives based around film in all its forms.

city life... **LUNCH**

At some point the prospect of getting up half an hour early to make your own packed lunch won't feel very appealing and the idea of eating yet another squashed sandwich made up of economy-priced bread and [insert whatever generic filling you've had for the past two weeks here] will put you off the idea altogether. Equally, man (or woman... or man-boy) cannot eat on school-dinners style canteen food alone, so the Union and University catering provisions might not always offer suitable options either.

At university in Glasgow, safe in the knowledge that the playground bully won't be out to steal your lunch money or under any illusions that your lunch hour would be so miserly to actually last only an hour, eating lunch out a little further afield from campus can be a viable solution to your midday woes (lunch, of course, doesn't actually need to take place remotely near midday).

Although not necessarily something to do with everyday regularity - eating 3 meals a day is preferable to surviving on 3 pricey lunches a week - eating lunch out can provide a much needed relaxing and social experience. It's also useful for reminding you what nice food tastes like.

Take-away

A lot of the shops and delis local to campus will offer meal deals made up of the usual trinity of delicious: the ever-balanced drink, main and side combo. While the Boots meal deal might be the shining light for punters on a decidedly over-priced city centre high street or your saving grace in an equally

culinary barren train station, you'll have more options at lunchtime in the West End.

As an area so well served by quality green-grocers [see p92] and housing a variety of different communities, logically enough the West End is home to an impressive selection of great sandwich specialists. Dotted around campus are a bunch of smart proprietors who buy the nice ingredients available on their doorstep and do nice things to them. The number of sandwich specialists packed into the small West End area means that there's enough competition to keep these shops interesting, reasonably priced and varied in a bid to set themselves apart.

Il Cappuccino on Great Western Road is a fixture of the West End's lunchtime market: displaying blackboards full of well-loved classics and their own carefully crafted favourites - each with its own inexplicably dramatic title; they really like sandwiches. With fellow West End craft sandwich aficionados Piece opening a second location just down the road (the original is on Argyle Street if you find yourself on the other side of the park), sandwiches that laugh in the face of your homemade attempts at "food" are widely available.

If you're looking for something slightly more substantial, tackle a burrito or quesadilla from Taco Mazama on Byres Road.

International delis like Scherezade (Bank Street) and Falafel Petra (Gibson Street) can fill any of your more exotic urges for falafel, kebabs or untranslated pickled goods.

One hidden gem of the West End is tucked away underneath the huge church on



University Avenue, The Crypt offers simple but filling home-made food and is one of the few places you can get gluten free cakes.

Vegetarians and vegans can eat out pretty well in the places already mentioned, but wholefoods shops and delis like Roots & Fruits (both Argyle St and Great Western Road) should cover any bases which might be missed otherwise.

Sitting-in

Like their take-away counterparts, several of the West End's boutique cafes and

restaurants offer appealing lunch-time offers in order to accommodate people with real jobs who "do lunch" and financially promiscuous students on a student-loan binge. As a hub to so many different tastes and cultures, being in the West End at lunch-time puts you in a prime location to sample a variety of high-quality, genuine examples of world cuisine at a reduced price.

Some spots like the University Cafe on Byres Road offer meals at such modest prices that special deals aren't even necessary - cheap prices are just one of the benefits that come with frequenting one of the most authentic and charming eateries in the city, then there's their ice cream...

city life...

EATING OUT

Although sitting down to have someone else cook for you every night is generally not feasible on a student budget, there are enough restaurants in the West End to cater for all price ranges. Whether you are looking for somewhere you can pile in with all your pals to shout over each other and eat pizza, or something a bit more intimate, you're bound to find something appropriate.

Budget

If you fancy a little Asian cuisine on a noodle sized shoestring of a budget then look no further than Bar Soba on Byres Road. They have a constant two-for-one deal for students running Monday to Thursday before 5pm. Their drinks deals are good too and have a great selection of drinks on special offer from Sunday to Wednesday.

For authentic, late-night Chinese and Malaysian food with rapid service, Asia Style can't be beat. It is harshly lit and decorated, with a pink aura that seems to radiate from the Formica tables and lino flooring but this somehow manages to add to, rather than detract from, the charm of the place overall. It has got a little bit more pricey in recent years but it is definitely worth it.

Vegans, veggies and organic food enthusiasts take note: The 78 on Kelvinhaugh Street is the place to go for the most exciting 100% vegan menu in the West End. It offers an extensive range of draught and bottled ales,

beers, wine and soft drinks, also free from any animal produce and organic where possible. The atmosphere is both bright and cosy, with big windows and chunky tables with armchairs and a coal fire.

The Burger revolution

Like many main cities, Glasgow's burger market has experienced something of a renaissance. Gone are the days where the thought of a burger meant a grey piece of gristle slapped between two dry buns in Wetherspoons. Now gourmet burgers are on the menu, coming in all sorts of different shapes and sizes and available from a number of spots throughout the city.

Cocktail & Burger on Sauchiehall street offers - you've guessed it - an impressive burger menu and reasonably priced cocktails. The burgers are two for one so it's good if you are on a tight budget. They go for thin, greasy (read delicious) patties in toasted brioche bun as well as fillings such as pulled pork, lamb and strong vegetarian options. Still nice to go here for a drink even if you aren't hungry.

Then there's Burger Meats Bun, a restaurant owned by two guys who had previously worked in a Michelin star restaurant. They go for 'proper' thick burgers, again in a brioche bun and served in their own branded



packaging rather than plates. It's a far cry from McDonald's though. The quality of both the food and drink is amazing.

Just up the road is 'Meat Bar', a new spot offering slightly more than the usual gourmet burger fayre; exotic, gluttonous meat dishes such as a 12-hour pit-roasted ginger-rubbed smoky brisket as well as a range of meat infused cocktails that are delicious but will send you home feeling slightly dirty. The 'Meatojita' is a meat-infused mojito served with a caramelised pork rib garnish on top. Now that is dirty.

Nice n Sleazy on Sauchiehall Street would argue that they are the original home of the Gourmet Burger in Glasgow. Huge portions and plenty of sides - perfect hangover cure, especially if you'd been in there til 3am the night before. Don't worry, some patterned table cloths cover up the beer stained Formica tables during the day. It's a nice touch.

Upmarket

If your parents come to visit or you want to impress someone special, it's good to have somewhere a bit classier than Barbecue Kings in your culinary repertoire. The Ubiquitous Chip is one of these places. The award winning and interesting food served against a beautiful yet surprisingly relaxed backdrop of plants, water features and local art has made the Chip a Glasgow icon.

La Vallée Blanche on Byres Road offers an exquisitely impressive French menu with a Scottish twist, but one of the things that really sets this place apart from the others is the standard of service. The staff manage to be almost invisible yet devotedly attentive to your every need while you enjoy your food and company in a warm and buzzing intimate atmosphere.

city life... **BARS**

Knock as many of the fear-mongering stereotypes as you like, even if the common perception of the yooof is inaccurate enough to make you cringe, bars and drinking culture do form a part of most students' university experience. As a home to four different universities and many more colleges, Glasgow is well equipped as a city to cater to the essentials of student life - in the case of providing the perfect watering hole for that post-lecture (or pre-lecture... but probably not mid-lecture) pint it's no different. With a huge choice catering for a variety of tastes and budgets, Glasgow has enough bars and pubs to ensure that you and your friends should definitely have somewhere to go that you can all agree on. Even though, more often than not, it'll be wherever is closest and (surprise, surprise) wherever you all went last time - the following section might help you find somewhere that is a bit more "you."

Student bars

Proud bastions of student culture and the institutions responsible (at least in-part) for maintaining a couple of those aforementioned stereotypes and some students semi-permanent state of intoxication, student focused bars serve their purpose and their punters with aplomb. Student bars don't really appeal to any particular niche, instead they tend to focus on making themselves as accessible for as much of their chosen market as possible. This might mean that these establishments don't have the atmosphere or high-standards of some of the city's other bars, but factors like price and

popularity will invariably influence where you take your business, and you'll inevitably find yourself in a student bar at some point during your time at university (probably even within your first week).

The unions, through their respective flag-ship bars, will probably be the first student bars you'll encounter during your time at university and for a lot of students they'll become a regular haunt. Both Jim's Bar and the Beer Bar provide the same sort of things you'd expect from a typical student bar: they're cheap and cheerful, if not slightly slap-dash, and they offer regular drinks promotions and a jukebox of chart classics. Jim's Bar offers the additional advantage of staying open whilst Qudos is in use as a club venue, so you can enjoy a full night of Cheesy Pop without ever having to make the regrettable decision to dance to the sort of songs that embarrassed you 10 years ago at a school disco. At other times, the Beer Bar might appear a more attractive proposition with its more successful old-style booth layout and a beer garden for when it's sunny.

The G1 Group, through their Social Animal chain, dominate much of the rest of the West End's student bar market with a selection of outlets on the ever-variable Ashton Lane. Bars like The Basement on Byres Road offers an escape from the cobbled madness and rounds off the options for the student bar crowd in the West End. In town, the main drags of student clubs on Sauchiehall Street and Bath Street also host respective student focused bars to facilitate your pre-dancing rituals.



The GUU's beer garden isn't quite as nice as Brel's on Ashton Lane, but a pint is half the price

...bars

Scene hangouts

If you're looking to unwind, then the prospect of spending your time off in a bar surrounded by your fellow students might not be that appealing. What you need is a bar that focuses on creating a particular vibe and, in turn, attracting a particular clientele (ie. not 18 year olds drinking pitchers of watery lager). If you find a bar which suits you, you'll gladly walk the extra five minutes beyond the usual student hangouts to reach it.

As an area already saturated with bars and restaurants, you won't find too many of these places in the West End. Most of the West End's more considered drinking establishments can be found strung along the main thoroughfares connecting the University campus and the city centre. The Belle, a former old-man pub on Great Western Road, offers one of the most relaxed atmospheres in the city and is deceptively close to campus. Another old-man conversion - this time on Woodlands Road - The Halt has been a West End mainstay for years (although many would tell you that since its recent acquisition by the brewery it's "just not the same.") The Finnieston area, roughly defined by the more westerly sections of Sauchiehall Street and Argyle Street, also offers a cluster of options for the more discerning customer near campus. Lebowskis offers good food and good drink for 'Dudes' that enjoy Cohen Brothers puns and of course White Russians. The 78 on Kelvinhaugh Street is a stand out, providing unpretentious socialising in a comfortable space, a variety of music programming, good booze and vegan food. Its city-centre sister establishments - Stereo, The Old Hairdressers and Mono - are worth checking out as well (also vegan as well).

Nice n Sleazy, or Sleazys to its army of loyal and varied regulars, found at the Charing Cross end of Sauchiehall Street is a bit of a Glasgow institution. Although fairly rough and ready itself, and often one of the most raucous bars in the city on any given night,

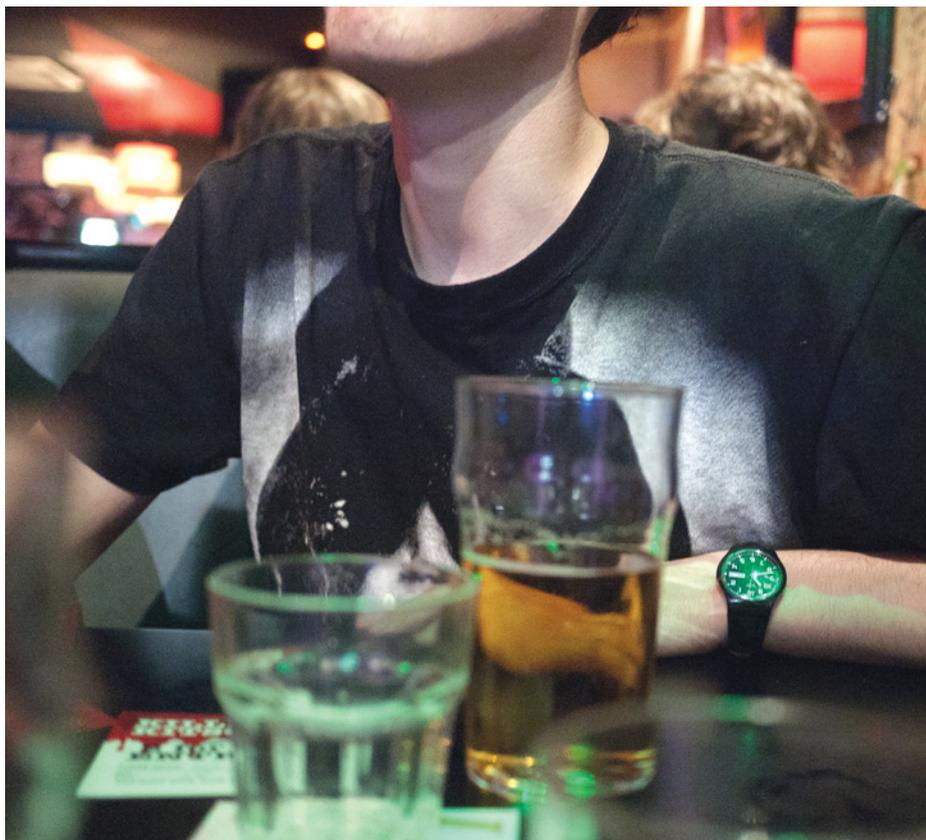
it has long been viewed as an oasis when one of Glasgow's busiest streets turns ugly after dark due to its wide ranging music policy and laid back atmosphere. Variety Bar, located just further down the street, may not be as well known by some of Sleazys crowd, but it's arguably a better bar and also serves as a beacon of respite amidst the Sauchiehall Street circus. The soon to be reopened Art School up the hill from the ABC should provide a third option for those not convinced by the army of student club PRs roaming the street. Sleazys and Stereo have the added benefit of being two of the city's relatively few bars with a 3am licence.

Traditional pubs

Pubs who specialise in ale and guest brews are often the closest to the hearts of quality pub and alcohol enthusiasts, and Glasgow hosts a variety to offer the booze nerd. Old-man pubs from the outside, places like The Three Judges, The Doublet and Bon Accord provide the sort of simultaneously lively and cosy atmosphere that you'd expect from an alehouse and they offer some of the best service you'll find in the city. When it's quiet the knowledgeable staff will be only too happy to talk to you about the ales on their chalkboard (they're probably all pretty good) and when it's busy you'll see them handling the change for three orders at a time whilst still pulling the perfect pint.

Any non-native students keen to dive into whisky drinking culture beyond the QMU's monthly Whisky Club should visit specialist pubs like the Ben Nevis on Argyle Street; the suitably patriotic decor will probably whet your tourist appetite as well.

Then there's the likes of the Grove & The Arlington - old-man pubs where there's probably more students than old men these days. Probably something to do with the fact you can get a 'hawf n hawf' for less than £2. If you don't know what that is, find out.



Polymath

Glasgow has several bars who offer the whole pub experience to the highest standard whilst still retaining a down to earth atmosphere and a (sometimes) accessible price list. Distill on Argyle Street is regarded as one of the best bars in the city, displaying an impressive resume including: some very friendly staff, an impressive selection of spirits (particularly rum), a quality burger and pizza menu as well as residencies from some of the city's most respected DJs. Across the road, The Finnieston showcases one of the most sundry selections of gin in the city and some of the poshest fish and chips you'll ever eat.

As a bar run by the Sub Club and the pre-drink venue of choice for punters heading there and to the Arches, MacSorleys' music credentials are definitely not in question - throw in the fact that they serve some of the best pub food in Glasgow and MacSorleys' reputation as a quality boozier is richly deserved. The performances from Muldoon's Ragtime Jazz and Blues Band every Saturday from 2pm are a particular highlight.

If you're on campus and feel like overspending, then Stravaigin on Gibson Street is one of the best bars in the city. Boasting a tasty and reasonably priced cocktail list and an ever popular Sunday Brunch, it might not be your usual post-lecture stop (you're more likely to see lecturers drinking in here) but it's worth a visit if you're treating yourself.

city life...

OFF-LICENCES

There are many situations that require a trip to an off-licence; pre-gaming a party, pre-gaming a club, pre-gaming a trip to the dentist... the list goes on. The best place to go depends heavily on what you're looking for - you'll be hard pushed to find something very exotic or interesting in your local newsagents with a booze counter, but similarly it's unlikely that fancy wine cellars offer special deals on a regular basis.

Licensing laws dictate that alcohol can only be bought from off-licences between the hours of 10am and 10pm. Almost all shops that sell alcohol will require proof of age in the form of a passport or driving license for anyone who looks under 25.

It is important to note that there's a by-law in Glasgow prohibiting drinking alcohol in public places, so no drinking on the walk to the next party, or in the park in the summer. If you are caught, the police will pour your drink out and depending on your luck you might get a £40 fine too.

► **Supermarkets**

Good for buying in bulk, most supermarkets usually have a variety of special offers on the go at any time. Iceland on Byres Road is particularly good for what seem like eternal deals on cans of lager, but you will find

something on offer in pretty much any establishment of the same calibre. Pick up a few share bags of Doritos while you're at it.

► **GG Brothers**

ARGYLE STREET

A trip to GG Brothers has the ability to be more interesting than the sum of the events during the entire evening after your visit. The innumerable collection of bottles and cans of all colours, shapes and sell-by dates is protected by a wire cage with a hole cut out for your order to be passed through if you ever manage to decide what you want. The shop is frequented by some of Glasgow's livelier souls, so there's a good chance you'll overhear (or be lucky enough to be invited into) some bizarre conversations between staff and customers.

► **The Cave**

GREAT WESTERN ROAD

If you're looking to try something new, or have a particular hard to find favourite, The Cave has an excellent selection of European and international imported beers as well as a wine selection far better than that found in the supermarket, but with many wines at supermarket prices. Stock changes frequently, so if they don't have what you're looking for, just ask, and the friendly staff will try their best to source it for you.



The curfew

If you miss the 10pm curfew for buying alcohol, it instantly becomes impossible to get a hold of within the law. There are a number of illegal alcohol delivery services operating in the city, and you'll probably be asked to chip in for a dial-a-booze at some point, normally at a party where the booze has run out. However, they are usually unreliable and very expensive for what you get, so it's best to avoid them.

The easiest thing to do is to always have an emergency bottle of something stashed in your flat that you can pick up on your way to a party, or, if you trust the hosts of the party, leave your alcohol with them earlier in the day. If you're lucky there might even be some fridge space.

(Pictured above: GG Brothers)

city life...

CLUBS



Like most cities, Glasgow has a huge selection of late night drinking & dancing options. The mainstream student choices are all pretty much in the same boat of cheap drinks, cheap entry, pop-music with a bit of nostalgic cheese thrown in or RnB. Favourites include the QMU and GUU on campus, Viper just round the corner and The Garage, Karbon, and ABC in town. These people will be all over you with free passes as soon as you arrive so you'll have ample opportunity to pick your favourite spots.

Where Glasgow shines though is in its music-orientated clubs. The city is currently at the vanguard of a revival in UK dance music: labels like Numbers and LuckyMe are the darlings of the London music media and the likes of Dixon Avenue Basement Jams and High Sheen are fast catching up. It's no surprise then that the city's best clubs seem to be two steps ahead of anywhere else.

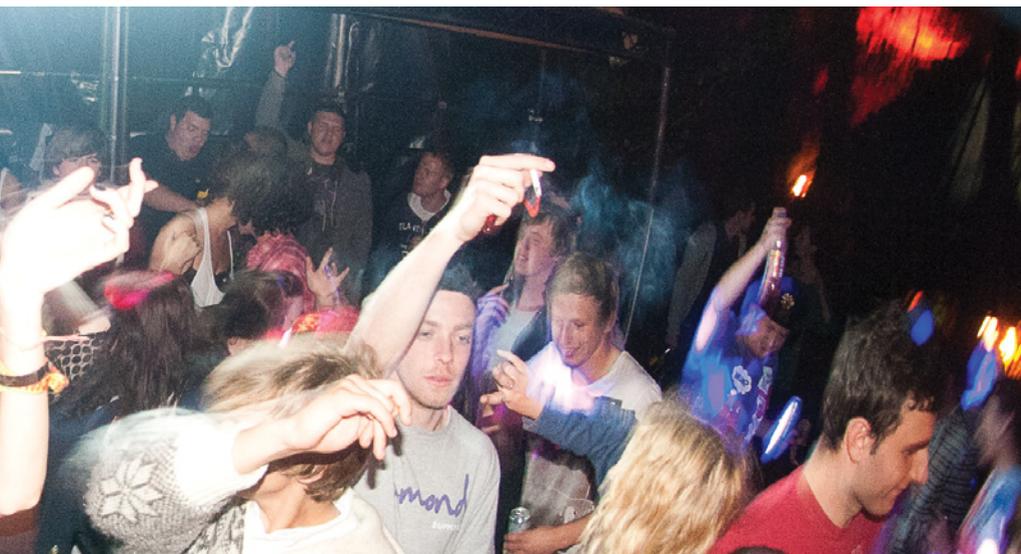
All clubs close at 3am (or 2am if they're out-with the city centre) and most open around 10 or 11pm. Most do a student discount and some will have reduced entry guestlists for facebook followers. There's no single comprehensive listings service but a visit to The Skinny, The List and Resident Advisor websites will sort you out until your Facebook feed catches up.

Electronic dance

Glasgow's dance music clubs stand in the shadows of two traditions: firstly, house and techno pioneers like Slam, Subculture and other, long forgotten names and secondly, Optimo, home of non genre-based, far-sighted subversion. This DNA runs through the whole city and even the most forward looking DJs will still throw in classics from Prince to Underground Resistance.

► *Numbers*

Numbers manage to somehow be at the cutting edge of the UK's music scene and still play the Pointer Sisters and Drexciya in the club on the regular. They brought names like Modeselektor and Flying Lotus over when they could only fill a basement sweat box and are still putting on people at the cutting edge of the scene. Residents Jackmaster and Spencer are fast becoming household names, holding down an extremely popular show on Rinse FM and touring the world extensively. Although they're putting on fewer parties in the city these days due to a hectic schedule abroad, you are guaranteed something special when they do.



► **Vitamins**

Now in their third year, Vitamins has carved a name for itself as one of the country's most creative nights. They're infamous for throwing parties in interesting spaces such as forests and warehouses as well as some of the cities best clubs. They put time and effort into production and creating innovative light shows as playing host to cutting edge guests like Lunice, DJ EZ, Kutmah & El-B. Collabs with Numbers, LuckyMe and Optimo aren't to be sniffed at either.

► **Optimo**

FIRST FRIDAYS, SUB CLUB

Their 13 years of weekly Sundays in the Sub Club will go down with The Hacienda and Paradise Garage in clubbing mythology. Following their decision to end the Sunday night slot at the beginning of 2011, they experienced a fairly restless and uncertain year but thankfully have now settled into a new Friday night slot. People will tell you it's not as good as it used to be, but the generation before them probably said that too. The 450 people that stay til 3.10am each month screaming for one more tune after one more tune are a better barometer anyway.

► **La Cheetah**

QUEEN STREET, WEEKENDS

A small sweaty basement space under a pub which holds about 200 people. Also hosts some of the world's best DJs and producers. They boasts an impressive roster of forward thinking residents such as Highlife (hosted by Auntie Flo & Esa), Nightrave (with Eclair Fifi & Nightwave) and in particular, Offbeat, a monthly night ran by extremely energetic, knowledgeable young residents who have carved out a name for themselves both for their skill as DJs and their on-point booking policy. Recent guests include DJ Funk, DJ Sotofett, Jared Wilson and Kowton. The entry fees vary but when they are high it is usually worth it as you'll no doubt be having the chance to see obscure and rare acts up-close and personal.

► **Pressure**

LAST FRIDAYS, THE ARCHES

The home of big room techno in Glasgow run by Slam and Soma Records sees some of the biggest names make an annual visit to fill The Arches. Regulars include Jeff Mills, Green Velvet, Richie Hawtin, Laurent Garnier... you get the idea. Big names, big venue, big sound, big money (£15-£25).

Indie & other

► **Nice & Sleazy's**

SAUCHIEHALL STREET, 7 DAYS-A-WEEK

An institution for late night drinking in Glasgow. Upstairs is one of the more diverse bars on Sauchiehall Street [see p74]. The space downstairs is most famous for playing host to intimate yet lively gigs [see p82], they've put a lot of work into establishing it as a club space too. Check out Shore on a Thursday night, with it's revolving roster of residents from some of Glasgow's best clubs and Wrong Island, one of the best music nights the city has to offer. The club space was recently refurbished and it has been kitted out with a top of the line PA system (although could still do with a lick of paint.)

► **Cry Parrot**

Eclectic is sometimes a dirty word round these parts, but if it ever has to be applied in a positive way to anyone then it's Cry Parrot. No promoter plays host to such an unbelievably diverse range of both international and local bands, electronic artists, performers and visual artists of varying popularity and accessibility. From label showcases for 100% Silk to bands with names like Asparagus Piss Raindrop, you are guaranteed that no two shows will be the same.

► **Southside Soul**

POLLOK EX-SERVICEMEN'S CLUB

Motown, soul, RnB and the like from local soul aficionados in one of the few remaining working men's social clubs in the city. Cheap drinks prices to match the 70s decor.

Midweek alternatives

The Unions and their commercial counterparts in town have got student midweek

clubbing covered, if you like pop music that is. There are a few alternatives available for those seeking something more musically orientated whilst still retaining the cheap drinks and entry.

► **Freaky Freaky**

What started life in the tiny basement of Sleazy's has quickly turned into one of Glasgow's most respected alternative student nights. With an emphasis on fun and not taking yourself too seriously, Freaky's policy is anything goes so long as it makes that booty shake. Golden Age & new hip hop, RnB, Boogie, Soul are all on offer. Previous guests include The Heatwave, Livin' Proof, Jackmaster, Eclair Fifi, The Blessings and S-Type. See you by the shimmer curtains.

► **iAM**

TUESDAYS, SUB CLUB

With one of the biggest followings in the city, iAM dominate the mid-week scene. Mixing the cream of Glasgow's young locals with international acts, they've quickly gained a loyal following. The music policy is 'forward thinking electronic music' but don't be surprised to hear the likes of DJ Jean - Get Ready for the Launch too. Sub Club is Glasgow's most respected club venue and normally commands a £10 door tax and £3 a drink. Tuesdays that drop to £1.60 a drink and free entry (if you email them).

► **Sub Rosa**

THURSDAYS, SUB CLUB

Based around a solid core of residents, Sub Rosa is predominantly a house night. The promoters have a lot more energy than the likes of Subculture though and regularly transform the venue for various themed nights. Definitely check out their Cirque de Freak party when it comes around again.

► **Wild Combination**

1ST SATURDAY, SLEAZIES

If you really want to expand your musical horizons then look no further than Wild



Sub Club is famed for its heavy duty soundsystem and low slung roof

Combination. Held in Sleazy's basement, it's hosted by David Barbarossa, a true stalwart of the Glasgow scene with one of the deepest and most diverse record collections out. Of a night you can expect to hear house, techno, disco, funk, soul, synth-pop, Nigerian highlife, reggae...the list goes on. Don't be surprised if you've never heard 90% of the records before. Just take a pen.

LGBT

Glasgow's gay scene is dominated by the G1 Group aka Social Animal. Their main venue the Polo Lounge, sister venue Delmonicas and near-by female only rival FHQ is the scene to some people.

Like the mainstream straight venues, the drinks are cheap, entry is cheap and the music is cheap. There are a handful of alternatives out there though, including:

► **Birdcage**

A new night launched by four girls fed-up of the lack of musically focused gay nights in Glasgow playing a range of house, garage and bass music. They don't have a regular slot anywhere so keep an eye on facebook.com/birdcageglasgow for info.

► **Menergy**

FIRST SATURDAY, FORBIDDEN

Run by a bunch of drag queens in a strip club, Menergy doesn't take itself that seriously; mixing cabaret-style performance and show girls with italo and hi-nrg disco. Normally reduced entry for those in drag.

city life...

LIVE MUSIC

You only need to look around at the walls of the city's pubs and cafes or its shop windows and doorways to realise that there's a lot of live music going on in Glasgow. Any city which has strict rules regarding poster etiquette and bars where you're not actually sure what colour the walls are underneath the impromptu wallpaper is clearly well served by a gaggle of promoters competing for your attention.

In order to accommodate all these gig promoters, Glasgow is equally well-served in terms of venues. Those same small bars who can barely control their ever-fluctuating paper and Blu-Tack based decor somehow manage to keep it together enough to operate a venue themselves (it's probably down some dingy stairwell that you've never noticed before). Then there's the usual large arena and concert spaces you'd find in most cities. Add to this all the gigs taking place in "unofficial" locations as varied as tenement flats, open-air spaces and derelict buildings, and you should be able to find some live music you're into.

Community-based projects like The Glad Cafe and the Kinning Park Complex are in on the act as well. Focusing on activities which prioritise community access such as workshops and exhibitions across all creative media, these organisations provide a flexible venue space which actively engages and reflects the interests of their patrons.

Big Venues

As one of Scotland's major cities, Glasgow will often be one of the few stops the world's biggest acts play whilst in the country. You can expect to see these gigs in the city's larger spaces (and to pay accordingly), these include: the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC), the Clyde Auditorium, Hampden Park and the nearly finished Hydro Arena. Venues like the Barrowlands Ballrooms, the O2 Academy and the O2 ABC will also play host to big acts and again, will provide the sort of fairly high-priced, big-stage experience you'd expect of such venues.

Curated venues

Many of Glasgow's smaller venues will have in-house bookers or will consistently work with similar external promoters, which means that they're able to offer a more curated programme of gigs (as opposed to the city's largest venues where popularity is the only consistent factor). This might mean that you'll find yourself in the same venues over and over again. Each venue will have its own idiosyncrasies - door price, bar price, capacity, number of health and safety violations, stage set-up, quality of PA, and so on - these tend to match the sort of gigs that



happen there. And, even if you take exception to a particular venue's choice of hand-soap, the vibrancy of Glasgow's live music scene means that there's probably somewhere else you'll be able to go.

Glasgow's independent promoters like using cost-effective and accommodating venues like The Art School, Nice n Sleazy and The 13th Note to host their niche ventures. The regular activity of promoters and gig-goers in amongst these venues forms an amorphously structured and excitingly energised community which has come to characterise much of Glasgow's status as a city fully engaged at the forefront of live music. Independent promoters' levels of activity and the venues they use rotate fairly

frequently, but with the ubiquity of posters, online coverage and post-gig flyering you should be able to consistently find what interests you.

Bigger booking companies like DF Concerts and PCL Presents account for a lot of the city's other lineups. Their booking policies can fluctuate between artists playing base-ments with independent credibility intact to the latest NME fodder playing bigger venues for the first time. Due to the sheer volume and variety of concerts these bookers offer, you're bound to find yourself at one of their gigs at some point. They could well end up forming the backbone of your music experience in Glasgow.

...live music



Open mic & bar music

Glasgow has a history of being the place where major acts are discovered and for serving as a launch-pad for the city's own considerable roster of home-grown talent. As such, open mic nights and bars

specialising in putting on unsigned acts have become as popular within the city as the superstars which initially inspired them. You'll be able to catch hordes of the city's most deluded wannabes alongside known faces on the Glasgow music scene for free at any number of bars. In Glasgow, open mic nights are like pub quizzes: a lot of places do them, they can be a bit hit-and-miss, people on their phones tend to get a frosty

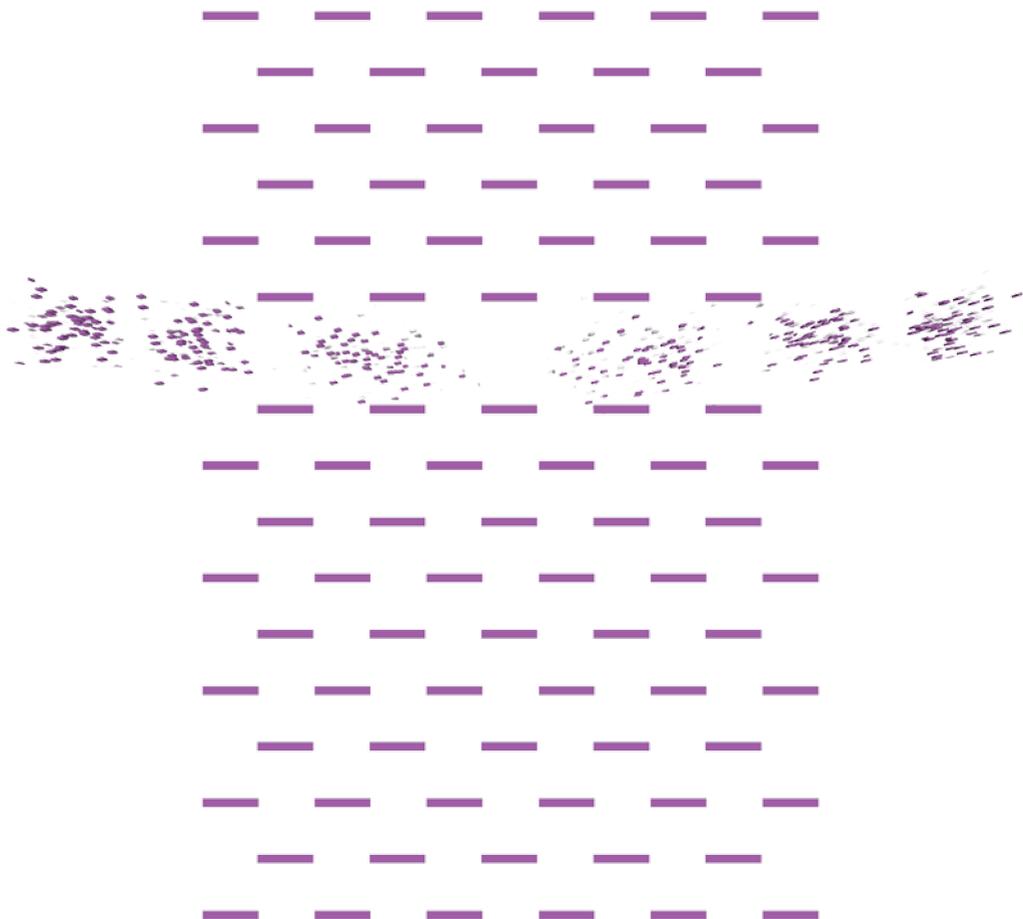


House shows are common-place and easy to find out about once you start following a few local acts on Facebook.

reception and drinking can sometimes make the whole ordeal easier.

Aside from open mic nights, a lot of the city's bars offer free (or very cheap) live music on selected nights throughout the week. Places like MacSorleys, Bloc and Box identify themselves as music bars and have earned as much of their reputation for regularly

providing live music as they have for providing their patrons with booze. Different bars tend to attract acts of different types (and quality - it is free after all): after ten minutes of tinny music you don't even like drowning out any hope of civilised conversation you might have been holding onto, you'll soon realise which ones are for you.



LIVING

Trying to balance your university work with the day to day essentials of living can be challenging at times.

Getting around 88

Food 92

Health 94

Sex 98

Drugs 100

Accommodation 102

Money 116

Jobs 120

living... **GETTING AROUND**

Glasgow is a small city. When planning how you're going to get around, this should tell you two important things: Glasgow is small, and Glasgow is a city.

Being small and being a city, Glasgow is well serviced by a variety of public transport networks comprising of buses, trains and the subway. Add to this the options afforded to you by travelling on foot, by bicycle or by taxi, and you have plenty of choices as to how you get about.

However, you should note that public transport won't always be available and that, as with life in any city, there might be some situations where there are better ways to get around Glasgow than others.

Walking

After a couple of weeks, the once daunting trek from Murano to your 9am lecture will become a commonplace and manageable occurrence and you'll start to realise that your humble old feet are a perfectly viable way of getting around Glasgow. Walking is a great way to get about and is a popular means of transport with the locals: it's free, it's good for you and it's one of the best ways to get to know your new home town.

When you're walking from the West End into the City Centre there's a few options of relatively similar length, but of varying levels of practicality or panorama. Depending on where you are, the main routes into town

from campus will be via Great Western Road, Woodlands Road, Kelvingrove Park or Sauchiehall Street. Once you're in the City Centre, the grid layout will make it relatively simple to navigate after a couple of visits.

Walking is a practical and enjoyable way of getting around Glasgow (so long as you're prepared for the weather) however, if it's late at night and you're by yourself then it may not always be the best option. The city centre is awash with many late-night bars and clubs of varying levels of salubrity, and it can become an assault course when the well-lubricated clientele descend after chucking-out time. Kelvingrove Park may look like an appealing and scenic shortcut for a pair of legs that have danced into the early hours, but it is a fairly notorious crime-spot and is one to be avoided when walking alone at night. The SRC Advice Centre provide free personal attack alarms to any student who wants one.

Cycling

A close second to walking on the practicality and cost stakes. Glasgow seems small on foot, but by bike almost everything is under ten minutes away. If you don't have a bike already and are on a budget then The Glasgow Bike Station and The Common Wheel are



two community second-hand bike projects worth visiting, whilst Gumtree is the best online option.

Bike crime is lower than in cities like London, where thieves will steal a nice pair of pedals if they're not glued in, but you'll need to spend at least £20-30 on a lock if you want to keep your new ride for long.

The only other downside other than hills (keep fit) and the weather (mudguards) is the lack of a proper cycle lane system across the city. If you're not used to road cycling, you should pick up a copy of *Cyclecraft* by John Franklin before you head out.

The University has a bicycle user group who run all sorts of projects from keeping a repair kit stocked at the main gate to running a bike lease scheme for students. The university's cycling FAQ has more information and is worth a read anyway – bit.ly/14wp9WE

Campus to halls minibus

The SRC run a free bus service between the main halls and campus weekdays during term time. The service runs between 7.30 and 10.30am and then from 5.30 to 11pm. Pocket-sized timetables are available from Halls and the SRC / University Welcome Point. The buses tend to fill up quickly and don't wait around once they are full, so it's best to arrive a bit earlier than the scheduled times. The campus stop is behind the John McIntyre Building.

A dial-a-bus service for disabled students is available during these times but must be booked 48 hours in advance either by calling 0141 330 5360, via the SRC website, or at the Welcome Point in the John McIntyre Building.

...getting around



Public transport

Subway

Forget sprawling maps, colour coding and contactless payment cards. Glasgow's Subway uses a ring as its only route, has a design scheme inspired by your Gran's old tea-cosy. A single is £1.40, returns are £2.60 and a seven-day ticket is £16.

The Subway is easy to use and impossible to get lost on, it does a good job of connecting the West End, the City Centre and some of the South Side (you'll probably find out about the latter round about your third year) and is an eccentric part of the city's identity that's worth travelling on outside the context of the blurry delirium of a Subcrawl. The only downside are the opening hours: it closes at 11pm Monday to Saturday, which sounds early until you find out that it's 6pm on a Sunday.

Although it might not be entirely necessary for you getting around the city, the Subway can be quick and convenient - just don't expect to be able to hold a conversation as you rattle beneath the city's streets. Oh, and before it comes up in a pub quiz/slow day in the kitchen at halls: Glasgow's Subway is the 3rd oldest in the world behind London and Budapest... 1896 for the pedants.

Buses

Most fourth year students have never used a bus in their time here, but if you're not near a Subway station and want to go into town or explore further afield then the bus is a good option. For Murano Street residents there are plenty of buses on Maryhill Road going to and from town and likewise for students in Maclay or Cairncross Halls where Argyle Street is the main bus route. Prices vary, but £1.85 is the standard single fare for more than 5 stops - exact change only.



Kelvinbridge and Hillhead subway stations are on either side of campus

Taxis

Black cabs

Black cabs are abundant at all hours of the day and take 5 or 6 passengers. They're not cheap though with a trip into town costing around £6-8 from the West End (more after midnight) and the Subway or cycling are normally quicker thanks to the traffic. You'll only really need one late at night when you don't fancy walking - Glasgow has no proper night bus and the Subway's closed - thankfully there are plenty of ranks, where the queues look long but go down quickly.

Private hire

Additionally, there is a host of private hire companies that cover the City Centre and West End areas of Glasgow. These tend to be about half the price of a black cab but you'll need to phone them up rather than being

able to hail them on the street and they can be busy at peak times. You'll probably end up disputing the finer points of who is the most reliable firm with your friends, each one of you having attached totemistic significance to a particular phone number for no real reason apart from one time when "it was really cheap and the driver was cool and he let you eat in the back of the car and everything", but most of the main firms (Network 0141 557 1110, West End 0141 954 7070, et al) tend to be quite similar.

Groups

Whether you use a private hire or a black cab, if there's a big enough group of you, then most journeys shouldn't end up costing more than a couple of quid each - travelling this way also offers the additional bonus of avoiding a potentially stilted conversation with the driver trying to justify why you've decided to spend 4 years reading books.

health...

FOOD

With access to the everything machine (aka, the internet) gone are the days of pleading vain ignorance on how to cook anything other but cereal.

It's important that you eat healthily, regularly and, for most of us, cheaply when catering for yourself, and also have the knowledge to whip up a meal fancy enough to impress when catering for someone (potentially) special. Online video clips can help with any cooking techniques you're unsure of, and banging all the ingredients you've got left sitting in the cupboard at the end of the semester into a recipe finder will usually come up with something tasty (unless it's just Marmite and stale cereal left).

Supermarkets

Like any other city, Glasgow is home to all your friendly neighbourhood, faceless, profit-driven supermarket mega-brands – with plenty of 'metro', 'extra' and other names recalling 1950s futurism available. With strip-lighting, sell-by dates and self-service checkouts supermarkets present a fairly utilitarian shopping experience poorly disguised as lifestyle choice.

Of course, supermarkets do serve a function. For all the essentials that you'll find yourself buying regularly, everything that you'll buy in bulk and the basic foundations of your kitchen supplies, supermarkets will be difficult to beat in terms of economy and convenience. The West End has the full spectrum of budgets covered: from Waitrose when your loan has come in to Iceland when you've spent it all.

Apart from this, supermarkets aren't necessarily the best or even cheapest places to

shop. You should probably become familiar with their reduced sections though, and get used to popping in to check them during the evenings and at off-peak times – nothing reaffirms your faith in the corporate man quite like managing to pick up a (slightly bashed) family-sized chocolate cake for 50p... even if it isn't anyone's birthday.

Greengrocers

If you're more used to fluorescent logos flanked by CCTV cameras and bored Loss Prevention Officers (aka security guards), then the hand-painted signs and unsettling faith in human decency (you'll find half their stock left in crates sitting on the pavement) demonstrated by Glasgow's independent greengrocers might initially seem unusual.

Not solely dedicated to catering for the city's bohemian elite, the variety of independent greengrocers dotted around the West End can offer a real alternative to doing all your shopping at the supermarket. These shops tend to offer a variety of fruit and vegetables at competitive prices (most of them operate a student discount policy, just ask), a pleasant shopping experience and friendly staff who'll tell you what's good and what's in season. Perennial student favourites include Anderson's (Byres Road / Queen Margaret Drive), Roots & Fruits (Great Western Road / Argyle Street) and the more exotic international grocers dotted around the Woodlands neighbourhood.



Delis

Just like all cities, Glasgow has some nice delis. And, just like all cities, you probably can't afford to shop there too often. For those times when taking high-tea in between jaunts to the nearby boutiques seems like a viable option, then the West End will be more than capable of facilitating the ever-so-delicious squandering of your student loan.

Local sandwich specialists like Il Cappuccino and Piece are definitely worth checking out when you're feeling flush enough to splash out on a sandwich which is so good it comes with its own name and backstory [see p68].

Shops like KRK Continental (Woodlands Road) are worth checking out: they cover all the bases; meeting your grocery, meat and even household shopping needs and they tend to operate a bit like a cash and carry so there can be potential savings when buying in bulk.

Cooking for a group often isn't much more expensive than cooking for one if you buy in bulk. Plus most guests will return the favour at some point.

health...

PHYSICAL HEALTH

Doctor

It's a good idea to register with a doctor in Glasgow when you arrive, and there are loads of options in the West End. On campus, the Barclay Medical Centre is available Monday-Friday 9am-5.30pm, and can be found on level one of the Fraser Building. You can make an appointment by phoning 0141 342 3600.

However, you may wish to choose a GP closer to where you live: all practitioners in the area surrounding the University are familiar with the particular medical needs of students. A full list and further info can be found on the Doctors' Surgeries page of the University website.

The start of the year tends to be when most people come down with some kind of illness, as students introduce new and exotic strains of illnesses from all over the country to people who haven't built up immunities yet. The so-called Freshers' flu is usually no more than a bad cold but there have been outbreaks of mumps and even meningitis in the past, so it's important to look out for the danger signs if you are ill. It's not likely that you're going to come down with meningitis in your first week at university, but many illnesses can be immunised against, so speak to your GP if you are particularly concerned.

Prescriptions

If you do end up unwell, the good news is that medical prescriptions are free for everyone in Scotland. The Barclay Medical Centre recently opened a pharmacy so you don't even need to leave campus to collect prescriptions.

Dentist

You'll need to register at a Dentist too. If you follow their advice about brushing and regular checkups, you will probably never have to have any major work done on your teeth. However, if you do need treatment you might find yourself on a waiting list so it's worth registering now. The good news is that as a student you can get treated for free or at a heavy discount. If you're under 19 it's automatically free with an NHS dentist. If you're over 19 you'll have to fill in an HC1 form (available from the SRC Advice Centre or from any Post Office). For a full list of NHS dentists in the area, check the Greater Glasgow NHS website.

For short-term help and emergencies, the Glasgow Dental Hospital & School on Sauchiehall Street runs a clinic on Monday afternoons especially for students at the University of Glasgow. It's free but you have to make an appointment before turning up.



Emergencies

The nearest Accident and Emergency is The Western Infirmary, it's actually partially on campus with entrances opposite the

Medical building on University Place and from Dumbarton Road. It's a good idea to carry an emergency contact card with details of who to contact if you are involved in a serious incident. You can pick one up from the SRC Advice Centre.

health...

MENTAL HEALTH



On top of pressure from your course, daily worries such as finance, employment, relationships and family can all weigh you down. The pressures of life may begin to impact more seriously on your mental wellbeing as well as affecting your academic progress. The first thing to remember though, is that you are not alone. In fact, the Royal College of Psychiatrists reckon that one in four students will experience a mental health problem during their studies. If you do find that you need to ask for help regarding your mental health during your degree, it is important to remember that there is no shame involved in doing so, in other words, you are not being an unnecessary burden by looking out for your mental health.

Some mental health issues are statistically more common amongst university students, namely: stress and anxiety issues, depression, and eating disorders. Often sufferers experience a crossover or mix of the symptoms from a variety of illnesses.

If you're worried about your mental health, there are a number of services available.

Help

▶ GP

Your GP doesn't just deal with physical health issues - all GPs are trained and



equipped to deal with mental health problems too. After diagnosis your GP might refer you for counselling or to a psychiatrist or some other form of support or they might prescribe medication.

► ***Student Counselling and Advisory Service***

This University run service offers a confidential environment for you to explore and reflect on any issues impacting on your university life, and should help you develop ways of overcoming your difficulties.

The service offers not only counselling, but Cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT), psychological services, self-help materials and assertiveness training courses.

► ***Samaritans***

Samaritans have been providing emotional support to anyone in distress or at risk of suicide since 1953 so they are pretty experienced listeners. Their 24 hour phone line is 0141 248 4488 and the West George Street branch is open for in-person callers 9am - 10pm. Their website contains a lot of information and an email helpline too.

► ***Breathing Space***

A professionally staffed service for people in Scotland experiencing low mood, depression or anxiety. They aim to provide a supportive space by listening, offering advice and information. The phone line is open 6pm-2am on weekdays and all day and night on weekends: 0800 83 85 87.

health...

SEX

If you're lucky enough to have sex while you're at uni, it's important to be responsible while you're having all the fun.

The Sandyford

The Sandyford initiative is Glasgow's NHS run service for sexual, reproductive and emotional health. The main centre is a five minute walk from University Avenue on Sauchiehall Street near Kelvingrove Park. Services available include: free condoms and other forms of contraception, testing and treatment for HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections, a sexual problems service including erectile dysfunction and gender identity clinic, termination of pregnancy assessment and referral, specialist services for men who have sex with men and women who have sex with other women... basically when it comes to sexual health they have it covered.

STIs

The age group most affected by STIs continues to be 16 to 24 year-olds, so students are particularly vulnerable. Even though this age group make up just 12% of the population, they account for more than half of all STIs diagnosed in the UK.

Some STIs, like chlamydia and genital warts, do not usually present any noticeable symptoms, so you might not know you've got them at all. So if you are having sex, you should be getting a sexual health check up every 6 months or more often if you have had unprotected sex to make sure.

If you do notice any symptoms such as soreness, unusual lumps, itching, pain when urinating, and/or an unusual discharge from your genitals, instead of freaking yourself out by looking at all the possible diagnoses on google – just go and get a check up either with your GP or at the Sandyford Initiative. For quick, reliable info online, NHS 24 is your best option.

Condoms

With the sharp rise in recent years in people being diagnosed with sexually transmitted infections (STIs), using a condom is not only one of the most effective methods of contraception, it is also essential to protect your sexual health and the health of others. Free condoms are available from the SRC Advice Centre and the QMU on campus as well as from the Sandyford Initiative.

Contraception

There are many alternatives to condoms for contraception these days, each with their own benefits and drawbacks. Make sure you are aware of any side effects for the kind you choose. The Sandyford Initiative offers free contraception services, including same-day Implanon, and copper and hormonal coil fitting, with a full consultation to make sure you choose the right kind for your needs.



Emergency contraception

If you haven't used contraception or you think the condom failed, the emergency contraceptive pill (aka Levonelle) can be taken up to 72 hours after sex. The sooner it is taken the more effective it is. This is available free from your GP and from the Sandyford Initiative. You can also get it over the counter in some pharmacies for around £20 to £25. An emergency IUD (coil) can also be fitted up to 5 days after unprotected sex. For information or further advice contact your GP or family planning clinic.

Pregnancy

The most obvious sign of pregnancy is a late period. But a late period doesn't always mean you're pregnant. Stress, illness and changes in diet can also upset your cycle.

If your period is late and you think you could be pregnant, it is important that you find out properly as soon as possible. Don't wait to see if you miss another period. If you are pregnant, you may need to make a big decision as to whether to go ahead with the pregnancy or not.

You can go to your GP or the Sandyford for a free pregnancy test. The reason for your visit will be kept confidential. The doctor will test your urine and give you a result within a few minutes. If you can't get to the doctor, home pregnancy tests from the chemist or supermarket are the same as your doctor would use – from £5 to £10 each.

Abortion

If you are considering ending a pregnancy the important thing is that you see a doctor as soon as possible. Having an abortion can be an emotional and difficult decision - so make sure you get as much information and support as possible. The NHS has lots of detailed information available via nhs24.com

health...

DRUGS



Alcohol

Alcohol is by far the most abused drug in the UK. Drinking, often too much, is a massive part of university life for a lot of students. But keeping an eye on how often and how much you drink will greatly increase your chances of having a good night out. If having a drink while you're out is your vibe, nobody's going to tell you to stop drinking altogether - in fact, in many venues or social circles it is very much encouraged, but it is important to be careful about how much and how often you drink.

Tips

Always eat something before you go out. Food slows the absorption of alcohol and gives you energy so you can handle the pace.

You can quickly go from being the life and soul of the party to an obnoxious and out of control embarrassment. Get to know your own tolerance level and you won't have to spend the following day untagging yourself from embarrassing photos on Facebook.

Stay hydrated. Even though that first sip of a pint will be ultra refreshing after a hard day of labs and lectures, 10 pints and 20 toilet trips later your body will undoubtedly need some nontoxic fluid. Some water in between rounds and some more before bed will ease the pain in the morning.

Alcohol is fun because it helps you lose your inhibitions when you're out. It is dangerous for the same reason. Plan for the voluntary vulnerability: know how you're getting home before you go out and stick to it, shortcuts down dark alleyways alone are a bad idea at the best of times, let alone when your judgement (and vision) is blurred already.

Don't spend all your money on booze. Even though some of the cheapest alcohol in the city can be found on campus, the cost quickly stacks up when you lose count of the rounds you're buying. Only take out how much you want to spend for the night then stay away from the cash machine. You'll thank yourself in the morning.



Illegal drugs

For many people, university will be the first time they come across illegal drugs. Although they're not found or accepted in every social circle, there are many groups for whom illegal drug use will be normal and even encouraged.

Illegal substances are not tolerated on campus, including both of the student unions, and if caught, you are likely to face disciplinary action or a ban of some kind along with the potential of police involvement. Off-campus at parties and in clubs focused on electronic music ^[see p78] is where you will be most likely to find strong drug cultures.

Cannabis

By far the most common drug in Glasgow student circles. This is not only because it is relatively cheap, but also along with smoking Cannabis comes a culture of sharing, so a joint being smoked at a party tends to end up being passed around the room, although there's no expectation for everyone to take part despite it being passed round.

Cannabis relaxes most people, some mildly hallucinate, whilst others feel sick,

paranoid or sleepy. Smoking weed and drinking heavily together makes most people vomit, referred to as 'hitting a whitey' by Glaswegians. With more frequent use downsides can include a lack of motivation and increased risk of developing illnesses like schizophrenia.

Ecstasy, Speed et al

Party drugs are usually associated with club culture as they provide super-human powers in dancing, staying awake and talking nonsense for hours on end, which are obviously only finitely useful in real-life terms. If you do start using amphetamines, beware that comedowns are no myth, and after an ever-so-brief honeymoon period, you are likely to find yourself feeling pretty delicate following a weekend session. Delicate, as in close to tears in a Tuesday afternoon tutorial because you don't have a pen: messing with your serotonin levels can do strange things to your mood.

There are more drugs, side-effects and associated cultures than could ever fit on this page. Thankfully you no longer need to go on the advice of your dodgy cousin who took acid once: websites Talk to Frank and Know the Score both have well written, accurate information on all aspects of illegal drugs.

accommodation...

HOME & HALLS

When deciding upon accommodation for your time throughout university there are two main options to consider: to live at home or to move out.

These options obviously aren't available to everyone and they come with varying levels of complexity - there's several factors to consider when picking out a flat for example, but chances are you're probably aware of how the rules regarding communal milk usage work at home by now.

The most common complaint from students living at home is their relative lack of freedom compared to their peers staying in halls and private flats, whereas those students living away from home can most often be found complaining about the pressures of living costs and missing home comforts.

Living at home

As a local, the primary advantage to living at home is obvious enough - money, broadband and other comforts. Even if you're contributing towards the cost of living at home, chances are you'll be spending a lot less than if you had to worry about keeping up with rent, bills and everything else that comes with moving out.

You probably won't be living as close to campus as those students who choose to live in halls or find their own private accommodation and as such won't enjoy the same sort of freedom or flexibility in terms of your

timetable and availability. However, as a Glasgow native, you'll probably be aware of the best ways to get around and how to make the most of your time. You can look forward to serving as an A-Z and translator for all your international and out-of-town friends for at least the first month or so.

During the first few weeks, especially in those cliché situations like walking around Freshers' Week and deciding where to sit in your first lecture or tutorial where contrived social interactions are de rigueur, it might seem like your peers living in halls have a massive social advantage. Equally, there might be a temptation to remain isolated or to stick with your established groups of friends from your hometown.

Don't worry though. Of course everyone living in halls seem like instant best friends, they've just entered a pretty weird situation and it's natural for those students living in halls to try and forge new friendships fast. The reality is that, no matter where you live, everyone is in pretty much the same boat at the start of their time in university. If you're wondering about how you'll meet new people whilst living at home then remember that you'll probably have a fair bit in common with other students on your course (who else is really going to want to talk to you about that essay you have due next week?). Clubs and societies are also the perfect way to meet like-minded individuals: most of them operate a walk-up policy where it's perfectly normal to just show up and get involved, and they are always keen to get new members. ^[see p26]



Washing your own clothes: one of the many new exciting freedoms of moving away from home

Halls

Most students, particularly those who are new to the city, choose to live in university accommodation during their first year. There's good reason for this: you won't have to deal with finding your own flat and you'll be in the perfect situation to meet lots of fellow students from the very start of uni.

Halls aren't for everyone though. Not having to worry about finding a flat has its benefits, but at the same time halls are a uniform and structured place where you're offered relatively few options over your environment. Equally, being surrounded by fellow students might offer great potential for socialising, but sometimes the feeling of taking university home with you can be unwanted.

Who's in charge?

Most of the University's accommodation is managed in partnership with a private firm called Sanctuary Housing Association. However, most aspects of the day-to-day running of the buildings, the processing of applications and allocations and things like student welfare and the collection of rent are down to the University's Accommodation Office and you will probably have very little contact with the private housing association. And if you have a problem during your stay, the first person you should contact is your senior resident or warden.

Wardens & Senior Residents

Wardens and Senior Residents are normally post-grad or latter year students who live in halls and are responsible for making sure everyone is safe and sound. They basically serve as an extension of the University's

pastoral support services but are available outside of office hours so they can give help and advice whenever it's needed.

Each hall will have a Chief Warden or a Head Senior Resident, there will also be several assistants with responsibility for a set number of rooms. It's worth while finding out who yours is and getting on their good books, they might turn a blind eye when you need it later down the line.

Life in halls

You'll be given the details of the facilities available, the rules about Blu-Tack and other mundane details including what to do in the event of some drunk frat-boy setting off the fire alarm at 3am... So we won't go into too much detail but there are a few things that might take a bit of getting used to.

Food

With the exception of Wolfson Hall, all University accommodation is self-catering. This means you'll be sharing a kitchen with several other people who live in nearby rooms.

There will be times during the year when you'll need to borrow food or cooking utensils. The key rule for happy living here is to ask first, and if it's a pot or a pan you're borrowing, to clean it straight away. If you just take stuff without asking, especially if you do it regularly, it will inevitably lead to conflict.

If you are in Wolfson, you will have already paid for your meals. They'll be served at set times of the day in a school dinners type fashion. The food is generally fine, if a bit bland, but you don't have to wash up or argue about whose turn it is to buy salt.



Halls is a lot of people's first taste of independence, excuse them if they take it too far at first

Parties

Halls rules say parties are banned. However, 'social gatherings' of a few people are permitted, the line between the two is where it gets interesting. Whether or not the 'gathering' you are having is allowed pretty much comes down to whether the warden or senior resident on duty is prepared to accept it, and that will usually depend on how much hassle you're causing those not at the 'gathering', ie it probably isn't a good idea to invite all of Facebook to a Murano Street Mega Rave but you'll probably get away with a small crew in a kitchen with some tunes on.

Cleaning up

The tidiness or otherwise of your room is more or less up to you. Cleaners will visit occasionally, but usually just to empty the bin, and won't do any serious tidying. However, if

your room is so dirty at the end of the year that they need to call out industrial cleaners, you will end up having to pay for it. The kitchen is another matter: everyone living with you will use it, and it tends to double up as a social space, so keeping it clean is important. If you regularly leave the kitchen in a state you'll fall out with everyone - your house mates and the halls management.

Security

Your property will be covered to some extent by the insurance policy of the halls as a whole. However, some high value items like bikes have to be added at an extra cost and you still need to take reasonable precautions to look after your things, otherwise the insurance company may not pay up. Make sure you lock your door and window behind you when you leave the room for any length of time, even if it's just to go to the kitchen.

accommodation...

FLAT HUNTING

If you've decided to find your own flat rather than stay at home or live in halls, then you're going to have to do a bit of work finding the right place and working through the accompanying administration and bureaucracy.

You should remember why you've decided to get your own place though: getting a flat of your own lets you look for what you want and you could find your home for the next four years or more, so it's worth taking the time to flat hunt properly and not settle for somewhere you can't see yourself eating most nights for at least the next year or so.

Flat hunting involves juggling a lot of considerations - from who to move in with, to where you'll get the best deal, and what all the paperwork actually means.

One thing that's simple about Glasgow is that most accommodation will take the form of a Tenement flat, however, they range from ones with eight foot tall windows with views of the park to damp basement dens with bars on the windows... Choose wisely.

Money

Renting your own place can be pricey, make sure you factor in all the expenses before deciding you can afford that extra £50 a month for that Hillhead Street address. Make sure you get receipts for any money you spend and keep them until the end of your tenancy.

Rent

As a rough guide, expect to pay at about £300-£400 per month for a flatshare in the West End. The best way to save money is to search for flats a little further away from the Uni and remember if a deal looks too good to be true, it probably is. [see p111]

Deposit

Most landlords will want the first month's rent up-front plus another month's rent as a deposit. The important thing is that you set yourself up to be in a good position to get the deposit back when you leave.

Your landlord is now legally obliged to pay your deposit into a licensed Tenancy Deposit Protection Scheme. This means that any disputes when you move out will be handled by an independent third party.

The three schemes approved by the Government are: SafeDeposits Scotland, My deposits Scotland and The Letting Protection Service Scotland. When you pay a deposit your landlord must give you details of the scheme your money has been paid into.

Unlawful fees

Many landlords and letting agencies charge fees to prospective tenants such as application fees, administration fees, credit checks and so on. These fees are illegal. Unfortunately however so many landlords and letting agencies charge them that it is difficult to secure a flat without paying a fee.



If you have recently paid a fee like this in the past five years, ask the Advice Centre how you can claim them back. Shelter Scotland also has a campaign – reclaimyourfees.com – to help tenants claim back unlawful fees.

Bills

Rent normally does not cover bills like fuel, electricity, internet, TV Licence and other utilities. Make sure you have an agreement with your flatmates as to how the bills will be split and paid (especially if they are in your name). Also take a note of the meter readings and date when you move in and out and inform the utility companies of this. If you are paying the landlord for the fuel, make sure they are with you when you take these readings to avoid any disagreements.

Council Tax

If all the people in your flat are on full-time courses the property will be exempt from council tax. You'll need to request a certificate from the University proving your student status to give to the Council Tax Office. If you're not in this situation the rules are a

bit more complicated but you can get advice from the SRC Advice Centre who are well versed in the ins and outs of it all.

Insurance

Your landlord is responsible for buildings insurance but this won't cover your possessions. Accidents and burglaries are more common than you might think and there's a big difference between coming home to no laptop and TV when you don't have insurance compared to when you do.

You might be covered by your home or parents' insurance policies for possessions away from home. If not, you'll have to sort out your own insurance. Shop around and get quotes that include personal liability cover for injury to others or damage of their property - this will protect you against claims arising from your negligence, eg damage from water leaks. Always ask to see a sample copy of the full policy before signing up, some things like laptops or bikes outside the home aren't covered by all basic plans.

...flat hunting



The views from the top floor might be stunning, but so is the climb up the stairs when you get home

Where to look

PAD (Private Accommodation Database)

PAD is a website listing private sector accommodation available for rent to students in Glasgow. It's partly run by the University's Accommodation Office and is updated every Tuesday. All properties listed should be licensed, although PAD do not inspect every property they list. The only downside is the huge amount of competition with other students so get in there early.

Other websites

The traditionalists out there still sometimes post posters with tear off phone numbers on noticeboards, but most of the action is online. Property websites: Flatshare.com, S1-Homes, Citylets, Gumtree and LettingWeb as well as the classified section of glasgowstudent.net, all lists rooms and flats to let.

Letting agents

Renting through a reputable letting agent can save a lot of headaches - everything should be licensed and they tend to be good about dealing with problems while you're living there. A list of agents is available from the SRC Advice Centre.

Letting Agents make their money by taking a commission or administration fee on the rent - so factor in any fees into your calculations. You do not have to pay anything until you have found somewhere you like and have signed the lease. If they try to get you to part with money before that, steer well clear.

Word of mouth

People are always looking for new flats and leaving old ones behind. If you hear someone talking about moving on, find out what's happening to their old flat. You may be able to get in early and also get some impartial background information on it before you view from the previous tenants.



Areas

You will soon realise that there is a shortage of decent accommodation close to campus - which is why landlords can charge a lot of money for pretty shabby flats and still have students competing for them. Think about how close to campus you really need to be. An extra 5 minute walk could land you a much wider choice, lower rent and less competition with other students. Remember that a lot of areas in the West End are only a few streets wide so don't set your heart on Hyndland when Dowanhill is just next door.

West End

During your search you'll see a lot of areas surrounding campus getting given various names. The West End isn't that big, and these areas are all similar in terms of price and reputation, the main differences being the surrounding shops, bars and amenities.

Micro-areas, some of which only exist on property listings, which you can expect to have pop up again and again include:

Botanics, Dowanhill, Finnieston, Glasgow Harbour, Hillhead, Hyndland, Kelvinbridge, Kelvinhall, Kelvinside, Kirklee, Partick, Woodlands, etc.

Further afield

To the north of the West End is Maryhill which is one of the poorer areas of Glasgow although residents of Murano Street will know that it's not as bad as some would make out. To the west, are areas like Partick, Anniesland, Scotstoun, Jordanhill which get increasingly more suburban as you go west but are also an increasing trek from town at night. To the east is the city centre where you'll be competing with Strathclyde Uni and Art School students for that perfect flat next to the dancing ^[see p78]. Finally, south of the river lie Govan, Ibrox, Cessnock and Kinning Park which all could easily be confused with Partick. The other thing these Southside spots have in common are that they are also the names of Subway stops, which means they are £1.40 and 10 minutes from campus. The downside is an extra 20 minutes on the walk home from town.

...flat hunting

Viewing

Never accept a flat without seeing it in the flesh. When you do go always take someone with you (preferably someone who has rented before). Ultimately, you will be the one paying the rent so you should make sure the place has what you need, is in good condition and, above all, is safe.

What to look for

Try to walk to the viewing and arrive early, this will give you a chance to see if the location and area are right for you but also means you can check the condition of the windows and look for any signs of poor maintenance. Also try and get an idea of the neighbourhood, for example look for signs of elderly people or young families living nearby, they might have a problem with noise and late-night coming and going.

Once you're inside looking round the flat, take your time and be thorough - often a place will look good on the surface but opening a few drawers or turning on the taps reveals otherwise. Don't feel pressured into moving on and feel free to ask questions. Take a checklist with you, we've included one opposite to get you started, and don't sign up for anything without having time to check the details over.

HMO

A House in Multiple Occupancy is a property where three or more unrelated people live, using shared facilities. Landlords must be licensed by the local council to operate such a property.

The licence is there to make sure the flat is safe. It includes checks on fire exits, gas and electrical appliances, the size of rooms etc.

If you suspect a property is not registered (which is a criminal offence on the part of the landlord) or a landlord has breached the terms of the licence, you can get help from the SRC Advice Centre or directly from the Council's HMO unit.

Landlord registration

All landlords letting properties must be registered with the local council. The scheme was set up to try and remove disreputable landlords from the market and to protect tenants and neighbours from the consequences of mismanaged properties. You can check if your landlord is registered online via the Landlord Registration Scotland site.

Safety

All flats which are HMO licensed should have smoke alarms and fire escape routes, if the property does not need an HMO licence you should still ask for smoke alarms to be fitted or for permission to fit your own.

All gas appliances should have a certificate of inspection renewed each year, you should ask to see where this is displayed in the flat. It is also a good idea to have carbon-monoxide detectors as a back-up precaution. Signs such as yellow or brown stains near appliances can indicate hazards like carbon-monoxide, visit hse.gov.uk/gas for a full gas safety checklist.

Repairs

If anything is in need of repair don't take the landlord's word that they will fix it, if they are genuine about carrying out the work they will be happy to put it in writing for you. If they refuse, don't take the flat .



Viewing checklist

- » If the flat is for three or more people, does it have an HMO licence?
- » Are the locks on the windows and doors strong and secure?
- » Do the windows open and close?
- » Is there a fire escape?
- » Are smoke alarms fitted, do they work?
- » Do all gas appliances have an inspection certificate?
- » Do any appliances look unsafe?
- » Do the cooker, fridge, shower, toilet and taps work?
- » Is there enough space for storage, study and relaxing?
- » Are the carpets, furniture and fittings in good condition?
- » Are there radiators in all the rooms?
- » Who pays the bills?
- » Is there a landline?
- » Who is responsible for the common lighting and cleaning?
- » Who is responsible for the garden?
- » What are the rubbish disposal arrangements?
- » Is the area looked after or rundown?
- » Is the building well maintained?
- » Are there any signs of damp or structural problems?
- » How long a walk is it to uni?
- » Where are the nearest shops?

accommodation...

SIGNING THE LEASE

Your lease

A lease or tenancy agreement is the legally binding contract between you and the landlord, they are not allowed to charge you for drawing up this document. Tenancy agreements cannot overrule your basic tenancy rights stated in law, but can add to them. It is important that you take any lease away and study it before signing, this is a legal contract and you should be totally happy with what you are agreeing to.

Repairs

A common part of a lease is the details of who is responsible for minor repairs. The landlord is obliged to keep the property wind and watertight and to keep the heating, water, gas and electricity in good working order. The lease will detail who has responsibility for any other types of repairs.

Joint tenancies

The most common form of tenancy is a joint one where all the tenants' names are listed in the lease. Everyone has to sign it and there is a collective responsibility for the rent. This means if someone fails to pay their share the other tenants are responsible for the full amount between them. You need to be sure you can trust your flatmates.

If a landlord doesn't want everyone's name on the lease, they might be avoiding having to get an HMO licence. This type of ploy is an offence and you should not take the flat.

Assured tenancies

Tenancies are normally assured or short assured. Assured tenancy means that when your lease comes to an end you don't have to move out. The landlord would have to go to court if he wanted to repossess the property.

Short Assured tenancies are different. They allow a landlord to repossess the property at the end of a fixed term. The tenancy must be at least 6 months and before you sign any agreement you must be given a special notice (an AT5) that makes it clear what the deal is. If your landlord stays in the flat with you, seek advice about your rights as it can be more complicated.

Signing

Finally make sure there are no terms that you are not happy with or are unclear about. Sometimes a landlord will agree to change a lease so it's best to ask if there is something you don't like. Don't agree or sign (an oral agreement is still binding) if you are unsure about a lease. Remember you can take it away and have it checked or explained to you by the SRC Advice Centre. Make sure you are given a signed copy of the lease once you do settle on it and make sure you get a rent book or other form of rent receipt, and ensure that the previous tenants have returned all the keys.



Inventories

If you want to get your deposit back, having an accurate and detailed inventory when you move in is essential. You can expect to have every stain on the carpet, broken plate and mark on the wall deducted from your cash if it wasn't on the inventory you signed.

You should get the inventory with the lease. If you don't, then make your own. Check all items are listed, from beds and doors down to plates and forks. Note the condition of all items and the condition of each room's decor. You should then ask the landlord to check, sign and date the inventory.

Don't sign an inventory which contains things that have been promised, like repairs or a new fridge. It's a good idea to take 360° photos of each room when you move in as evidence of the conditions you inherited.

Signing up checklist

- » Are the facilities, location, size ok?
- » Am I happy with the rent, deposit, bills...?
- » Am I happy with the details of the lease, has it been checked?
- » What is the landlord's name, address and phone number?
- » Are any repairs needed?
- » Is there an inventory, is it correct?
- » Take a note of the meter readings
- » What does the landlord's insurance cover?
- » A receipt for all payments made.
- » Signed copies of all contracts & papers.
- » Don't pay an administration fee for the preparation of a lease or inventory.

accommodation...

MOVING OUT

Once the business of leases, inventories and lifting all your stuff up endless flights of stairs is out of the way, you should be able to get on with actually enjoying it all, even if moving is a bit tighter.

The contract you have with your landlord obviously places some responsibilities on you like looking after the place, reporting faults and being a responsible neighbour but you are also protected by specific laws and statutes. Landlords cannot just decide to make your life difficult - and if they do, there are legal remedies available.

One area that can be tricky is when it comes to ending your tenancy and moving out.

Eviction

Generally, landlords cannot evict tenants without going to court and getting an order for repossession (it can be different if you have a resident landlord). It's usually a criminal offence for a landlord to try and remove their tenants by changing locks, cutting off fuel supplies or using threatening behaviour - even if you are in a dispute or owe rent. If you think you are about to be evicted seek advice or in an emergency call the police.

Ending a lease early

Just as the landlord can't chuck you out on a whim, you can't walk out on them without notice. Most leases are for a fixed period of a year. 40 days written notice must be given to end the tenancy at the end of this period. If you want to leave before the end of the period you should approach your landlord and try to negotiate an early release. It might help if you could find a replacement tenant but you should never do this without the landlord's permission. If you cannot agree an early release and you decide to go anyway, you will probably lose your deposit and the landlord could claim rent from you for the time between you leaving and another tenant being found.

Leaving

When the time comes to move out, dig out the inventory and photos and try and get the place back to the way you found it. A couple of days scrubbing the place up can be the difference between a full deposit returned or a professional cleaning bill being deducted. Check through the inventory, preferably with the landlord, and take photos again in case there are any disputes later.



Further advice and information

▶ ***SRC Advice Centre***

glasgowstudent.net/advice

▶ ***City Council HMO Unit***

glasgow.gov.uk/eng/Residents

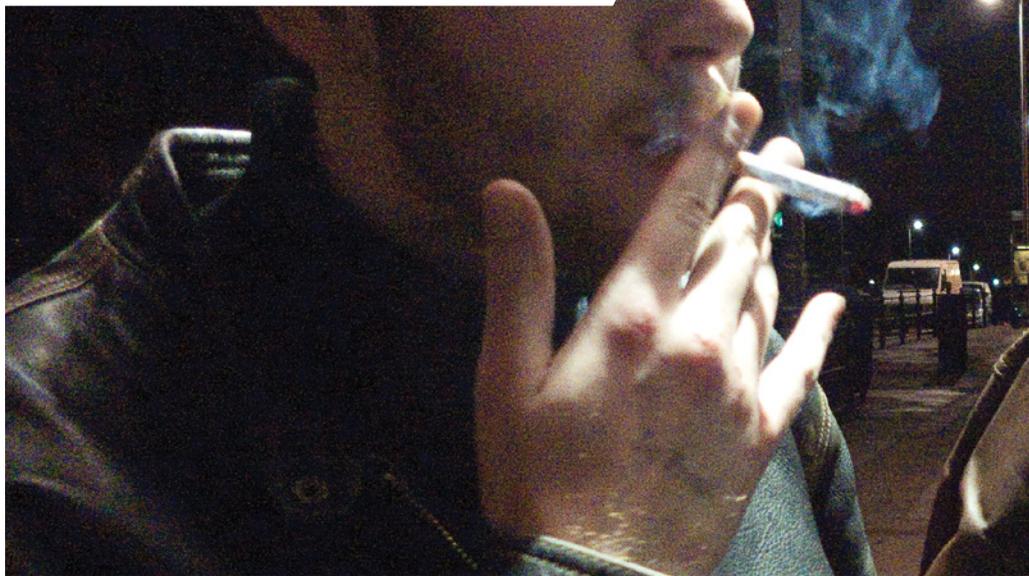
▶ ***Glasgow University Accommodation Office***

glasgow.ac.uk/undergraduate/accommodation

▶ ***Shelter***

scotland.shelter.org.uk

living... **MONEY**



Going to university affords you the opportunity to make the most of a new-found sense of freedom and independence. Unfortunately, along with the dizzying highs of buying your own bleach comes a host of other, more sobering responsibilities – most pressingly, financial independence.

Freedom isn't free, your disposable income is no longer disposable and, generally speaking, the money you have has to buy you what you're planning to eat, the roof over your head, the clothes on your back and everything else that used to be free of charge.

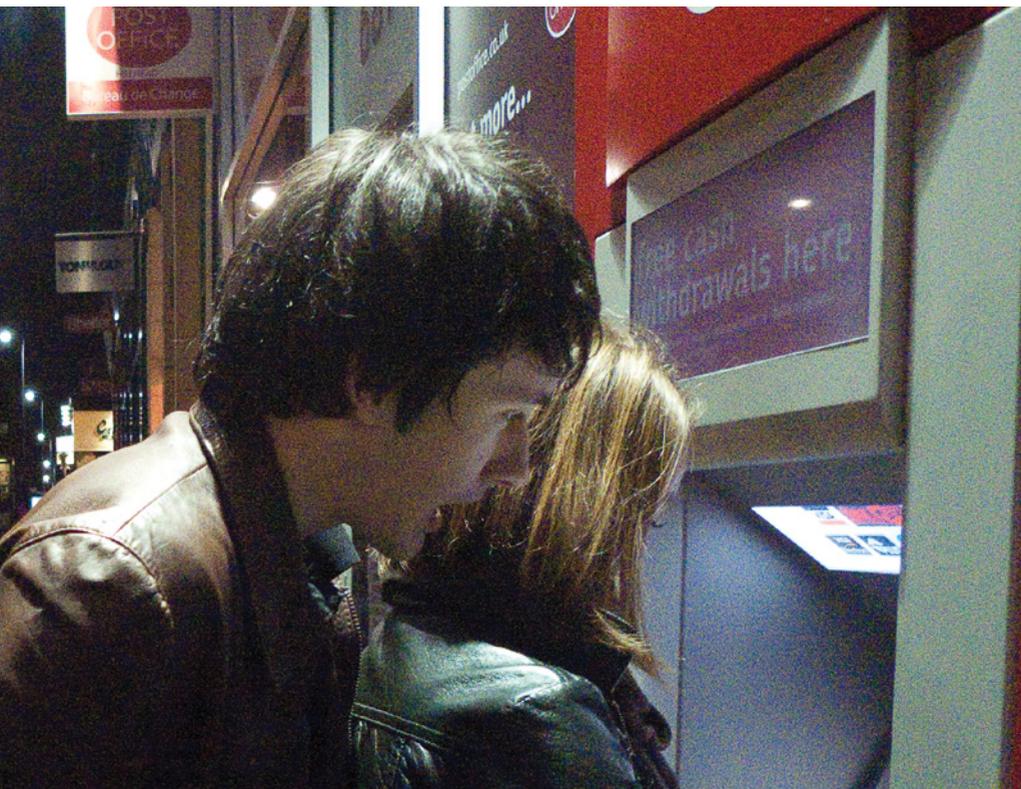
Whether your student loan has just come in and you've taken to using legal tender as toilet paper, or if it's the end of the month and you've had to go into the bank to withdraw what's left of your "savings" because for some reason cash machines don't give out £3.24 notes, budgeting your way through university will be essential.

Budgeting

Your budget will tend to be made up of a tug-of-war between a range of expenses and (hopefully) some sources of income. Don't worry if, even after careful budgeting, you're still in the red: going to university is an expensive business and student debt, although definitely not desirable, has become a ubiquitous part of the university experience.

You're inevitably going to make some imprudent decisions (legal tender ≠ toilet paper) and hear a couple of "I told you so's from the budgeters par excellence (thanks a lot, mum), the trick is to not make the same budgeting mistake more than once.

Some expenses are going to be inevitable and dauntingly large – most obviously fees, rent, bills and living costs – but even in these instances money can be saved.



Student discount

With a bit of planning, saving money day-to-day isn't difficult. Taking into account student discounts and special offers geared towards Glasgow's student population, you'll rarely have to pay full price for anything without sacrificing on quality. Always ask about a student discount in shops, a lot of them do one and you don't really need to worry about paying for a Snapfax or similar promotions which don't really get you much more off than your student ID card.

Financial faux pas

There are several common phantom costs of living which can add up over time and wreak havoc with an otherwise carefully planned budget if you don't keep track of them. These could involve not shopping around enough and paying more than you should do for

essential regular expenses like your phone bill or your internet provider, or splashing out on small luxuries like eating out or getting taxi more often than you should.

Help

You might be eligible for financial assistance to help with things like tuition fees, travel expenses or emergency loans. Financial aid may be provided by the University, by various government-affiliated organisations or by any number of charitable organisations.

The variety of assistance available is pretty huge and, even once you've identified whether or not you're eligible, convincing the organisation in question may involve negotiating a lot of paperwork: the SRC Advice Centre can advise you on sources of financial help available.

Loans

A student loan is a cheap way for students to borrow money. It's just like a bank loan in one way, in that you get money now and repay it in bits in several years' time. But it's better than a bank loan in that you won't have to repay any money until your income reaches a certain level, and you won't be charged a commercial interest rate.

Most UK students are eligible for a student loan, but must apply first: it won't be sent out automatically. Although the money will be borrowed from the Student Loans Company (SLC), and it's to them that the loan is paid back, to claim one you have to go through your local student funding body.

Applications are completed online through the relevant funding body for your country. You will be assessed to see how much you are entitled to. This varies depending on: your parents' income, whether or not you live with your parents, your partner's income (if you're living with them), your course and any other income you receive.

Depending on the result of this assessment, you could receive up to £6,380 a year. Which sounds great, until you remember that you need to pay it all back. The loan's rate is linked to inflation which means the amount you owe goes up but not in real terms. Thankfully, you don't start paying it back until you are earning over £15,795 a year (£21,000 for non-Scottish UK students) when the repayments will be taken automatically from your salary like tax is.

Banks

The banking market has changed dramatically recently. High-interest savings accounts with relatively few restrictions are essentially a thing of the past, especially given the financial situation of a typical student

today. Equally, gone are the days of the once automatic strings-free, interest-free student account complete with irresponsibly unscrupulous overdraft conditions.

It is still worthwhile opening up a student account: having an account based at a nearby branch can save a lot of hassle, it's probably the only opportunity you'll get to have an interest-free overdraft and you'll probably want somewhere to deposit your student loan. However, the much-celebrated, seemingly bottomless student overdraft isn't as easy to come by as it used to be: you should be prepared to answer more questions than you might have expected during an account consultation and it isn't uncommon now for some banks to reject applications for student accounts.

Of course, you'll be eager to get a student account, but during your consultation be careful that you know what you're signing up for – given the current financial climate (expect to continue to hear that phrase repeated over and over), some banks might be keen to offer ostensibly attractive accounts which, in reality, aren't viable options for you as a student.

Bank charges

Most banks will charge you when a direct debit, standing order or cheque payment is requested from your account and there's not enough money in the account to cover it. They will likely now tell you, that because they won a test case in 2009, they will not be refunding any bank charges, and that this issue is now closed. However, the SRC and their friends at the Govan Law Centre believe that it is incorrect to suggest that bank charges are 'fair' or cannot be challenged. This is because the banks won the case on a technicality and a consensus remains that the charges are legally unfair and excessive.

The Advice Centre have template letters available online and if these fail they can help you in taking your claim further to try and get your money back.



living... **JOBS**



Where to look

► **SRC Jobshop**

GLASGOWSTUDENT.NET/SERVICES/JOBSHOP

The SRC Jobshop lists vacancies from companies looking for student employees. It doesn't have as many posts as the commercial websites but often you'll see something here that isn't widely advertised elsewhere (especially jobs within the University, SRC and Unions) and there's less repetitive agency fodder so it is worth checking.

► **Jobcentre**

JOBSEEKERS.DIRECT.GOV.UK

The government run Jobcentres are unsurprisingly well equipped for job hunting as is

their website. The service is mainly designed with the long term unemployed and those seeking permanent employment in mind. However, the one near the corner of Byres Road and Dumbarton Road sometimes runs special student nights.

► **The direct approach**

Most casual positions going in shops, bars and restaurants advertise for staff with signs in their windows or just by word of mouth. Often simply making it known on Facebook that you're looking for a job can prove fruitful. Otherwise touring the city with a pile of CVs and joining recruitment agencies (particularly for part-time work) is the way to go.



Employment rights

Once you find a job and get a few shifts under your belt, you might find your conditions aren't what they should be or you might be wondering what you are actually entitled to. Even though a job is part-time or casual, you still have rights as a worker. The basics are outlined in this guide though, employment law can be a complicated area so if what you are looking for isn't covered visit the SRC Advice Centre for some expert help.

Contracts

Your employer must give you a written statement of your terms and conditions within eight weeks of you starting work. Even without a written contract you still have certain legal rights. A contract can add to these rights but never take them away. Getting a contract in writing is a key way of protecting your rights in the workplace.

Wages

Almost everyone who works in the UK must be paid at least the minimum wage per hour, as of October 2013 for 16-17 year olds it's £3.72, for 18-20 year olds it's £5.03 and for those who are 21 and over it's £6.31. Check your pay slip to make sure you are being paid a legal amount.



Tax

As a student you are normally exempt from council tax, but you are still liable to pay income tax and national insurance if you earn enough. For 2012-13, you if you earn less than £8,105 in the year then you do not have to pay income tax.

There are various forms you can fill in to either tell the government you won't be earning this much or to claim back tax you were charged in error. HM Revenue & Customs has a handy student section on their website with them all available.

Trade unions

Many of the rights you have as an employee have been fought for over the years by Trade Unions; you are legally entitled to join a union and employers are not allowed to discriminate against you for being a member of one. Union membership can bring useful benefits and experienced help particularly if you end up in a disagreement or disciplinary situation with your employer. Most unions offer a discounted fee for student members.

Breaks and working hours

If your shift is 6 hours or longer then you're entitled to a break of at least 20 minutes at some point during your shift. You are probably also guaranteed at least 11 hours rest every working day although some jobs and workers are excluded from this rule.

Holidays

You are entitled to paid annual leave (holidays) based upon how many hours you have worked each year. Employers can turn down requests for particular dates but must give you your annual leave at some point. Normally if you get your request in for time off far enough in advance they will accommodate you, asking the week before an exam for time off obviously isn't a good plan.

Leaving a job

If you want to leave a job on good terms and with a reference you should give your employer adequate notice, if you don't have anything in writing, a week or a month may be appropriate depending on how long you've worked there.



Dismissal and redundancy

Lord Sugar makes it look easy to fire people on TV, but in the real world he'd have to give anyone who had worked for him for longer than a month at least a week's notice if dismissing them for anything other than gross misconduct (eg theft or violence).

If you think you've been unfairly dismissed, you should firstly put in an appeal with your employer. If you have worked there for longer than a year, you have the right to go to an Employment Tribunal to seek compensation or your job back. Tribunals are complicated so seek advice before pursuing this route. Sometimes you have these rights even if you haven't yet worked for a year, so it's worth getting advice.

Redundancy is the legal term used when an employer no longer needs someone to do a job. This normally happens when a business is closing or reorganising. If you have worked there for two years or more then you should be entitled to some redundancy pay as compensation.

Resources

► *workSMART*

workSMART is a website run by the UK Trade Union Council with lots of simple to follow explanations of employment rights and advice for workers.

► *SRC Advice Centre*

The Advice Centre can help with employment issues, drop into the John McIntyre Building for a chat or have a look at glasgowstudent.net/advice/employment

Careers Service

The University's Careers Service is there to help students "enhance their employability". They run events and one to ones to help improve your chances of getting a job you actually want once you leave uni. They also help students find work placements and relevant part time or seasonal work whilst they are still at university.

appendix...

GLOSSARY

This book and Glasgow University in general has a lot of strange terms, abbreviations and acronyms in constant use.

Bedellus

The office of Bedellus or Beadle dates from the foundation of the University in 1451. Historically this job has varied greatly, including the organising of bonfires on campus, but the work of the modern Bedellus includes the planning of day-to-day janitorial duties and the administration of examination venues, as well as leading the academic procession on ceremonial occasions.

Chancellor

The Chancellor is the titular head of the University and is elected to the post for life by the General Council. He confers degrees upon those who are presented to him by the Senate. At the moment this post is held by Professor Sir Kenneth Calman.

Cloisters

The large pillared area between the quadrangles underneath the Bute Hall in the main building. Very photogenic.

CSCE

The Common Student Computing Environment is the standard computer setup on all campus computers. So files made on one computer are usable on any of them. The current CSCE includes Windows, Microsoft Office, and Internet Explorer.

College

The University is made up of four colleges which all cover different areas of academic study and research. These are Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences, Science and Engineering, Arts and Social Sciences. You

will be registered in one of these colleges.

The Crypt

A cafe under the big church on University Avenue. Does cheap soup and coffee.

First

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

Fraser Building

The recently refurbished building at the centre of campus, providing a one-stop shop for student support services, including the Registry, a doctor's surgery, catering facilities, a book shop, and more.

Fresher

A student in their first year of university.

Freshers' Week

The first week at university, intended to ease you into campus life with a host of events and parties. Representatives from all the student bodies are out in force, trying to get your attention.

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.

Gilmorehill

Gilmorehill is the hill on which the University stands. Also the Theatre and Film Studies building, located across the road from Glasgow University Union.

...glossary

Gilbert Scott Building

The building that most people refer to as the Main Building, which is also named after its architect.

glasgowstudent.net

The SRC's official website.

gla or glasgow .ac.uk

Addresses for the University of Glasgow's website, the first point of call when it comes to your studies, providing links to a wealth of information.

GPA

Because courses at university all account for different amounts of work, your Grade Point Average provide a formula to see what your marks actually mean.

Granite Vagina

The common name for the blocks of xenolithic Ballachulish granite at the opening of the Gregory Building in April, 1977. You'll probably see drunken students getting their photo taken getting birthed through it about twenty times before you leave.

Guardian

Student run newspaper [see p22].

GUM

Glasgow University Magazine [see p24].

GUSA

Sports Association [see p18].

GUST

Glasgow Uni Student TV [see p24].

GUU

Glasgow University Union - one of two student unions on campus [see p14].

The Hub

What the Fraser Building was called before 2007. Some people still call it this.

Hunterian

The Hunterian Art Gallery and museum are both situated on campus [see p61].

John McIntyre Building

The building by the main gate in front of the Main Building is the home of the SRC. Facilities at the SRC include a second hand book shop, the Advice Centre, Student Volunteer Support Service, cheap printing and round the back is the minibus stop.

Rector

Elected once every three years by students to represent them on the University Court. It is usually held by a high profile public figure, and is currently held by the MP Charles Kennedy who was elected in 2008 and again for a second term in 2011.

Registry

This is the service responsible for registering students, examinations, distribution of grant and loan cheques, financial aid, tuition fees and graduations. The Registry is based in the Fraser Building at the centre of campus although most stuff is accessed via the Student Enquiries desk.

School

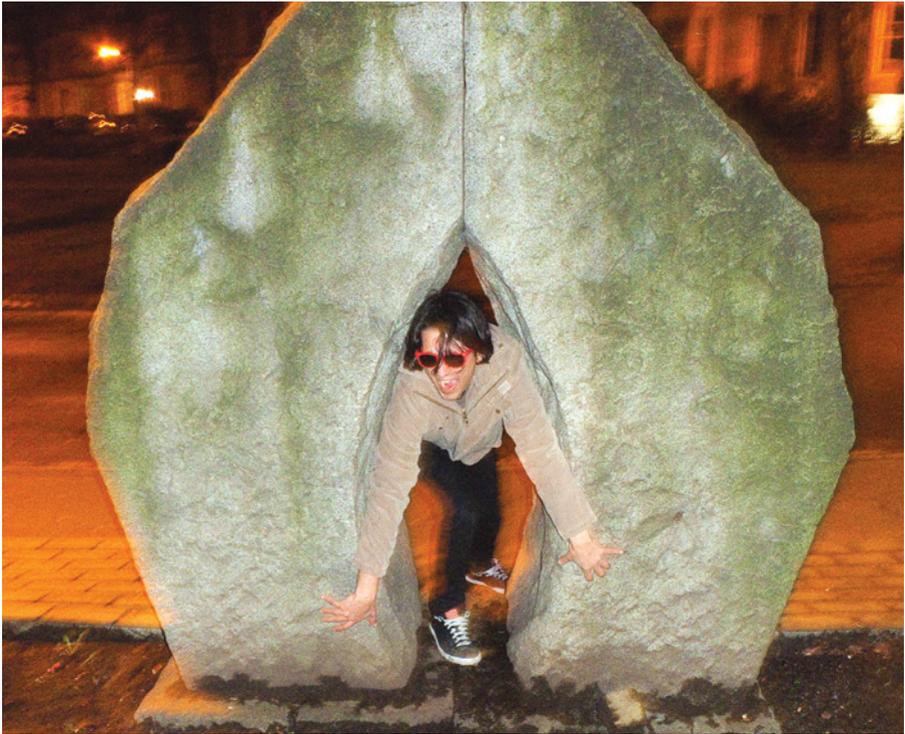
The University is made up of 25 schools and research institutes, which are home to academic disciplines that are closely related. Each school sits within the college with which its area of academic study and research most strongly identifies with.

Semester

The University's teaching year is split into two semesters, running from September to January and January to June.

Mackintosh House

An exact recreation of Glasgow Architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh's house following its demolition in 1963. It's the one built onto the side of the Hunterian Art Gallery with the front door halfway up the wall.



G is for Granite Vagina

Main Gate

The Main Gate is the arched stone gateway opposite the road to The Library.

Memorial Gate

The black and gold gate with the historic names on it opposite the Reading Room.

QMU

The Queen Margaret Union - one of two student unions on campus [see p14].

Quadrangles

The main building is built around two squares of grass known as The Quads.

The Square

Just to the west of the Main building, a square of buildings which includes, the University chapel and other services.

SRC

The Students' Representative Council - your voice to the University and provider of many services [see p12].

Subcity

Radio station based at the Uni [see p23].

Sub Crawl

A pub-crawl via the Subway requiring a s drink from a pub near each of the 15 stations on the circular route .

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.

appendix...

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

On page 26, three of the many Clubs and Socs enthusiasts out there talk about what it's all about and why it's their favourite aspect of campus life.

There are hundreds of societies to choose from at Glasgow Uni however, this selection should give a good idea of what's on offer.

Freshers' Fair is a great opportunity to meet the societies in the flesh if you can make it; otherwise for a full up-to-date list with contact info and meeting times visit glasgowstudent.net/clubs.

▶ ***Glasgow Student Dance Company (GSDC)***

gsdc.org.uk

Dance company which welcomes and caters for all those of all dance abilities in a range of styles including ballet, jazz, tap, modern, Bollywood, hip hop, contemporary and even Highland. They'll be hosting taster sessions in September showcasing the performances they'll be working towards for their annual show in February. Aside from rehearsals for this main show, the company take part in dance events for GUST, flash mobs and competition. There's even an opportunity to dance at the cabaret tent at T in the Park.

▶ ***Glasgow University Comedy Society***

A brand new society aimed at you funny people out there. They'll be putting on comedy workshop where you can work on your punch lines and delivery and there will even be stand up performances for you to

try out your jokes on a real audience that aren't your flatmates or partner. Lots of social activities planned too including pub crawls and nights out at the local comedy club where you can see how its done by the professionals.

▶ ***The Nameless Theatre Society (TNTS)***

Although a new society their board have had experience with working and performing in some of the best venues in Scotland. They are looking for creative people to come together to produce interesting pieces of theatre and express themselves whilst doing some great work for charities. They'll be having a launch show in Qudos on the 2nd December, followed up by small scale projects throughout the year.

▶ ***The Cecilian Society; The University of Glasgow's Musical Theatre Society***

ceciliansociety.co.uk

The Cecilian Society performs twice a year. One show takes place in September and is cast, rehearsed, and performed in the space of a weekend. The society's main show is performed in February and this year will be *The Witches of Eastwick*. The Cecilian Society operates an open cast policy which makes the society wholly inclusive. They are also looking for dedicated members to help with technical aspects of the show such as set design and lighting. They are a very social society and have events such as BBQs, ceilidh and a weekend away trip.

▶ **The Kelvin Ensemble**

www.kelvin-ensemble.co.uk

The Kelvin Ensemble is the University of Glasgow's student-run orchestra, performing challenging works with a number of guest conductors at concerts throughout the year. They practice regularly on Tuesday nights in the University Concert Hall, often with additional weekend rehearsals in the approach to their concerts. Past concerts have included: Elgar's Cello Concerto in E Minor, Ives Symphony No. 2, Mendelssohn's "Scottish Symphony", and Holst's Planets Suite. Check the website for details of past concerts and how you can get involved.

▶ **Glasgow University Music Club**

glasgowunimusicclub.weebly.com

The music club is a relaxed society where people can play music for fun at a decent standard. There are no auditions and everyone is welcome to come and play. Membership is only £5 for the year and your music and photocopies are provided for you as well as your entry to socials and events. You have five different ensembles to choose from; Wind Band, Choir, Percussion Ensemble, Flute Choir and Celtic Group. Two big shows a year as well as smaller shows,

▶ **Glasgow University Rock & Metal Society**

facebook.com/groups/morgul.glasgow/

Meeting weekly in the QMU, this society is a place for lovers of heavy metal and rock to get together for a chat and to listen to some of their favourite tracks. Last year they organised 'North of the Wall', a one day Scottish only metal festival held in the QMU.

▶ **Glasgow University Light-Music Programme (GULP)**

This recently formed music society is for people who like to share their tunes. Everyone's welcome whether they are there to take part or simply just to hang out and listen to the jam. They'll also be arranging group trips to music clubs in and around Glasgow.

▶ **Cutfilmmaking**

cut-filmmaking.com

Cut hold numerous events aimed at facilitating the filmmaking aspirations of Glasgow Uni students such as networking nights, workshops to demonstrate filmmaking techniques and talks from industry professionals about their processes and how to find work IRL. The new board are keen to stress the emphasis on production based events this year.

▶ **Screens (Student Cinema and Television)**

Movie and TV buffs take note. This society hosts a free movie screening every Thursday between 3pm and 5pm in the Andrew Stewart Cinema, Gilmorehill Centre. They also host regular trips to the Glasgow Film Theatre for some more slightly obscure film choices and aim to keep members informed about interesting film activities in the city.

▶ **Bad Movie Society**

badmovies.co.uk

This is a new society set up for the consumption and appreciation of the worst that cinema has to offer. They will be screening, discussing and praising B-movies of every genre on a weekly basis. All enthusiasts welcome.

▶ **Pause Gaming**

pausegaming.com

Pause run monthly PC LAN events, where members (and non members!) bring along their desktop PCs or their laptops for multiplayer video gaming. There's also console events, where you may bring along TVs and games consoles for a different form of video game amusement. They occasionally have social events, in the form of visiting a pub or other venue.

▶ **Glasgow University Go Club**

facebook.com/GlasgowUniGo

Learn to play the ancient Chinese game of Go/Weiqi. Last year the society hosted the Scottish Open Go Tournament. This year they are looking to help build the University Go clubs around Scotland and organising some inter-varsity matches.

...clubs & societies

▶ **The QMU Whisky Club**

whiskyclub.org

Fancy getting to know more about Scotland's national drink? Then look no further than the QMU Whisky (yes, there's no e) Club. As well as regular tastings on campus, members can look forward to trips to some of Scotland's most famous distilleries found in the likes of Pitlochry, Islay and Speyside. This is a very sociable group (probably down to all the Whisky) and new members can get involved in organising events and activities.

▶ **10 Glasgow University Sci-Fi & Fantasy Society**

facebook.com/groups/lordofthemoon

Really energetic society who keep busy with movie marathons, games nights, a create your own B movie competition and a swap shop for trading books, games and comics. Also responsible for two cross campus real life games; Zombie Apocalypse and Assassins.

▶ **Glasgow University Manga and Anime Fandom (GUMAF)**

gumaf.com

Whether you've seen every Ghibli movie or are looking to get into anime for the first time then GUMAF is the place for you. With weekly screenings, trips to movie premieres and art exhibits as well as games nights featuring anime board and video games, you'll be able to immerse yourself in this side of Japanese culture in no time.

▶ **Glasgow University Cheese Society**

Every month a different themed cheese meeting is organised with a plethora of British and international cheese available. Members receive a 10% discount at artisan cheesemongers IJ Mellis.

▶ **The Amazing Race Society**

Are you a fan of the TV show The Amazing Race? Would you like to watch it in a large group? Would you like to even help organise and take part in your own Amazing Race around Glasgow? Then look no further...

▶ **Glasgow University Karate Club**

gukarate.co.nr

A traditional shotokan style club that welcomes members of any grade or style, whether you are a newbie white belt or a master black belt. Weekday training is under the instruction of Senseis Mike Mackay, David Hall and Denis Stirrat, with club trainings three times a week covering material passed down from generations of karate-ka. They also hold a range of socials, such as the much anticipated Cocktail and Christmas parties.

▶ **Glasgow University Triathlon Club**

GUTC are an extremely friendly club and cater for all abilities, from the couched potato to the experienced Ironman athlete. As a club they aim to target a number of races throughout the year, some of which will be fun relay events and we also have an annual weekend away. As with any University club, there is also a huge social element involved, and numerous nights out and pub quizzes will take place throughout the year.

▶ **Glasgow University Pole Dancing**

GUPDC is open to both men and women of all abilities. They produce one large dance show annually, as well as participating in shows for GUSA and other charity events. As well as dancing, members can get involved on the board of the club.

▶ **Glasgow University Sports Science Society**

facebook.com/pages/Glasgow-University-Sports-Science-Society/226153874180494

Throughout the year, GUSS are looking to have guest speakers and career advice from industry professionals. They also hope to offer informative talks on subjects like running style, how to prevent injury and nutrition advice. Past speakers include Tottenham Hotspur's Dr. Imtiaz Ahmad and Dr. Barry Fudge, who was credited with helping Mo Farah to 2012 Olympic victory.

► **University of Glasgow Zoological Society**

Society is ideal for those who want to gain practical experience in the field of Zoology and handling of animals for scientific purposes. In the past they have organised bird catching events, frog catching surveys and bat walks in Kelvingrove parks. They are planning on arranging training days with Blair Drummond Safari Park that will give members real practical skills and experience

► **Glasgow University Marine Biology Society**

As well as being in the process of establishing a programme of Tuesday night talks beginning in Semester 1, this society are keen to get a regular series of diving weekends established, which would enable members to take part in "hands on conservation" work as well as creating an expedition team to work alongside ExSoc.

► **University of Glasgow Exploration Society**

These research expeditions carry out zoological conservation work and most expeditions work very closely with the local people. Previous locations have included Trinidad, Cyprus, Iceland and Peru.

► **Glasgow University Engineering Society (GUES)**

The Engineering Society host a number of social events throughout the year, including a subcrawl with over 200 students moving through Glasgow like a swarm and the Masquerade Ball. They'll also be organising a weekly get together for the (few and far between) female engineers in each department so they can get to know each other. There's also the 'Dinner With Industry' which is a big recruiting event attended by some of the giants from each discipline of the industry.

► **Glasgow University English Language Association**

[facebook.com/GUEnglishLanguageSociety](https://www.facebook.com/GUEnglishLanguageSociety)

Now in their second year, this society is looking to expand and promote the English Language through study groups and talks

from academic leaders in the field of linguistics. Their aim is to continue to build on the sense of community already inherent in the English Language Department and foster friendships between word-minded and grammar-sensitive people.

► **Glasgow University Psychiatry Interest Group**

Expect regular talks on interesting psychiatry related topics not usually covered by the undergraduate medical curriculum. They hosted a national medical film festival called Medfest in February 2012 and 2013 as part of it's UK tour. The society will be having our AGM early September, to which all interested medical students are invited. They are looking for new ways to promote psychiatry as an attractive career choice, so all new ideas are welcome! All students, including non-medical are invited to attend their upcoming talks, as different approaches and opinions can only lead to more exciting discussions.

► **Glasgow University Paediatrics Society**

[facebook.com/GUPaediatrics](https://www.facebook.com/GUPaediatrics)

This brand new Society aims to raise awareness and interest in paediatrics. Events and activities in the pipeline for 2013/2014 include raising awareness of paediatrics as a careers, revision and skills nights, shadowing and volunteers opportunities. They'll also be fundraising events for children's charities and the society will be working closely with Teddy Bear Hospital, SKIP, Glasgow Marrow and the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Society.

► **Glasgow University Bright Futures Society**

glasgow.brightfutures.co.uk/

The Bright Futures Society exists at over 50 of the UK's leading Universities with the purpose of helping students to gain a competitive edge upon graduating. The society gives students the chance to engage with top graduate recruiters, as well as enable you to find out first-hand about all the different industries out there and the best way for you to take your first step on the ever competitive career-ladder.

...clubs & societies

► **University of Glasgow Business Club**

facebook.com/groups/gubusinessclub

Events range from professional development activities including business networking opportunities such as the Accenture Assessment Centre Skills Session and our very successful Skills Month in November, to social events, such as a Burn's Supper, Casino Night, Business Golf and a SubCrawl. The Business Club was awarded the SIE Enterprising Society of the Year in 2013.

► **Comunn Oiseanach Oilthigh Ghlaschu (Glasgow University Ossianic Society)**

facebook.com/

ComunnOiseanachOilthighGhlaschu

This society aims to promote Gaelic within the University, bringing together Gaelic speakers and learners of Gaelic as well as those with an interest in the Gaelic language and culture. They mainly organise social events, with a particular aim to encourage the use and understanding of Gaelic within the University and beyond. Events lined up for the year include a ceilidh in conjunction with the Shinty club, a sub crawl on the 5th October and a Gaelic debate planned for 27th February with the Dialectic Society.

► **Vegan and Vegetarian Alliance (VAVA)**

For the socially aware herbivore, get involved at VAVA to take part in a number of events: from social activities such as potlucks and movie nights to the likes of campaigns, educational events outreach and activism. Get involved during Freshers' Week to get ready for their first event of the year - International Vegetarian Day on 1st October.

► **Glasgow University Food Co-op**

glasgowunifoodcoop.com

A self-organised group of students who promote sustainable living and aim to decentralise food buying practice through selling ethically produced foods in the basement of the Wellington Church and ordering weekly

veg bags from local farmers. Members organise and participate in workshops (bread-making, soupmaking, beermaking to name a few) make zines and have regular potluck dinners.

► **Willowbank Community Gardens**

guwillowbankgarden.blogspot.co.uk

This society set out to continue to transform the land at Willowbank Crescent into an educational community space for students, staff and the local residents. Get involved with observation, improving the biodiversity of the area, reconnecting with nature, meditation, cooking, botany, crafting, feasting, storytelling and getting muddy.

► **Xchange Scotland Society**

xchangescotland.org

Set up last year, this society offers students clear ways in which they can support exciting community initiatives across Glasgow and around the world. Last year several volunteer action days took place, where members were responsible for planting a community orchard garden in the Gorbals and creating a nature walk and chicken coop in a community Garden in North Glasgow. This year the XSS plan to continue to develop more of these volunteer action days, deliver workshops on creative activism and host intercultural party nights helping to celebrate the diversity of cultures present at Glasgow Uni.

► **St Andrew's First Aid Glasgow University**

firstaid.org.uk/volunteering

This society helps train volunteers as first aiders to provide help to the sick and injured at public events in Glasgow and Scotland such as the West End Festival, football matches at Hampden and T in the Park. It gives students the chance to learn vital life saving skills, make new friends and be part of some of Scotland's biggest events.

▶ ***Sexpression Glasgow***

Sexpression Glasgow is a student-led group based at the University of Glasgow which aims to inform young people about sexual health and relationships. Volunteers go to schools and youth groups to teach young people about all sorts of things related to sex, varying from body image, STIs and where the law stands regarding alcohol and sex. Look out for the residential training weekend in October, where new members are prepared for going out to teach about sex.

▶ ***Student Volunteers Abroad***

studentvolunteersabroad.org

This registered charity have been sending student volunteers to projects across the developing world since 1998, to countries like Uganda, South Africa & Cambodia. Applications for 2014 open in October. Make sure you don't miss the deadline.

▶ ***Glasgow University Students for Malawi (GUSFM)***

studentsformalawi.co.uk

This society offers you the opportunity to volunteer in Malawi as well as fundraise for projects and work with external charities focused on the developing nation. There will be expeditions this year for both primary education and engineering students to work in rural communities and assist in the building of infrastructure.

▶ ***Friend of Médecins Sans Frontières***

friendsofmsfglasgow.webeden.co.uk/

The main goal of foMSF Glasgow is to raise awareness and fundraise for Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders), who provide assistance to populations in distress, to victims of natural or manmade disasters and to victims of armed conflict. They do so irrespective of gender, race, religion, creed or political convictions. Expect to get involved in fundraisers such as pub quizzes and ceilidhs, as well as evening lectures regarding public health and international medicine.

▶ ***Glasgow Marrow***

facebook.com/GLAMarrow

Glasgow Marrow work alongside Anthony Nolan to help recruit people to the Bone Marrow Register. Alongside recruitment clinics, the society organise numerous fundraising events throughout the year including collections at Braehead, skeleton themed sub crawls and sponsored marathon running. £3000 was raised for Anthony Nolan last year.

▶ ***Glasgow University Red Cross***

The society supports the Red Cross in three key areas: First Aid, Fundraising and Humanitarian Action by mobilising students to learn new skills and reach out for others. They provide full support and training to students who want to become Red Cross volunteers. Very social too, with band nights, murder mysteries and ceilidhs throughout the year.

▶ ***Glasgow University Amnesty International***

guamnesty.org.uk

Affiliated with Amnesty International UK, the group meet once a week and campaign against human rights abuse. Meetings consist of writing letters, hearing visiting speakers and planning fundraising and awareness raising events. This year they'll be hosting their 6th Secret Policeman's Ball and are hoping to outdo the success of last years show.

▶ ***Glasgow University Feminist Society***

facebook.com/gufeministsociety

An extremely busy group with loads of events throughout the year including discussions, debates, activism, protests and marches. The first month of the term is going to be dedicated to a 'Feminism 101', an introduction to the subject which will be an easy and approachable way to get involved, with discussions, talks, and socials. Look out for their 'Who Needs Feminism' campaign during Freshers' Week. All Genders welcome.

...clubs & societies

► **Glasgow University Philosophy Society**

facebook.com/GlasgowUniPhilSoc

The great and good of the philosophy world give weekly insightful talks on the most puzzling of life's questions, have titanic debates on issues that have divided history's great minds and continue to divide those who teeter on their shoulders. Then they drink pints.

► **Glasgow University Skeptics**

guskeptics.com

The GU skeptics like to make you think discuss and think again. This year they will be hosting a number of talks on topics such as 'How To Think Like a Scientist (An introduction to Scientific Skepticism)', 'Cancer: The Science and the Myths', and 'Animal Cognition: Study of Use.' The aim is to bring actual research and knowledge closer to the student's everyday life and to invite them to make themselves informed by taking part in the debates of their community.

► **Glasgow University Dialectic Society**

gudialectic.co.uk

This society is one of the oldest societies on campus (around since 1451) and exists for the promotion of debating and public speaking at Glasgow University. In the past they have invited a diverse range of speakers to discuss topics such as "Is religion a force for good" and same-sex marriage. They often debate in collaboration with other societies on campus and host the annual Founders of the Union debate alongside MedChir. This year they will be offering relaxed, informal Speaker Training Workshops in the QMU which will focus on public speaker development and its importance for graduates.

► **Glasgow University Politics Society**

facebook.com/PoliticsSociety

Glasgow University Politics Society is an independent student-run organisation and the only non-partisan political society on campus. This year they'll be playing host

to a talk on independence from Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon as well as organising trips to the Scottish Parliament and of course the weekly pint and politics get-togethers.

► **Glasgow University Real World Economics Society**

facebook.com/GURWES

GURWES is a new society that encourages students to study and teach themselves about alternative economic theories and different ways of thinking. They want share ideas through the means of presentations, debates and reading groups. They'll be playing host this year to guest lectures from leading academics, running weekly debates and taking trips to other universities to meet with alternative economics groups.

► **Parliament of Oceana**

facebook.com/Oceana.Parliament

Meet the mock government of the fictional country of Oceana. They do everything from Prime Ministers questions, debating nation changing issues, to writing the bills that shape the law. The year will begin with a National Election, as the Parliament decides what path it will take in the year ahead.

► **University of Glasgow's Model United Nations**

facebook.com/Glamun

This society host weekly debates in the style of the United Nations, with the subject of the debate changing from week to week. This year they are planning on attending model UN meetings at University's like Edinburgh, Cambridge, St Andrews and Oxford.

► **Glasgow University European Society**

facebook.com/GlasgowEU

The European Society aims to organize academic events that can help students with both their studies and careers. They have a number of events planned including guest speakers; debates on topics such as Turkey's admission to the EU and the EU's impact on national sovereignty; career advice from

former MEPs and various trips. There's also trip to Brussels to visit the European Parliament this winter on the cards.

▶ ***Central & East European Society***

This society aims to raise awareness and encourage discussion between members about burning issues that affect not only Eastern Europe but that can be applied to any country. Last year the focus was on the impact of sex trafficking and they are looking to bring more attention to it this semester through film screenings and group discussions. There's also a big social side to this group such as their 'tea and chat' events and pub quizzes.

▶ ***Glasgow University Liberal Democrats***

For the budding Lib Dem MPs out there, you can get involved in the student wing of your party here. Member can get involved in activities like campaigning on local and national issues and take part in Q&A sessions with Lib Dem minister, MPs and MSPs such as Jo Alistair Carmichael and Willie Rennie. This freshers week the society will be hosting the UK-wide meeting of Liberal Youth while the Lib Dem Conference comes to Glasgow. There's also a number of social opportunities such as the weekly Pint and Politics get together and the Christmas Party.

▶ ***Glasgow University Scottish Nationalist Association (GUSNA)***

facebook.com/GlasgowUniversityScottishNationalistAssociation

Last year, GUSNA campaigned hard in the campus independence referendum, attended the launch of Yes Glasgow and took part in a number of events, most recently the Scrap Trident march. This year they'll be out campaigning for a Yes vote in the independence referendum in September 2014 to help create a better and fairer Scotland, and (as always) having a few drinks and good craic in Coopers on Great Western Road every Monday at 5pm.

▶ ***Glasgow University Conservative & Unionist Association (GUCUA)***

If you are "right-minded", this society is the perfect place to meet new people. Throughout the year they offer a programme of events including debates, socials and opportunities to meet you local elected Conservative representatives. They'll be working hard in 2013/2014 to maintain Scotland's part in the United Kingdom and to push for continued Scottish Conservative representation in Europe.

▶ ***Glasgow Marxists***

facebook.com/glasgowmarxists

The hub of Marxist activity at Glasgow Uni. The society organises weekly meetings for discussions about different areas of Marxism, film showings and debates. They also take part in political events on and off campus such as protests against cuts to departments and annual May Day celebration. They'll be starting off the academic year with a Red Clydeside pub crawl to give new members a taste of Glasgow's radical past.

▶ ***Glasgow University International Affairs Society***

[GlasgowIA.org](https://glasgowia.org)

The newly established International Affairs Society is devoted to increasing knowledge and interest around important international issues. They put a great emphasis on human development, peace and security, global cooperation and democracy. Expect debates, seminars, movie nights and study visits throughout the semester.

▶ ***Glasgow University Hungarian Society***

This society exists to celebrate Hungarian national and cultural traditions as well as helping Hungarian students integrate into Glasgow and gain an understanding of Scottish culture. There's a big Hungary Day celebration on the 6th October in collaboration with their sister society from Edinburgh and a wild camping trip to Loch Lomond has been organised.

...clubs & societies

▶ **Glasgow University Pakistan Society**

facebook.com/thegupps

Members can participate in a range of friendly events including Bollywood movie nights, desi chai hangs, dumb charades, antakshari, group ice skating over Christmas, bowling and annual cultural dinners. There's also some larger events in the pipeline such as multi-cultural get-togethers with similar societies and a possibly some bhangra nights.

▶ **Glasgow University Hong Kong Society**

guhksoc.wix.com/guhksociety

The university of Glasgow Hong Kong Society has a fresh outlook for the coming year with the aim of spreading the culture of Hong Kong to more foreigners while also looking to add to the current crop of Cantonese locals. There will be plenty of events going on where people can meet and maintain friendships in a setting where they can interact with Hong Kong culture, such as food swaps, cultural events and even a ceilidh.

▶ **Glasgow University Welsh Society**

Now in its second year, the GU Welsh Society endeavour to celebrate all things, well, Welsh. Lots of fun-filled events, including rugby sevens tournaments, St David's Day celebrations and even St Dwynwen's Day - Valentine's Welsh style.

▶ **Glasgow University German Society**

gugermansociety.wordpress.com

The German society is where Germans, German speakers and German fans alike can meet and get to know their fellow university students. Apart from the weekly

Stammtisch, a great chance to get together for a drink, they organise quizzes, coffee and cake. Then there's the infamous Diskobahn, their very own German-themed club night.

▶ **Glasgow University Lithuanian Society**

GU Lithuanian Society aims to unite Lithuanian people who are studying at the University. The Society provides a chance for Lithuanian students to get to know each other in an unfamiliar environment. They also honour days of national importance, have film viewings and social gathering with traditional Lithuanian food.

▶ **Glasgow University American Society (GUAS)**

facebook.com/groups/guamericansociety

GUAS aim to promote and celebrate American culture and its presence at the University of Glasgow. They organise events to coincide with American holidays such as Thanksgiving and other events which are important to anyone interested in the USA such as the Superbowl, political debates and elections.

▶ **Glasgow University Nordic Society**

facebook.com/GlasgowUniversityNordicSociety

GUNS aims to put on events promoting Scandinavian student traditions with increase in sports events and other new activities. Some events organised in the past include the Scandinavian student dinner party 'Sitsit', Pub-Race, Nordic Olympics, Vappu Party, Nordic Christmas party, Ice Hockey viewings and regular film nights as well as visits to the pub. Skol!

▶ ***Greek & Cypriot Society of Glasgow***

facebook.com/greekcypriotglasgow

This Big Fat Mediterranean Society keep busy all year with a host of events. As well as organising trips around Glasgow, this society will be organising a 'Greek night' party each month.

▶ ***Glasgow Jewish Society***

glasgowjsoc.co.uk

Glasgow Jsoc is here to unite Jewish students from all of Glasgow's universities. Perfect for those looking for great events, some kosher food or just a warm, comfortable environment with lots of friendly faces. Events this year range from Shabbat meals to subcrawls, from barbecues to sushi nights, from educational speakers to poker nights to charity and interfaith events.

▶ ***Glasgow University Catholic Association***

The Catholic Association offers a wide range of activities and opportunities for both undergraduate and postgraduate students. Whether you are interested in understanding and developing your faith, doing charity work, praying, socialising and getting to know new people or working with other societies in campus, the Catholic Association is a good place to be.

▶ ***Glasgow University Pagan Society***

gupagansoc.moonfruit.com

Open to any new members of any faith, belief or lack thereof. A very social society with lots of events planned for this year - a highlight being a trip to Edinburgh in October for the Samhain fire festival.

▶ ***The Tuesday Club***

A new group focusing predominantly on the social side of university life. A place to meet new people, talk, socialise and find fellow like minded people. Open to anyone and everyone. Plans are in place to expand the group to everyone and there's a trip to Edinburgh planned for the first semester.

▶ ***Glasgow University Great Days Out Society***

facebook.com/gugreatdaysout

Great days out on a student budget. Planning of next years trips is well underway and includes tours around Glasgow in Freshers' Week, trips to Stirling and Edinburgh and distillery tours. The enthusiastic committee is buzzing with ideas for trips to castles, sporting events and theme parks.

▶ ***LGBTQ+ Student Association***

gulgbt.co.uk

LGBTQ+ society offers a wide range of both welfare and social activities to students on campus. The welfare side of the society includes a dedicated welfare officer, that will happily help you with any question or concern you have, as well as monthly welfare drop-ins and talks, presentations and workshops on specific issues and concerns. Social events in the past have included pub/club crawls, quizzes debates and film nights to name a few.

▶ ***Glasgow University Mature Students Association***

The association principally manages dedicated facilities to help mature students in their studies. These include study spaces; rest area; computing, printing and photocopying facilities; a meeting/communal study room; lockers; kitchen and toilet facilities. They also manage an online community via the University's Moodle facility, and organise a range of social activities.

appendix...

CREDITS

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University of Glasgow | Confucius Institute

The **Confucius Institute** is a partnership with Nankai University in China and is supported by Hanban (the Confucius Institute Headquarters in Beijing).

Language

We offer a wide range of Chinese language classes, taught by native speakers, at very low prices throughout the year. Classes are taught in small groups, and private one-to-one tuition is also available. Every month we host HSK tests, the language tests officially recognised in China, enabling you to track and certify your progress in learning Chinese. We also run calligraphy classes and **free** language exchange sessions where you can come and chat with native speakers every Saturday during term.



Culture

We celebrate major Chinese festivals and provide opportunities to learn about the traditions, customs, food and mythical stories relating to each festival. In addition, we offer – together with the **Scottish Centre for China Research** based at the University – workshops, lectures and seminars on Chinese history, arts, culture and contemporary society.

Study in China for free

We also provide opportunities to study in China through various scholarships and exchange programmes. Please see our website for more information and add your contact details at 'Keep in touch' if you would like to learn more.

Lessons start from £100 for 20 hours - a special rate for University of Glasgow students and staff.



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