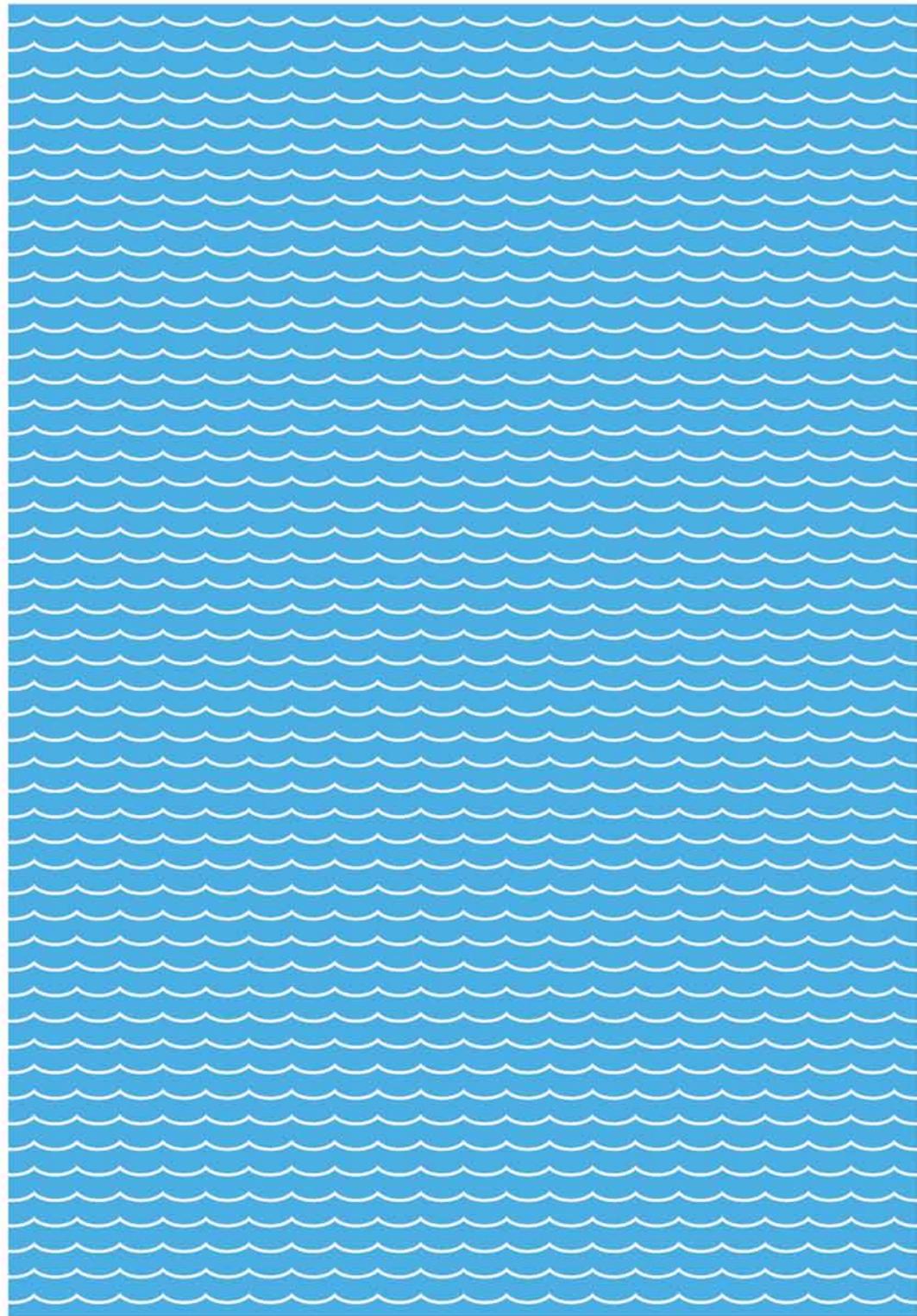


2011-2012 **THE GUIDE**

Your handbook to life at Glasgow University





The Guide 2011-2012

Glasgow University Students' Representative Council (GUSRC)

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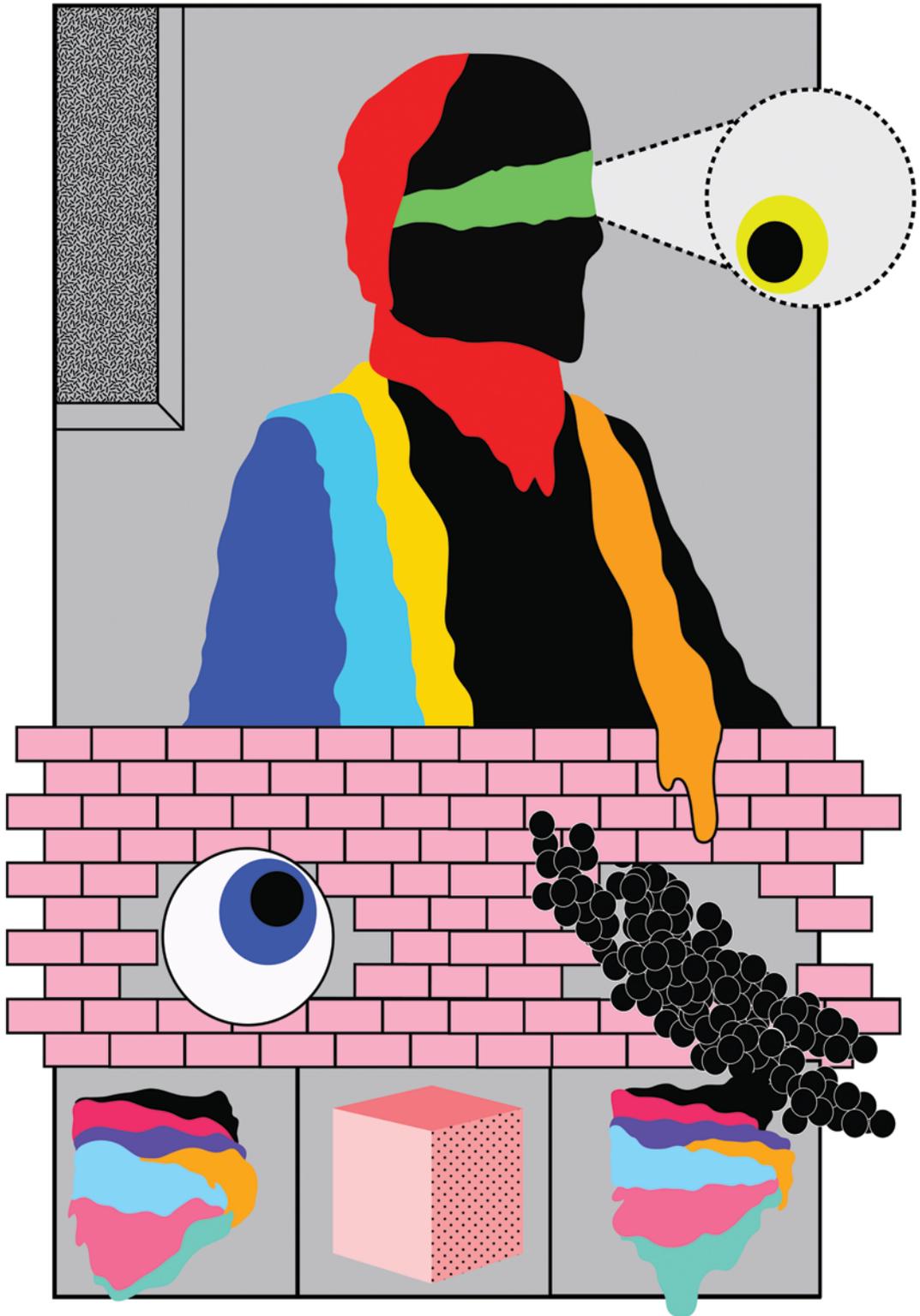
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CAMPUS LIFE

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.

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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/Association/Guild... which is both the legal representative body for the students and the provider of entertainment, food, sports, clubs etc. The idea is that the money from the bars can go back into welfare services and supporting volunteering 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 rep-

resentative 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 bar, 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 p12]

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.

The student media, volunteering groups and clubs and societies are detailed over the following pages along with the four main groups, but there are a couple of others to look out for.

▶ ***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 too.

▶ ***Mature Students' Association***

Provide and manage study space; rest areas; computing, printing and photocopying facilities; a meeting/communal study room and kitchen and toilet facilities for mature students. This year they are focusing on developing the social side of the association's activities, and are looking for suggestions for social events and trips.

▶ ***Academic support services***

The following pages covers the social and personal development side of uni life, however, there is also a range of support available for the academic side of life, from Advisors of Studies to the Nursery. [see p50]

campus life...

THE SRC

Whilst nearly all students will be aware of the presence and services of the two unions on campus, the Students' Representative Council flies under the radar for many. Students might not realise it, but the SRC is a key component of the engine room of campus life: from student media and halls minibuses to sitting on hundreds of committees making sure students have a say in University decisions.

This book is produced by the SRC, mainly as a guide to student life at Glasgow to help you get the best start possible but also as a handbook for the SRC's services. You'll find things like the Advice Centre, halls minibuses and the second-hand bookshop cropping up throughout these pages.

SRC President Stuart Ritchie explains what else the organisation does for students:

How does the SRC contribute to life at Glasgow University?

» I think we contribute in a number of ways, I think there's the representation bit, we're the only body on campus that does representation. And it's not an opt-in, you don't choose your SRC from a list of options - we're here for everybody.

We also run a lot of campaigns which are geared towards either vulnerable groups in the student community or problem areas. Equally we tend to do things which affect all students, again which is not something that other bodies on campus would look to do nor would they have the resources to do so.

I would also say that the thing we contribute is the relationship we have with the University, and that's massively important to the

student community. I don't think it's necessarily the fun stuff but we actually do a lot of the things that are very important.

Your average student probably goes right through four years of uni without a clue what Senate does or what goes on at your committees and how the University runs.

» I think that's totally true and that's actually the value of documents like this. To give them an idea - we are involved in the consultation that leads to the production of any kind of University policy, a lot of University strategy is made in consultation with us.

Policies wise I would give examples of things like the Carers Policy, the Maternity Policy - we have the first carers policy for students in the UK. And we write that, we initiate those policies and push them to the University and they have a huge impact.

Aside from the representation stuff, there's a lot of frontline services people will be more likely to come across like the Advice Centre. How does that all fit in?

» I think the two are interlinked: a lot of the work that happens on the frontline influences how we represent students and the information we gather from the frontline is vital to our interactions with the Uni. Particularly with the Advice Centre but actually the way in which students interact with services is reflected massively in the representation work that we do.

Equally I get what you're saying about not knowing about what we do. I would say to people: don't look to the SRC just as the people to come to in a crisis, come and find out what we can do for you or how you can be a part of it from the word go.



SRC President Stuart Ritchie (far right) hanging out with SRC Vice Presidents Iain, Amy and James

What would be a good starting point for a first year student looking to get involved?

» *I think becoming a General Rep on SRC Council, which is the governing body of the SRC. You would attend full council meetings twice a year, you could be involved in any number of working groups, helping with the creation of policies... you can get involved in anything that is of interest to you really.*

What is the jewel in your crown?

» *Our relationship with the University. The level of influence and access in the decision making process makes us, if not unique, then certainly UK-leading in that field. No other university has the same kind of relationship with its SRC that Glasgow has - the level of consultation the SRC have is unparalleled.*

I would include Russell Group universities in that - for example we have 15 seats on Senate compared to Edinburgh's seven.

Is there anything that often gets overlooked that you'd like to highlight?

» *Class reps is one - we train more than 650 class reps each year. Every subject has a class rep. They're not independent, they're part of our representation framework.*

They are involved in any kind of matter that affects you in your class, such as not being able to understand the lecturer or library books not being available, as well as finding inconsistencies in marking or policy across the University. Becoming a class rep is a really easy way to get involved in the SRC, you're getting involved right at the ground level of your academic work.

What should people look out for this year from the SRC?

» *I think they should look out for our big weeks in the year: Health Week, Media Week... but equally, look out for the press releases and campaigns we run on national events such as the campaign on fees.*

campus life...

THE UNIONS

The 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, Chris Sibbald and Kirsty Hill are two people inclined to shout loudest - chances are you've already encountered them at full volume, in a DayGlo T-shirt and with a PR mob in tow.

As similar commercial enterprises competing for your valuable attention, the unions traditionally try to maintain a (largely) playful rivalry. As a student, the trick is to work out what you want from each union. Chris and Kirsty sat down and used their indoor voices to explain what the unions are, what (if anything) separates them, and how they can shape your university experience.

What does your union have to offer new students, apart from the obvious stuff like cheap booze and music?

» *Chris (GUU): I think the GUU has got a very homely atmosphere, I think it is now particularly welcoming to its members. We provide a variety of services and activities: whether it be debating or the opportunity to write in magazines or to get involved in games and activities or in entertainments.*

» *Kirsty (QMU): With the unions as well, you can use it as much or as little as you want. You can come in and say 'this is a great place to socialise, this is a great place to hang out'*

or you can go and say 'I want to learn how to edit a magazine', 'I want to learn how to put on a pub quiz', 'I want to learn x, y, z...' and the unions can provide that as well.

It really is up to you as a person to come along and say 'This is what I want from the union' and then we can provide that. That can be from the union just being a place to eat and drink, right up to running the place.

» *Chris: But in terms of actual core-values and participation and the 'student experience', then they're unique and they're individual, but then again they're also quite closely linked.*

» *Kirsty: Yeah, I think that it's good that we can work together in the sense that we don't step on each others toes, and that we provide similar things but... It's hard to put into words isn't it? Because... we do essentially do exactly the same kind of thing [laughs], but... differently. [Chris: Yeah, it's because we do it with different people.] Yeah.*

Which is good, because it does mean that when you come to Glasgow, you know that there's going to be something on campus that you can get involved in and that you're interested in. Whereas there isn't the same number of activities to get involved in elsewhere.

» *Chris: I was at the QM dinner recently and one of the former presidents from the 80s*



Chris Sibbald (GUU) and Kirsty Hill (QMU) “we do essentially do exactly the same kind of thing but... differently”

was back speaking, and we have a lot of that too, just because people have an emotional attachment with the place.

Is there any particular activity that you would think is the jewel in your crown?

» Chris: For me, debating is obviously the jewel in our crown. We have a long established history in it - we've had a few years where we haven't been doing as well, but we're doing better again. Two girls just won the English Speaking Union National Mooting Competition, which is really good. And we're doing a big anniversary debate in November with all the world champions coming back which is exciting.

Glasgow has its own unique style of debating which is called Parliamentary. That's a mock-up of the House of Commons: there are five political clubs with five political po-

sitions and you alternate with each debate. There are five debates throughout the year and each debate is 12 hours long. I think it's a very good training ground - either for people who are wanting to get involved in real arguments or for people who are wanting to become good speakers, to get more confidence in terms of standing up and talking to a group of people. People improve dramatically throughout the year, and I think that's a good thing.

» Kirsty: I think, in terms of the QM, we have bits of everything. Two things that I would pick out would be qmunicate [see p211], and our Whisky Club. It's two completely different things and I think it shows some of the diversity of things that the QM does.

In terms of our Whisky Club, we can have international students come along and

...the unions

see what it's like to be involved in Scottish culture, but also we can have people come along just to try whisky and see what it's like. It's a good place to meet people: we have a lot of postgrads and mature students coming along. And it's all run internally, so if you want to get more involved with learning about whisky you can come along and we can set up a training/tasting session or whatever. It's great in terms of getting a totally different variety of people into the QM.

I think that's what the QM does quite well, if you want to come along and meet like-minded people we've got so many different opportunities to do that. Our committee structure is one of the biggest reasons for that: so, like I said, if you want to come and run a pub quiz or learn how to DJ or whatever, then we do have the ability to show you how to do that.

So I think our committee structure, qmunicate and our Whisky club, and the way they can bring in so many different people that you would never necessarily meet otherwise would be the jewel in the QM's crown.

» Chris: Yeah, there's no prejudices, I find, throughout any of these things either. I'm sure it's the same with qmunicate, [Kirsty: Yeah.] with debates the mix of people is really important.

From an entry-level, all the way up?

» Chris: Yeah, you can get the guys who from school are really involved in debating and you can get the really intellectual guys. You get the guys who are just wanting to come and just enjoy it and have a laugh, because they have opinions. Maybe at school some people didn't have that opportunity or were almost mocked for it, that doesn't exist here and I quite like that.

Can you talk through the facilities you have that people might miss?

» Kirsty: On the third floor we have our committee rooms where a lot of clubs and socie-

ties meet. We also run stuff up there: we've had the Whisky Club up there in the past, we have our committees up there: so if you're getting involved in any of the committees, they meet on the third floor. We've got our laundry room, which is much cheaper than halls. Then we've got our study rooms: so if you can't actually hack going to the library you can sit up there... maybe with a pint to make it a bit less painful.

» Chris: Up the stairs we have our two libraries and our reading room. They're used particularly during the exam period because they have a very different atmosphere from the University Library which is always nice - that's one of the best things about them. They're used all the time though, in the evenings they're rented out by clubs and societies. You tend to find a lot of sports clubs coming down which is very nice as it keeps the place nice and busy.

On the top floor we have Britain's largest student snooker hall. It's started to get used a lot more often recently which is good, people kind of forget it's there, but it's open everyday from midday to 10pm and it just offers another thing to students I think, it has a nice atmosphere too.

Is there such a thing as a 'typical' member or a specific community vibe?

» Chris: No. I would say that you get people that come just purely to debate, I think you get people that come just for the Hive, I think you get people that come because they want cheaper food or they want to get into the comedy for cheaper or whatever. In that regard, I think as long as you continue to put on a variety of services and activities then the membership is going to be diverse.

» Kirsty: I think, in that way, the membership makes the union what it is.

» Chris: This year the two boards of management went away together, it could have been



your mates from the Beer Bar or you mates from Jim's - it was great fun.

» Kirsty: Yeah. It's interesting, I think it depends completely year on year. I'm totally different to Iain (the previous president) in terms of what I'm interested in, so it does depend - the membership makes the union and it's up to them to make it what they want... ..it has completely changed since I first joined.

Anything else you want to say?

» Chris: ...I don't just want to say the spiel of 'Must come to the unions!' or anything like that... but it's true. [Kirsty: Yeah.] You should come to the unions. I mean, obviously go to clubs in town and whatever, but the unions... they're much more than just their club venues. [Kirsty: Exactly.]

» Kirsty: I think you've got to remember that you've got so much of your life to piss about in the middle of Glasgow, but you've got 4 years at university and you may as well make the most of it and use what the unions provide. And it's great what we've got on, both of us.

» Chris: As I was saying with the volunteering thing earlier, people want to get to know you in the unions and see who you are and let you see who they are. Whereas the guys in town and stuff, they're sort of there to take advantage of you and to get your money.

And... I dunno, I think it's a great university and it's very lucky to have two unions and an SRC and a sports association, and people should really... [Kirsty: Make the most of it.] Make the most of it, yeah.

campus life... **SPORT**



GUSA & SRS

Sport and recreation at the University of Glasgow are delivered through a partnership between the Sport and Recreation Service (SRS) and the Glasgow University Sports Association (GUSA). The SRS is a service department within the University, whilst GUSA is an independent and representative student organisation like the Unions and the SRC.

The fundamental aim of the partnership is to get as many students as possible enjoying sport and exercise and making it a part of their lifestyle at university. GUSA and the SRS are in place to give students the opportunity to take time out from academic situations and reduce university-induced stress.

Participating in sport and recreation provides students many benefits and opportunities: you can try lots of new activities or improve existing skills as well as your general health. There are also ways to get involved with clubs and represent the uni.

The partnership provides students with well-equipped and welcoming facilities where you can relax and socialise, or get advice on exercise and physical activity if there's anything you're unsure about. As a student, membership gives you full access to the University's facilities and only involves a once-annual fee which is much lower than you'll get anywhere else for an equivalent service. So even if all your grand schemes and good intentions fall by the wayside and you only end up using the gym a few times each semester, becoming a member could still save you some money.



Cross-country running is one of 48 different club sports on offer at Glasgow

Facilities

Facilities are available seven days a week from early morning to late at night and are based in the Stevenson Building (known as 'The Stevie' by its dedicated patrons) on the University's main Gilmorehill campus and the Garscube Sports Complex found (unsurprisingly) on the Garscube campus. Specialist services like sports and massage clinics are also available on site at discounted rates.

Health and fitness

The GUSA and SRS partnership offers a health and fitness programme which provides a dizzying amount of variety and is designed to cater for all levels - for those mainly interested in a sauna and a steam, right up to the intense spandex-clad masochists.

Club sport

Recognisable by the ubiquitous black and gold tracksuits and hoodies you'll see dotted around campus, there are currently over 2000 members involved in club sport at the University in 48 different clubs.

More info

The University Sport and Recreation website is a great source of information but look out for various face to face opportunities to get to know the clubs - there is a Sports Fair during Freshers' Week along with taster sessions for most sports throughout the week.

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?) what they probably didn't have in mind was the image of some previously hapless arts student throwing a party for a couple thousand of their newest friends in one of Europe's premier entertainment venues, 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 University 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 a variety of stories both on campus and further afield from an independent perspective, the Guardian's reportage has become a feature of campus life - often forming a casual topic of discussion over lunch in the West End, at other times documenting and commenting on major issues immediately affecting their readership.

This year's editorial team have initiated a reboot of the Guardian brand (including a print and web redesign, a shift in news coverage and a change in content production) and a variety of opportunities to get involved are available as a result.



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 of the city's most impassioned and innovative time-wasters pouring themselves into everything from planning the station's infamous events [see p79] to tracking down obscure and elusive artists for interview.

Opportunities are available throughout the organisation in any capacity that already currently exists (and 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 (GUM) is most notably Scotland's oldest student magazine. Despite its historical credentials, with every issue and their accompanying blog, 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.

GUST

Glasgow University Student Television (GUST) have access to a fully equipped television studio via the University's Media Production Unit which they use to make a variety of programmes for a student audience. They also have a stock of equipment for producing content on-location. Programmes include news broadcasts, live music programming and features on various university clubs and societies.



Subcity are an integral and respected part of Glasgow's club scene. Subcity Halloween party pictured above.

qmunicate

qmunicate is the QMU's in-house publication. Issues are fairly regular 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

The GUU's in-house publication isn't currently as developed as other media outlets on campus or the QMU's equivalent publication. However, presumably buoyed by the success of its fellow outlets, the GUUi is beginning to progress beyond being merely a newsletter for the members of the GUU community (eg it's no longer being printed in-house) and the editorial team are planning continued improvements.

campus life...

VOLUNTEERING

Community volunteering opportunities within the SRC allow those involved to form a link with various aspects of the local community. Dedicating some of your spare time to volunteering can help you meet new and interesting people that you'd rarely meet otherwise - all whilst making a positive contribution to the local community and even picking up experience which will boost your employability credentials at the same time.

The SRC runs the Student Volunteering Support Service (SVSS) which provides students with volunteering opportunities both on and off campus and can help organise any training or help you need in order to get the most out of your volunteering experience. Visit glasgowstudent.net/volunteer

▶ ***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, sheltered housing or private accommodation. For those able and willing to take on a further challenge, SVSS also offers the opportunity to befriend people suffering from Alzheimer's. Professional training and support are provided.

▶ ***Conversational English Programme***

The Conversational English Programme offers English-speaking students the chance to volunteer and meet with international students trying to improve their English. This is not really about teaching someone to speak English, but engaging in conversation so that people can practice what they have learnt - the English-speakers might even get the chance to learn a few words from another language.

▶ ***Language Cafe***

[FACEBOOK.COM/SRCLANGUAGECAFE](https://www.facebook.com/SRCLANGUAGECAFE)

Every two weeks or so during term time, the SRC run a Language Cafe which provides an opportunity for international students and English-speaking students to meet informally. Sessions are structured around activities such as sports, games and crafts, as well as themed events such as Burns Night and Chinese New Year.

▶ ***GUSH***

Glasgow University Service to the Homeless offers students the opportunity to help homeless people living on the streets.

With thousands of people sleeping rough or at risk of sleeping rough in the city every year, GUSH tries to help make a difference in people's lives and provide an invaluable service to them when they are going through a difficult time.

GUSH operates independently every Saturday night, and with Glasgow Simon Community Soup Kitchen, on fortnightly Wednesday evenings. Volunteers chat with homeless people while distributing hot drinks and biscuits.

▶ ***Girl Guiding***

Volunteering with Girlguiding UK gives students the opportunity to get involved with a well respected charity organisation and a national institution. Roles, involving varying levels of commitment and training, are available for both male and female volunteers, who perform a variety of tasks working to help girls and young women from the ages of 5 to 15.

▶ ***Classroom Support***

Volunteers have the opportunity to volunteer in nursery, primary, secondary or ad-



Language Cafe is a great way for international students to brush up on their English whilst meeting new people

ditional support needs schools and help students with their lessons.

For international students, there is the “Second Language, First Aid” scheme where you can help kids in school who speak the same native language that you do, but struggle with English in class.

The Confucius Classroom Scheme lets volunteers help the school pupils learn Mandarin, or help out in classes where Mandarin is a pupil’s first language and they need some support with English.

► **Sports Coaching**

Sports Coaching is open to all students, including non-GUSA members. There are a range of opportunities in local sports clubs and through Active Schools, a Scottish Government initiative to provide children and young people with opportunities and motivation to adopt active, healthy lifestyles.

► **Splash**

Splash is a project that offers students the chance to help out in swimming classes for children with additional support needs.

► **Student Volunteers Abroad**

GLA.AC.UK/CLUBS/SVA

During the summer SVA sends teams of volunteers abroad 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.

Other opportunities

- » British Transport Police
- » Royal National Institute of Blind People
- » MacMillan Cancer Support
- » Find a Solution
- » Nightline

campus life...

CLUBS & SOCIETIES



CUT! Filmmaking producing a shortfilm with rod puppets

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 turn them on. Having a common interest usually helps and amongst the wide range of clubs and societies you'll likely find a group of like-minded folk. Aside from these social benefits, getting involved with clubs and socs can gain you valuable experience in running an organisation, putting on events and the like. Even as a casual member many societies run interesting events you'll want to keep up to date with.

This book lists only a selection of the societies who will be around this year. 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.

All societies have a social side with pub and cinema trips etc so try to pick out one (or as many as you like) that relates to your interests. Most societies are free to join although some activities might have fees attached.



► **DanceMania**

A student dance society with an emphasis on fun. They run performances and Wednesday night classes covering a wide range of styles including tap, hip hop, contemporary, highland and ballet taught by talented students.

► **SalsaAwater**

Help raise money for charity whilst learning Cuban Salsa dancing. Classes are £2 each session where the teachers take you through Latin rhythms including reggaeton, rumba and the cha-cha-cha. All proceeds go to Wateraid.

► **The Kelvin Ensemble (Glasgow University Orchestra)**

A student-run orchestra who perform challenging works with a number of student and guest conductors at concerts through-

out the year. This year's first concert will be Mendelssohn's *Fingal's Cave Overture* and other Scottish themed pieces in the Glasgow University Chapel on the 26th November. There is an open rehearsal for all players in Freshers' Week and auditions start the following week.

► **The Literature Society**

A weekly meeting at a west end pub with poets, professors, and musicians giving guest lectures and the occasional literary quiz. They also host an annual Burns Ball.

► **Manga & Anime Fans (GUMAF)**

Whether you've seen every Ghibli movie or are looking to get into anime for the first time, you'll be welcomed to any of GUMAF's weekly screenings, trips to premiere screenings, game days and art exhibits.

...clubs & societies

▶ **Cut Filmmaking Network**

Cut acts as a network for students interested in collaborative filmmaking projects. They also host regular screenings and workshops led by industry experts. Last year they won the SRC award for Most Innovative/Highest Achieving society, which isn't surprising considering last year's speakers included writer Mark Millar, and composer Patrick Doyle.

▶ **Student Theatre at Glasgow (STaG)**

STaG is the largest theatre society at Glasgow Uni. They not only look for actors but contributors to all aspects of theatre production from writing to lighting to makeup. They regularly hold social and scratch nights in their rehearsal space on Oakfield Avenue along with full plays in theatre spaces around Glasgow, workshops, improv groups and reading sessions. They will be holding open auditions at the end of Freshers' Week and have opportunities to get involved in various forthcoming productions.

▶ **Staged Theatre Society**

Staged aim to give students the chance to get involved in putting on plays. They put on monthly performances focusing mainly on evenings of short plays in small venues with modest production. Anyone is able to get involved with writing, directing and acting.

▶ **Cinémathèque**

Holding screenings and discussions of world films showing, often for the first time, films that were unavailable or difficult to obtain in the UK, this year they hope to expose even more people to beautiful world cinema.

▶ **Russian Society**

Amongst a variety of social events, last year's celebration of Maslenitsa was particularly popular, with lots of traditional Russian pancakes, music and, of course, a fair amount of vodka. The year ended with a pre-exams Soviet Kitsch club night featuring Russian and Eastern European trashy disco music.

▶ **German Society**

The German Society last year organised events ranging from a weekly Stammtisch, where members came together to practise and improve their German to a 'Weihnachtsfest' at Christmas. This year they plan to run a monthly club night and a weekly film night showing a wide range of German films.

▶ **International Society**

With around 2600 members, ISoc is one of the largest societies at Glasgow. They run a packed calendar of over 200 different events throughout the year, from visits to cultural and historical sites across the UK each weekend to movie nights and dance classes.

▶ **Nordic Society**

Last year, the Nordic Society organised pub and movie nights alongside traditional Nordic events such as the Pikkujoulu Christmas party, the SitSit/Sittning formal dinner, and the Vappu celebration. A particular highlight of the year was the night organised for the ice-hockey world championship final between Sweden and Finland.

▶ **Jewish Society**

The group organise regular Friday night dinners, as well as movie and pizza nights. They host two big parties each year at Hanukkah and Purim. This year there will be extra events as they celebrate their centenary.

▶ **Students of Theology & Religious Studies (STARS)**

STARS is a new society primarily for Theology & Religious Studies students. They aim to have monthly guest speakers covering topics including sectarianism, spirituality in bereavement and the place of religion in society along with trips out to places of relevance, film nights and the like.

▶ **Christian Outreach (UCO)**

UCO list their activities as: Prayer meetings, social events, discussions, seminars, international Christian events, Bible studies, lunches, youth work and, er, "the odd game of Ultimate Cabbage".



A guest lecturer addresses the Glasgow University Law Society

► **Christian Union**

The CU hold regular events such as weekly halls groups, tea and coffee stalls outside the Hive and Cheesy Pop, prayer meetings and informal groups for people who want to find out more about Christianity. Meetings Wednesday at 5.30pm in the QMU.

► **Environmental Club**

From clean-ups at the student garden on Willowbank Crescent to crafts, talks and a debate in Go Green week to working with the WWF, the Environmental Club cover a wide range of environmental campaigning and volunteering on campus and beyond.

► **Food Co-op**

Started last year with the aim of promoting sustainable and healthy eating through selling ethically produced dried goods at wholesale prices. They are currently organising a weekly fruit and veg box scheme, making food-related zines and setting up an allotment amongst many plans.

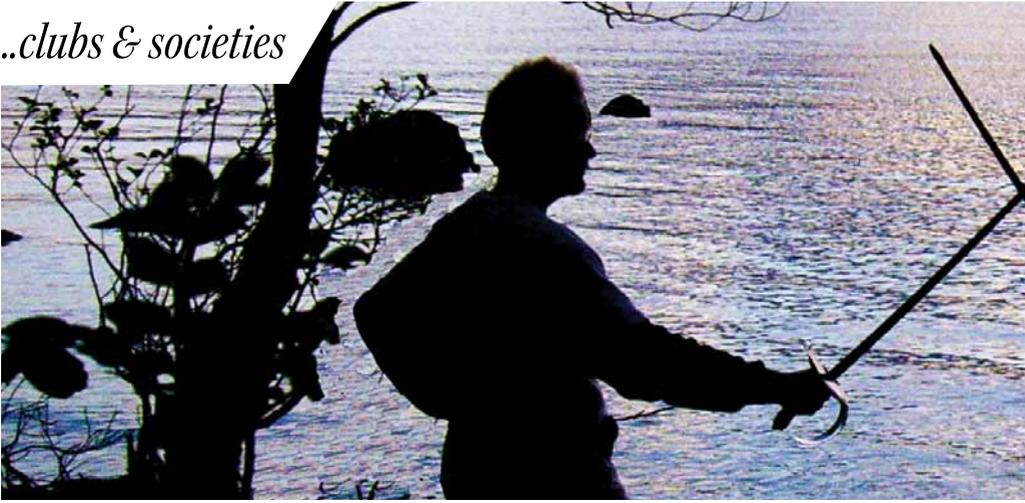
► **Aegis Students**

A campaign group focused on raising awareness and funds for those in Darfur and other unstable areas in Sudan and Rwanda. With the recent independence of South Sudan, there is concern that this could trigger more mass violence along the unstable border regions. This year, the group's main focus is to increase awareness of the situation around campus and pressure politicians to support the people of the whole region of Sudan. Meetings Wednesday at 5pm in the QMU.

► **Student Action for Refugees (STAR)**

A national network of groups in the UK, working to help improve the lives of refugees through volunteering, fundraising and challenging the myths that surround refugees and asylum seekers. Last year the group attended demonstrations against Home Office decisions, and slept outside to raise funds for, and awareness of, asylum-seekers and refugees forced to sleep on the streets. Meetings Tuesday at 6pm in the QMU.

...clubs & societies



► ***Reachout! Society***

Part of a charity working with young people in deprived areas. They run an Open College Network accredited mentoring course for students who can then do one-to-one mentoring at Sighthill Youth Centre, involving trips to museums and sports events, and help as classroom assistants at St. Roch's Secondary School and Springburn Academy.

► ***Amnesty International***

Affiliated with Amnesty International UK, the group meet once a week and campaign against human rights abuse. The meetings consist of writing letters, hearing visiting speakers, and planning fundraising and awareness raising events. One of their first events this year will be a weekend away for a sponsored hike/walk/cycle.

► ***Red Cross (GURC)***

Supporting the Red Cross in first aid, fundraising and humanitarian action. Fundraising events last year included a céilidh and sponsored CPR whilst campaign issues included HIV/AIDS, Scottish resilience, and refugees and asylum seekers.

► ***LGBT Society (GULGBT)***

GULGBT have a wide programme planned for this year, including previous favourites such as the annual céilidh and book club

alongside the society's first foray into political and campaigning orientated events. There's a huge range of people involved in the society so whether you're looking for heated debate or an introduction to the Glasgow scene there should be something for everyone.

► ***Scottish Nationalist Association (GUSNA)***

GUSNA support Scottish Independence and the election of members of the Scottish National Party. This year's plans include guest speakers, an 85th anniversary party, on campus and local constituency campaigning for local council elections and the independence referendum.

► ***Conservative and Unionist Society***

When they're not out campaigning for the Conservatives in elections, the society also enjoy dinners with speakers and less formal events like trips away. This year they will be focusing efforts on local council elections.

► ***Leftist Law Society (GULLS)***

Last year, GULLS hosted a variety of lectures and debates from high profile figures from across the legal, political and activist professions. They also put on workshops to train legal observers for demonstrations



Members of the Chivalric Dream Society practice their swordsmanship

and marches as well as set up a journal. This year's workshops will cover areas as diverse as property and housing rights through to protesting and campaigning.

► ***Model United Nations Debating Society***

Debates in the United Nations format, every Monday at 6.30pm in the Boyd Orr Building Lecture Theatre B, dealing with a variety of current and past issues. The society also attend Model United Nations conferences across the UK and Europe.

► ***Parliament of Oceana***

In its inaugural session this mock parliament will be meeting to debate all relevant topics that might come up when attempting to form a prosperous nation. These debates will centre on matters of moral, social and political relevance to both the fictitious Republic of Oceana and the real world.

► ***Dialectic Society***

This year marks the 150th anniversary of Glasgow's debating society so expect some extra special guests this year, although their normal line-ups can include names such as Charles Kennedy and Andrew Neil (both former members). Highlights of their calendar include the Inter-Board debate where the presidents of those acronyms you keep hearing about (the QMU, GUU, SRC and

GUSA) all fight it out for intellectual victory and their five annual 12-hour Parliamentary debates. Most of the society's activities take place in the GUU [see p12].

► ***Chess Club***

The Chess Club meet in Committee Room 1 of the QMU every Thursday from 4-6pm, welcoming chess players of all abilities. Events and competitions both within the club and with local rivals are planned for the coming year along with the usual post-game trip to the pub.

► ***PauseGaming***

Pause's main events are LAN parties, where they take consoles or PCs to the QMU and play video games and hang out over the course of a day or weekend. Other events include nights out to the cinema and LAN centres. There are of course less social gatherings to be had online, and the society plan to rent a server to improve their non-IRL activities for the coming year.

► ***Chivalric Dream Society (GUCDS)***

GUCDS teach European history through the medium of historical, martial and creative arts. Activities range from armour construction, ale brewing and weaving to authentic historical sword fighting and other historic weapons based training.

...clubs & societies

▶ ***Kendo Club (GUKC)***

GUKC hold weekly training sessions and participate in tournaments around the country. They are currently the university champions after winning the 2011 University Kendo Taikai in London. As winners they will be hosting this year's tournament in Glasgow in the coming year.

▶ ***Kung Fu Fitness***

KFF offers training combining martial yoga, self defence, spirituality and fitness. During the summer the club held a weekend long training seminar in Combat Bando. The club hope to repeat this with a return visit to their sister branch in London this year.

▶ ***Transcendental Meditation Society***

A new society hosting weekly group meditation sessions for people who are already instructed in TM as well as talks on the nature of consciousness and other topics from both visiting speakers and members. They'll be holding courses in TM throughout the year and fundraising to partially help students who cannot afford the group's course fees.

▶ ***Art Of Living Society***

Weekly yoga and meditation class in "the arts of breathing, silence and meditation".

▶ ***Psychology Society***

They aim to introduce psychology students to the subject in practice alongside wider mental health topics. Their calendar this year includes talks, a debate and the launch of a mentoring programme.

▶ ***Medical Chirurgical Society (MedChir)***

MedChir has been around for over 200 years (longer than the University tower and both unions) and are still going strong - running carol singing and charity fundraisers, their own sports teams, academic evenings, guest lecturers and, of course, the ubiquitous pub crawl with a twist - the "scrubby" is a Sub-crawl in medical scrubs.

▶ ***G-gnomes (Genetics & MCB Society)***

The society run bimonthly guest lectures followed by pub quizzes for Genetics and Molecular & Cellular Biology students along with other social and charity events. They have a range of speakers already planned for the coming year from both industry and academia including Dr Frank Jiggins and author Alastair Moffat.

▶ ***Dental Student Society (GDSS)***

A social society for Dental students who in addition to the usual pub crawls and drinking games attend annual sports days all over the UK and run events like race nights, a talent shows, karaoke and this year potentially a mystery bus tour.

▶ ***Zoological Society***

The society organises weekly meetings (normally Thursdays), with guest speakers from the RSPB, Froglife, Buglife, Amazonia, BRISC et al, along with field trips and conservation volunteering. There's a strong social side to the group with the highlight being their Halloween Party in the Zoology Museum. Best dressed (animal) wins a prize.

▶ ***Student Teachers Society***

A brand new society starting in 2011. Their plan is to organise social events, sports and games, extra-curricular speakers and charitable events for education students. Being new, they're going to need some people to help get the society up and running, get in touch if you're keen.

▶ ***Law Society (GULS)***

Open to all law students and those who are planning on a career in law. They hold regular social events alongside academic talks from prolific members of the legal profession and legal debates. This year they have also teamed up with some law firms who have agreed to hold frequent employment events, which should give members a leg up with their summer placement applications.



A Photosoc member on an trip to the Titan Crane in Clydebank

► ***Philosophy Society***

For the coming year the society have planned talks on subjects from feminism to animal rights to the nature of perception and other philosophical stuff. There will be meetings of the society dedicated to several shorter talks by students from first and second years, to let people get stuck into pressing philosophical issues in a friendly and encouraging environment.

There are of course the usual pervasive pub crawls and other social events in order to numb the brain after days spent considering weighty issues.

► ***Politics Society***

The Politics Society usually meet on a Tuesday night for a “pint & politics” session to discuss the current affairs of the day. For the coming year they have debates, revision sessions, guest speakers and trips to parliaments planned. Students of Politics and anyone with an interest in politics, regardless of political affiliation and ideology, is welcome to join.

► ***History Society***

Last year’s events included quizzes, social evenings, a visit to the University Archives, guest lectures and film screenings.

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

SECOND HAND BOOKSHOP

Save money on your course texts

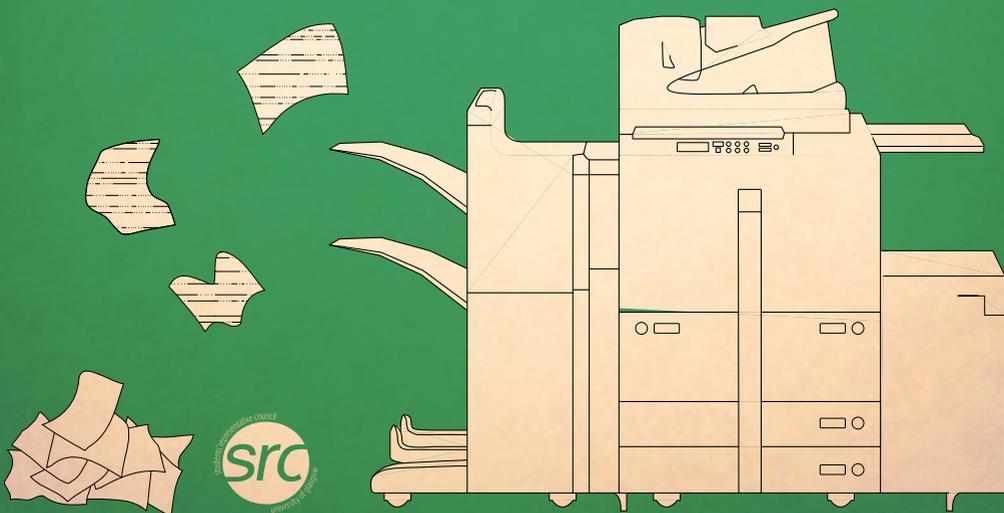
John McIntyre Building (University Avenue)
0141 339 8541
bookshop@src.gla.ac.uk
glasgowstudent.net/services/bookshop

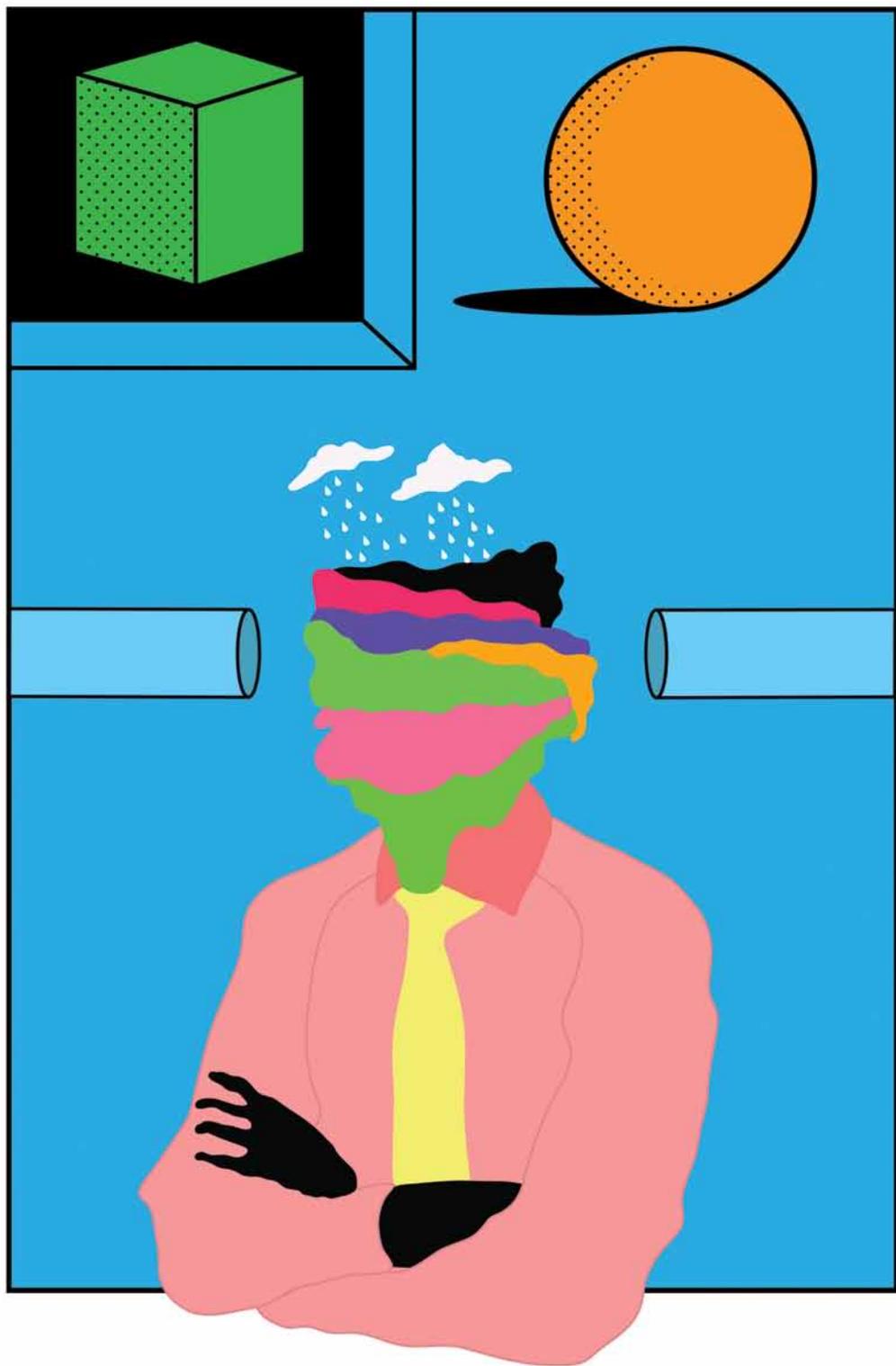
STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL
UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW



printing & copying

(and scanning, binding, laminating)
upstairs in the john mcintyre building





STUDYING

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

<i>The library</i>	<i>36</i>
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<i>Study, essays & exams</i>	<i>42</i>
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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, but remember to always bring your student ID card. Without it the security guards won't let you in no matter what the sob-story is.

Books

The library contains over 2.5 million books, and also offers access to a hefty number of journals online, so there's no excuse for a sparse bibliography in your coursework.

Main Collection

The main collection fills the shelves of levels 3-11. Main Collection books may be borrowed for four weeks at a time, and five renewals are permitted. The main exceptions to this rule are back issues of periodicals and journals (eg New Scientist, Nature) which may be borrowed in volumes for one week at a time.

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. Beware that in some cases there may only be one copy of an item. 4 hour and 24 hour loan items are issued on a first come, first served basis. You'll know how long they're issued for by the big sticker on the front – pink for 4 hour, yellow for 24 hour.

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 p40].

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 on-line 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 and most effective way to do it is to search the catalogue on the library website or by using the catalogue computers located around the library.

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 call numbers. Books of similar subject matter have

similar call numbers, so you will often find many useful books nearby the one you were looking for.

The holdshelf

If you find that the book you want is out on loan, you can put a 'hold' on it online. This means that when it comes in, you will be notified that the book is being held for you at the Lending Desk. 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 account 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 Lending Desk or by using the self-service machines on the ground floor. 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:

- » Access your record at the library's website, by choosing 'View Your Own Record' and typing in the 14 digit barcode number on your student ID card, then simply choose the items you wish to renew.
- » Take the book to the self-service machines
- » Contact the library by phone (0141 330 6701) 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 three - one

outside the building, one just inside the entrance and a drop for the short loan books, next to the short loan collection entrance. If you want to take new books out immediately you should return your books at the Lending 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 down to below that level. 5-20p per item per day might not seem like a lot, but fines can accumulate quickly, especially if you have more than one overdue at a time. You must pay your fines before being allowed to take out any more, or at the very latest before graduation. Lost books cost a standard 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...

Campus

► **SRC 2nd Hand Bookshop**

JOHN MCINTYRE BUILDING

The SRC's bookshop is one of the many hidden gems of the John McIntyre building, like the reception and cheap printing services, it's tucked away down a corridor up the 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. 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.

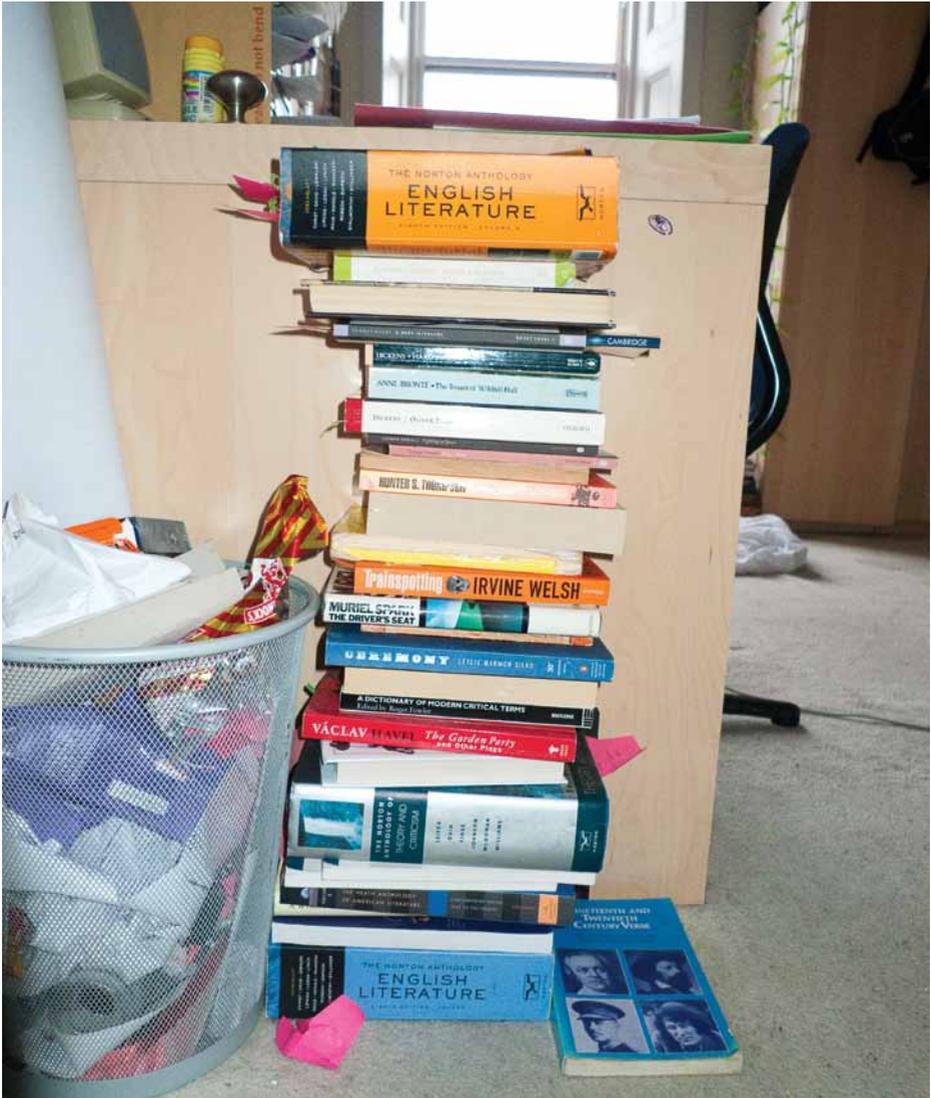
Online

► **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.

As a student with a reading list you might find yourself buying books in bulk, on a budget and free from any ideas about "shopping experience" - in that case, these sort of sites might be your best option. You'll soon find your entire wish list spookily filled by next term's required reading.



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.

The SRC Second Hand Bookshop is a hassle free way of converting piles of unused books into cash

studying...

STUDY, ESSAYS & EXAMS

Introductory lectures

The first lecture hour 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.

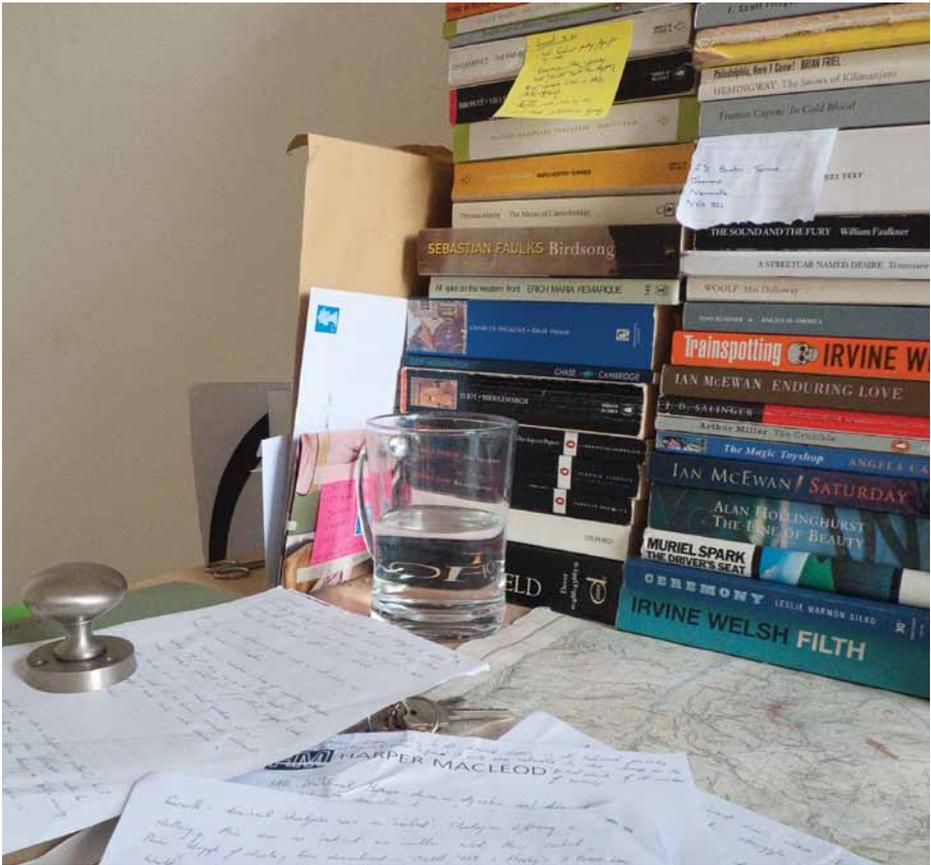
Attendance

Different departments have different rules on attendance, but as a general rule 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 of knowledge expected when exams come around, so missing too many of them 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. You will need a doctor's letter to cover any extended absence through illness (remember to go during your illness, not after). If you are experiencing personal problems then remember that the SRC Advice Centre can help or point you in the direction of someone else.

The University's Student Absence Policy is available on the Registry website.



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 up to 7p for a black and white A4 page they are not the cheapest.

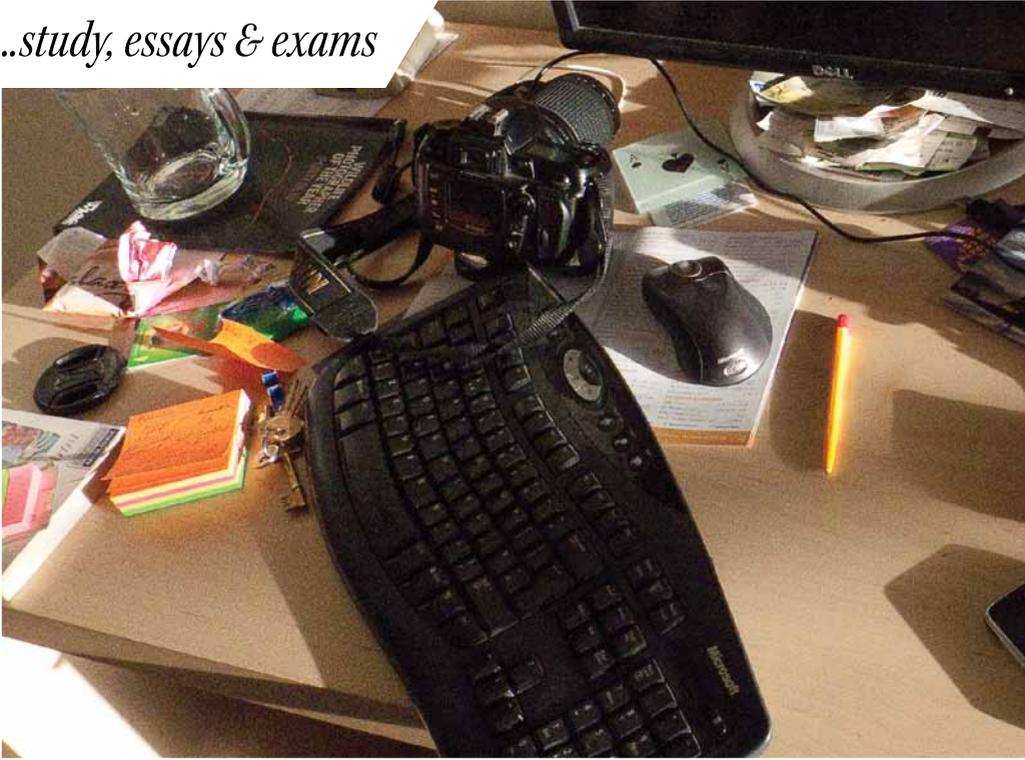
Another of the many gems hidden in the John McIntyre Building is the SRC's printing and copying service. They offer the cheapest prices in the West End with prices going down to 3 pence per page if you top up with £20 or more.

A3 is double the price of A4 and colour is ten times the price of black and white. 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.

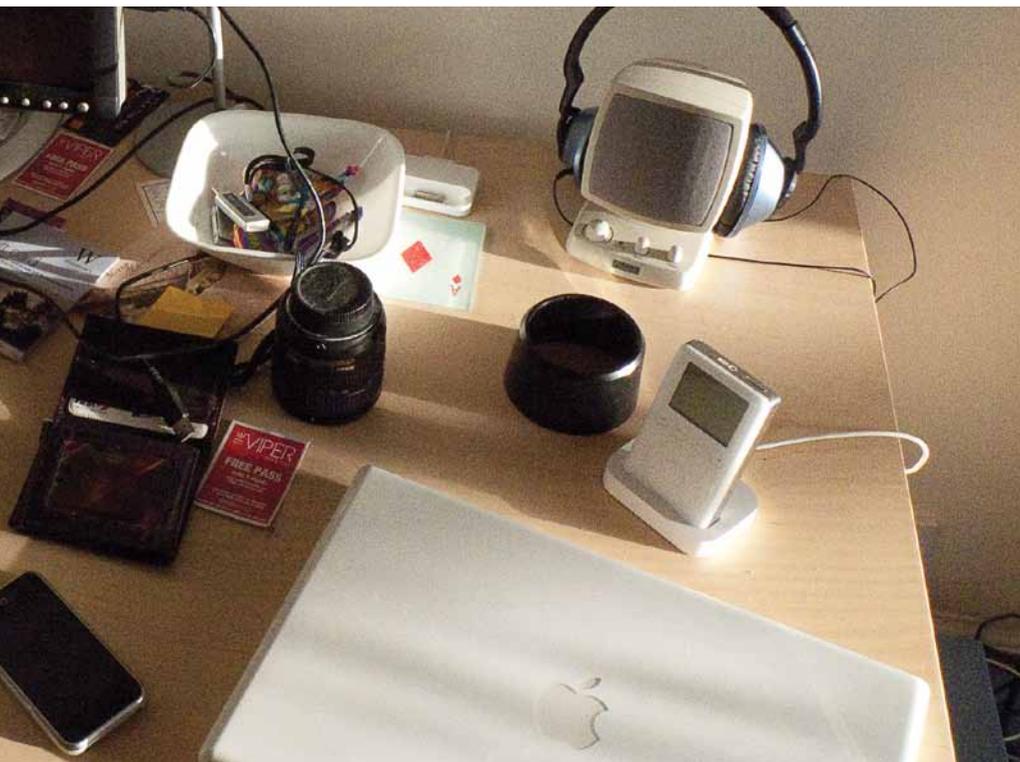
Suites of software and services designed specifically for note-taking and archiving, such as Evernote, will make keeping your notes organised a piece of cake: allowing you

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 p40, 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 accu-

rate 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.

Student Conduct

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

If you find yourself called to a hearing for an act that is deemed to be a student conduct offence, seek immediate assistance from the SRC Advice Centre.

► ***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 some 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

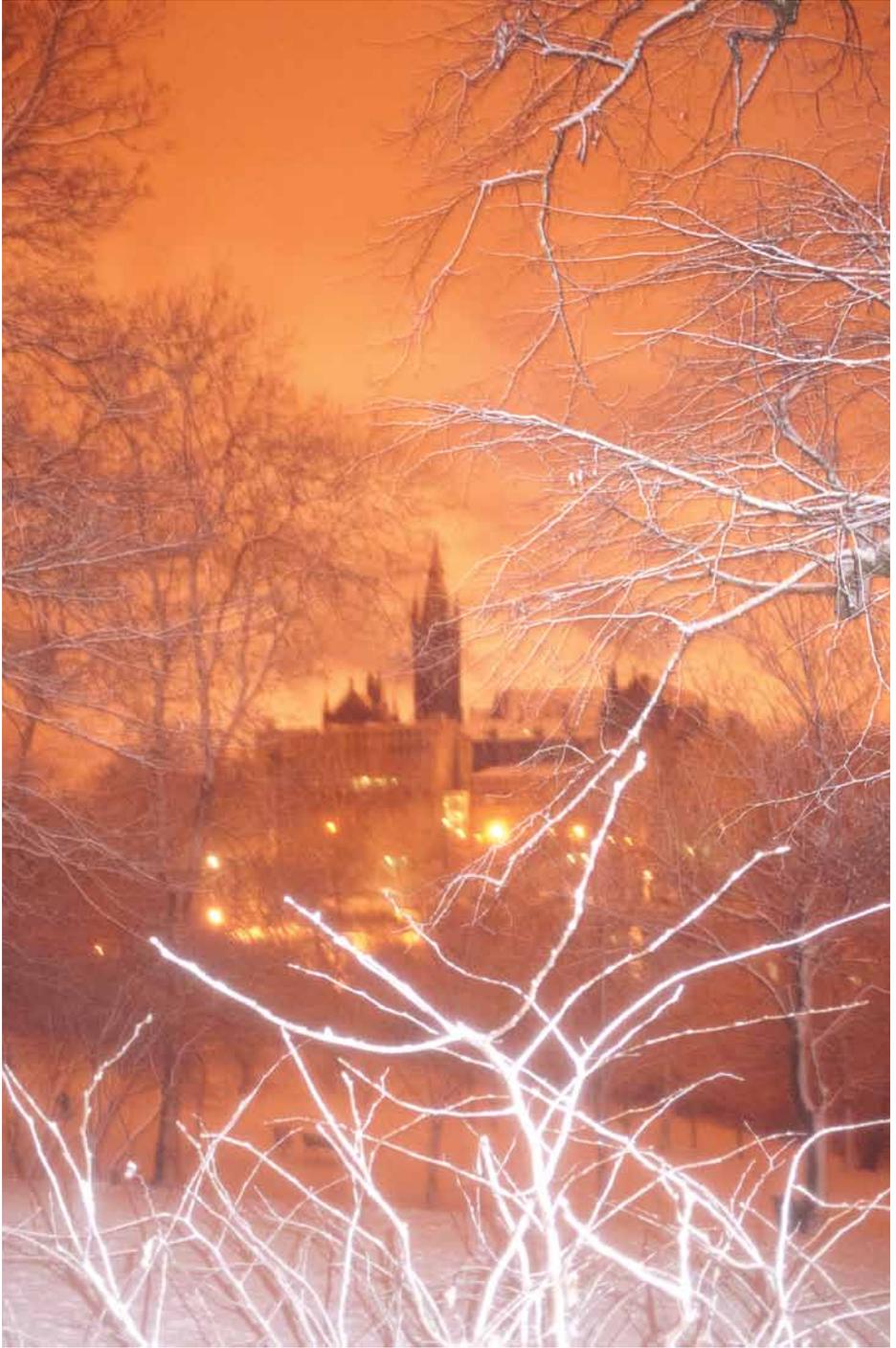
Of course, informal resolution is not appropriate in every single situation – there will be some cases which are so serious that you do not want to approach the other person or do not feel it is appropriate (for example in some bullying or harassment cases). It is always a good idea to decide what you want from the situation as this will help you focus on achieving a positive outcome.

If you do wish to proceed to the formal complaint stage, you should complete a "Stage 1 Complaint Form", which is available from the Senate Office website. If you are still a registered student of the University, you can make a complaint up to 12 months from the date of whatever you are complaining about. If you are no longer registered at the University, the time limit is 6 months from the date the incident occurred. Complaints outwith this timeframe may be considered but only supported by evidence for the delay and this remains at the Clerk of Senate's discretion. The University Complaints Procedure has details of who you should send your complaint to (this depends upon the type of complaint).

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 specially 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**

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**

The Disability Service co-ordinates support within the University 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 information and 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.



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

The Enquiry Desk, based in the Fraser Building, functions as first point of contact for queries related to all student services and any other problems you might have. This is also the place to go for all University related payments apart from library fines [see p39] and accommodation charges (which are administered by Residential Services).

► ***International Student Advisers***

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.

You can find the International Student Advisers on Level 2 of the Fraser Building. See Clubs & societies on p24 to find clubs that may be able to help you improve your English language skills whilst in Glasgow.

► ***Student Learning Service***

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, note-making, 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***

The University has a nursery for staff and students that can help you 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 at the nursery on Hillhead Street. 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 £26 per day as of August 2011, but it is possible to apply for subsidies through the University Court, which can help with the costs.



CITY LIFE

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

Idylls in the city 54

Beyond the city 58

Culture 60

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Eating out 70

Bars 72

Off-licences 76

Clubs 78

Live music 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.

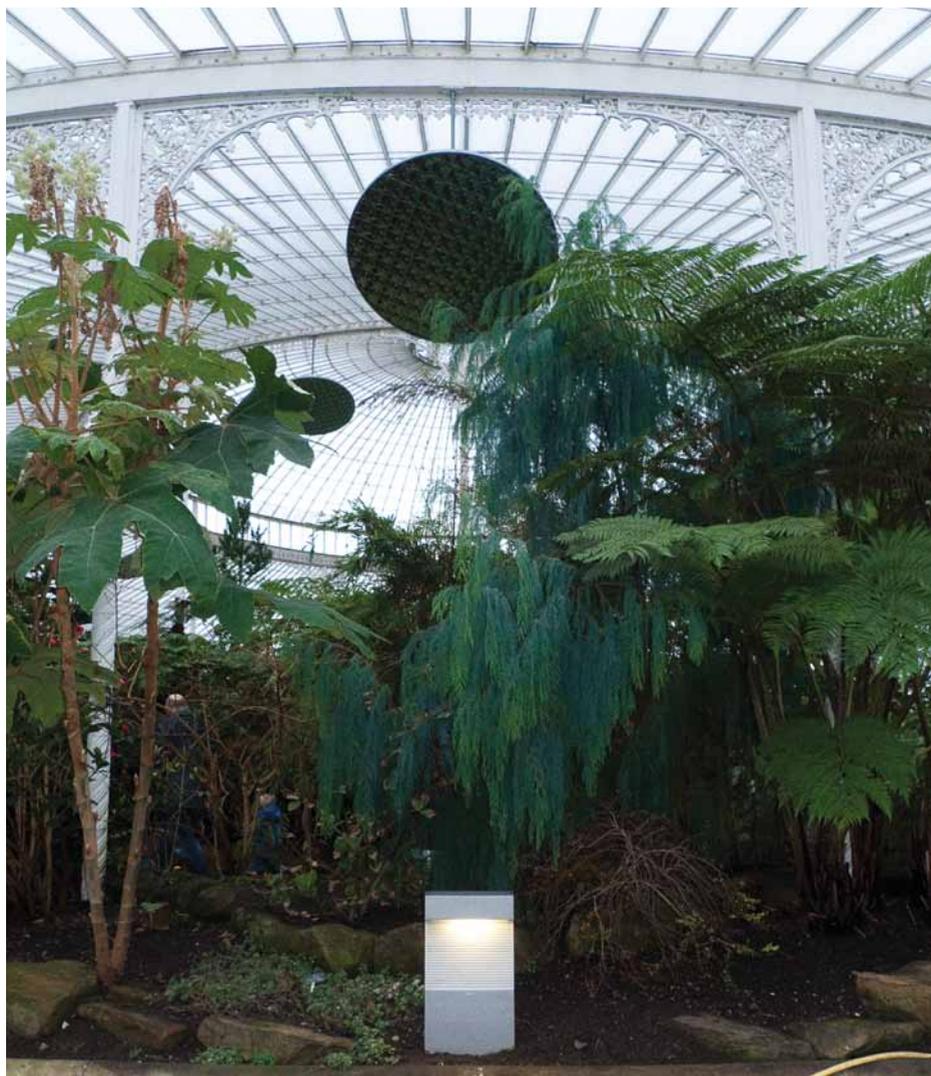
► ***Kelvingrove Park***

One 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, "The Hill" promises to provide an unbearable cocktail of idiots laughing in the face of gravity attempting to play football on a moderately steep gradient; having to sit next to someone's gross barbecue; half your fellow patrons getting busted by the police for drinking economy cider by the gallon; all nearby bins becoming impromptu landfill sites on any day it's remotely nice outside, and the inevitable misguided 'taps aff' (if you haven't discovered what this is yet, consider yourself lucky) crew to name just a few...

In short, if it's a nice day then Kelvingrove is going to be overcrowded and not that relaxing a place to be. Being the most popular area of the park, 'The Hill' will probably be worse than anywhere else generally inspiring an inverse relationship between walking pace and eye-contact.



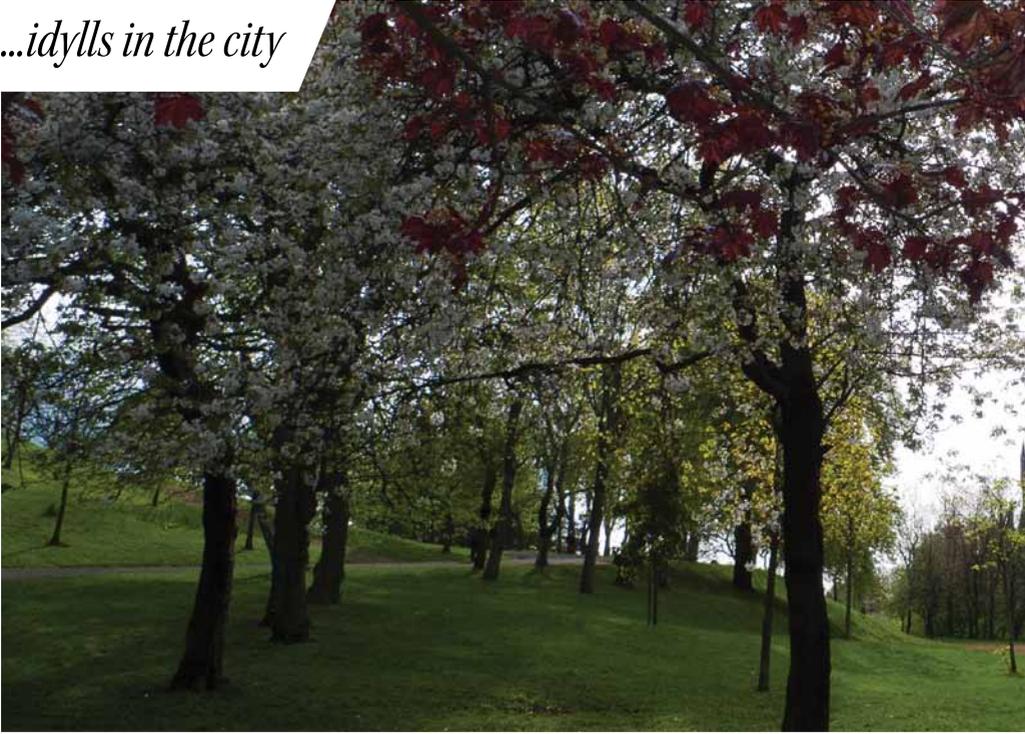
Kelvingrove is best enjoyed when it's quieter. As a student whose location lets you make the most of the park easily, this doesn't necessarily limit your visits to during the colder, wetter weather or off-peak times either (not that they aren't pleasant options, though). Straying away from the main thoroughfares,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

...idylls in the city



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.

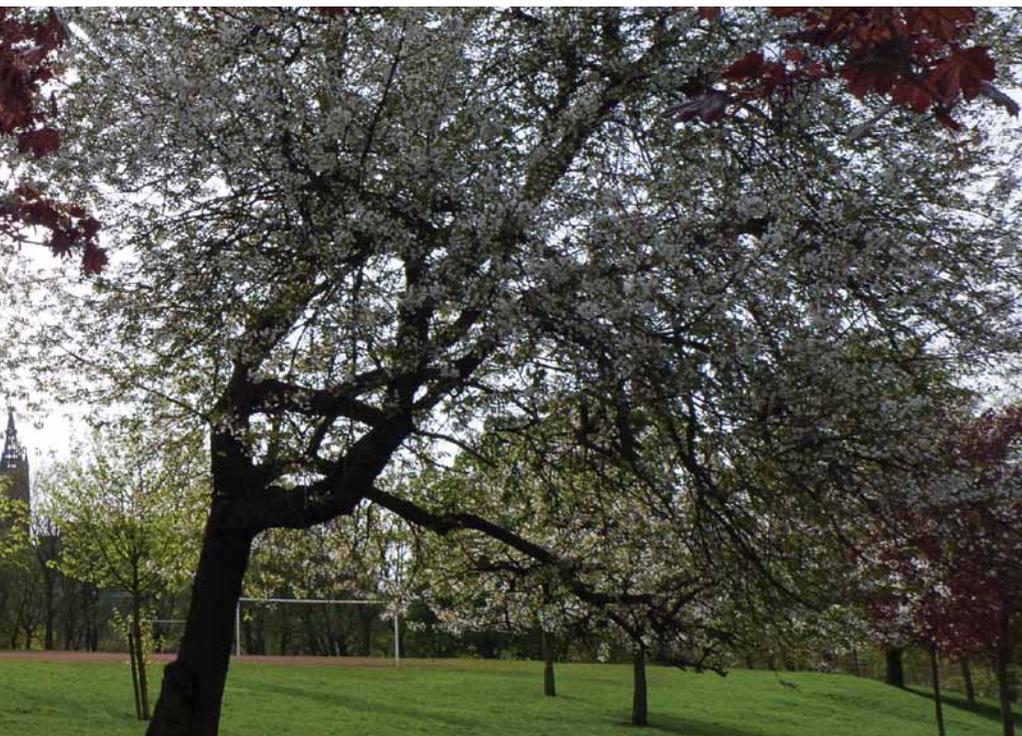
► *Kelvin Walkway*

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 nov-

elty 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 beyond High Street, next to Glasgow Cathedral, and is the site of some of the city's best (and most perma-

nent) 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 p60]. 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 Cafe. 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 £8 return and take about an hour.

► *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 7 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 two or three 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 as long as you are responsible, you are allowed to camp. The only place exempt from this is the east side of Loch Lomond due to its 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***

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

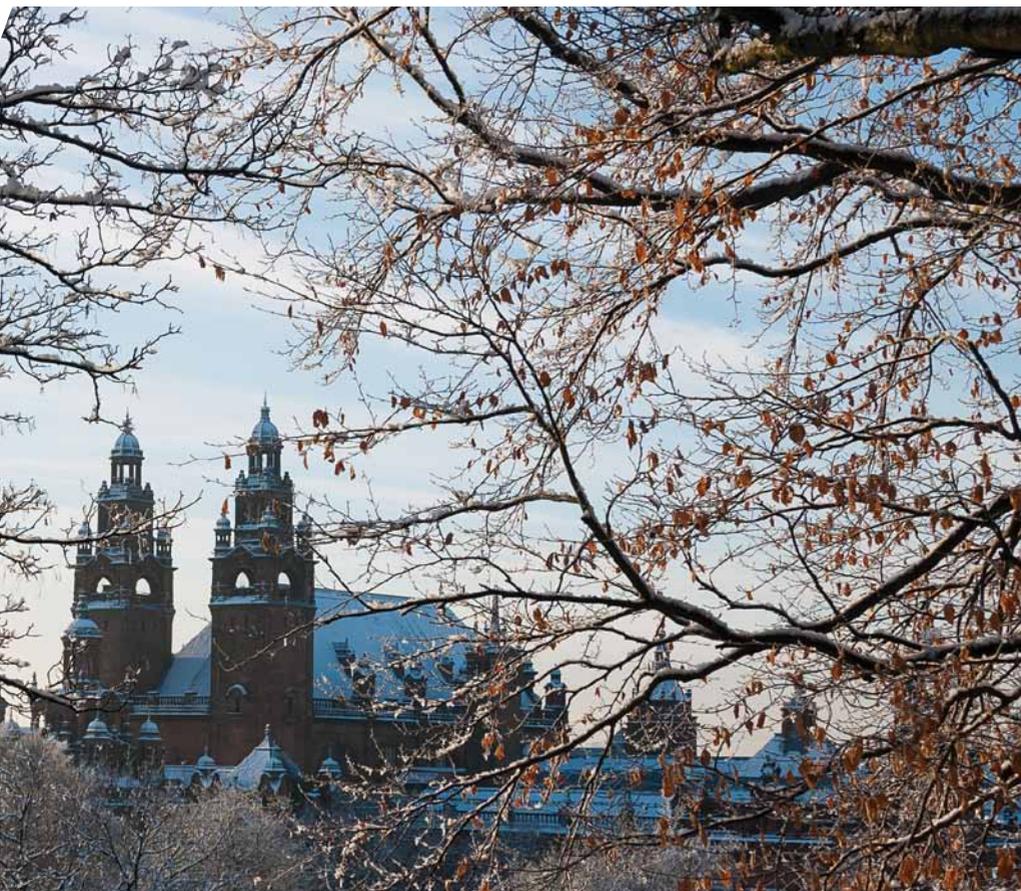
architect Zaha Hadid, it's basically a paean to the city's transport through the ages, with vintage subway trains, trams and cars and three full-size reproductions of how Glasgow streets used to look.

► ***Kelvingrove***

Situated behind the University in Kelvingrove Park, 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.

► ***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



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

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 perma-

nent collections and exhibits 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. There's a focus on exciting, risk-taking work, from beloved cartoonist David Shrigley to a controversial gay life festival.

culture...

VISUAL ART

It may come as a surprise to some, but Glasgow is renowned for being a truly creative city.

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.

► *Recoat*

NORTH WOODSIDE ROAD, WEST END

An independent gallery, focused on graphic art and graffiti, which also sells the kind of super-cool clothes, magazines and books which will rob you of your grocery money in the space of 20 exhilarating minutes. Run by single-speed bike obsessives, they put on regular events, usually fusing music, exhibition and things with wheels.

► *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*

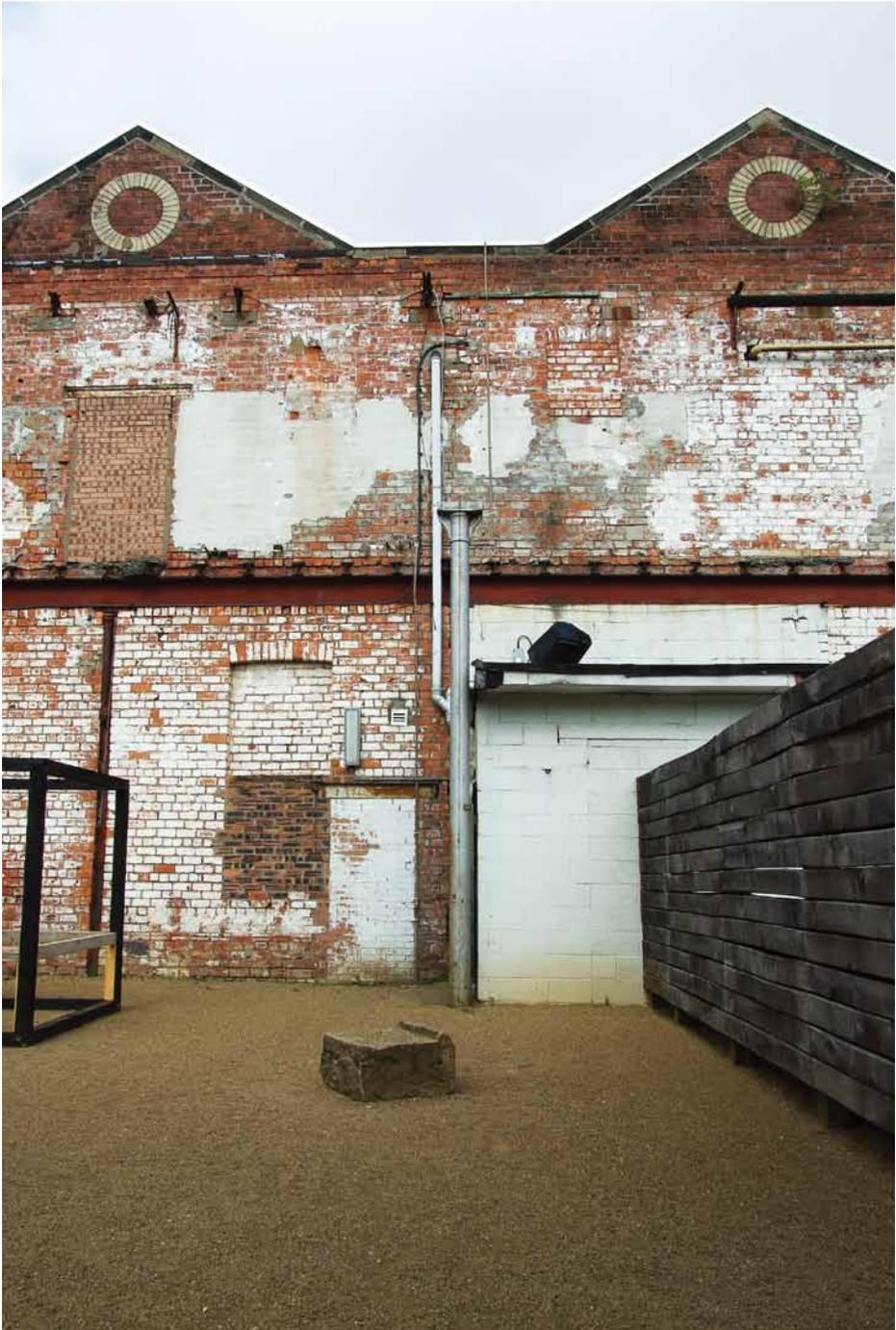
SAUCHIEHALL STREET, CITY CENTRE

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***

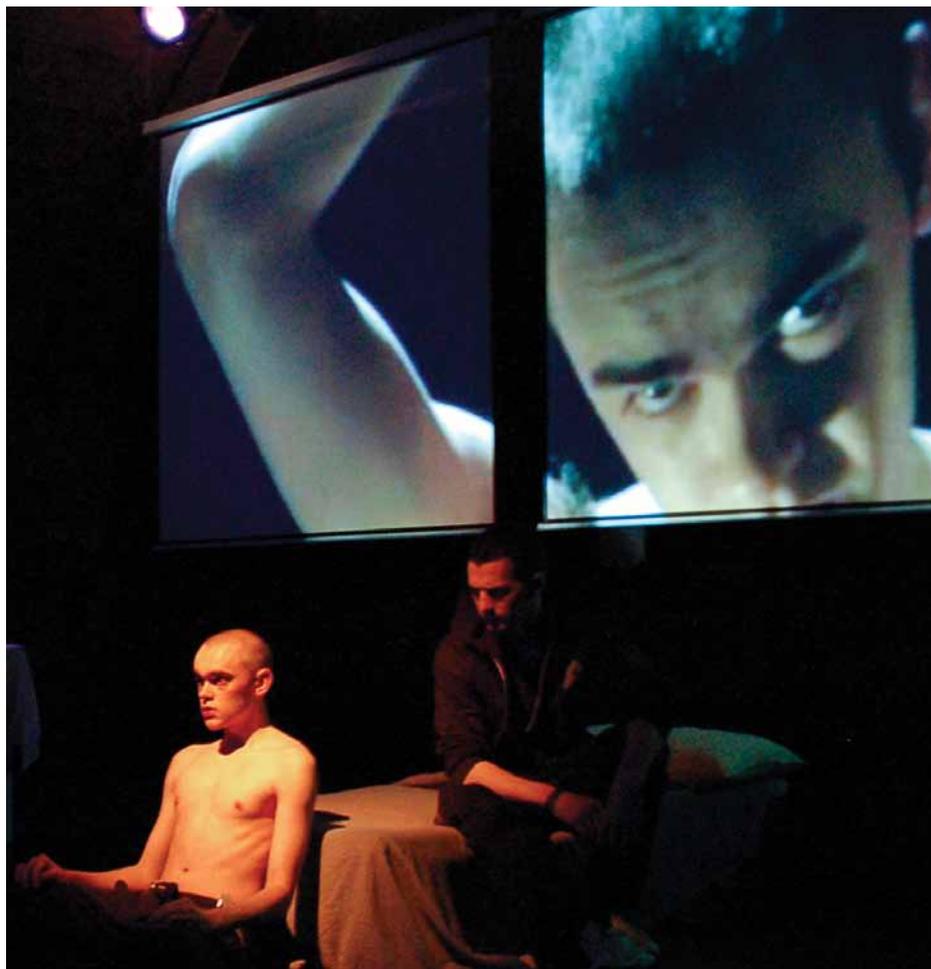
As the name suggests, the Citz, as it's fondly known by veterans and the involved local community, generally puts on accessible, entertaining plays, often with a bent towards Glaswegian or Scottish social history. That's not to say it's without a contemporary edge; their new artistic director has promised 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 £1 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 (Megavideo's 72 minutes of 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, and IMAX with the largest cinema screen in Scotland, a variety of independent and arthouse production companies and distribution spaces, and a film festival which continues to flourish whilst some of its nearby peers struggle - 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 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 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 cu-

linary 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.

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

Vegetarians and vegans can probably eat out pretty well in the places already mentioned, but wholefoods shops and delis like Grass-roots (Woodlands Road) should cover any bases which might be missed otherwise.



The West End's well-noted surplus of boutique coffee shops (Artisan Roast on Gibson Street is a particularly respected example) are also worth checking out for sandwiches and snacks - food for students, by graduates.

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

Bar Gambrino on Great Western Road has a constant two for one pizza deal running, and a great selection of toppings to choose from. As well as two options from Glasgow's own West Brewery on tap, it boasts a well stocked bar with bottled beers from around the world and a decent wine list. For the rare sunny days there are plenty of seats outside, and big tables inside for larger groups as well as more intimate ones. Tip: if you are extra hungry, bring an odd number of people and split the spare free pizza.

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.

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.

Curry

With it being the Kingfisher Curry Capital of Britain for the fourth time, the most difficult thing about going out for a curry in Glasgow is deciding where to go. Some of the best in the West End include Mother India's Cafe, which encourages tapas-style eating so you get to try more than one dish and really adds to the atmosphere of the meal, and the Wee Curry Shop (Ashton Lane & Byres Road) - the product of a Scottish owner with a love of Indian food and kitchen of Indian chefs which offers its signature haggis pakora. For something really special, head to Balbir's on Church Street and ask for the banquet meal. You will be asked about your specific preferences and tastes, and will be brought an array of impressive dishes made specially to order for you and your guests.



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 up your sleeve to take them. 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, who will inevitably become overnight connoisseurs of "that pub that they went to once that was quite good", should definitely have somewhere to go that you can all agree on. Chances are though, it'll be wherever is closest and (surprise, surprise) wherever you all went last time - the following section might help you find your next local.

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 flagship 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 (Tennent's younger sibling) 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 student club drags of 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

Scene hangouts

With more of a focus on creating a particular vibe and, in turn, attracting a particular clientele - if you find a bar which suits you, then you'll gladly walk the extra five minutes beyond the usual student hangouts to reach it. Some of these bars might cater to a particular musical taste (in this case you can expect the music to be a fair bit louder than in your usual 'itunes on shuffle' type joint) or a certain social aspect of the local community, but in general they tend to be reasonably priced, relaxed affairs.

As an area already saturated with bars and restaurants, you won't find too many of these places in the West End. Found on the way into town, The Halt (on Woodlands Road) and The Captains Rest and The Belle (on Great Western Road) are probably your best bets. These pubs have their roots as 'old-man pubs' but have adapted to attract a more diverse crowd; the regular gigs and music nights (and, in the case of the Rest, their food) have resulted in an active community springing up around these boozers.

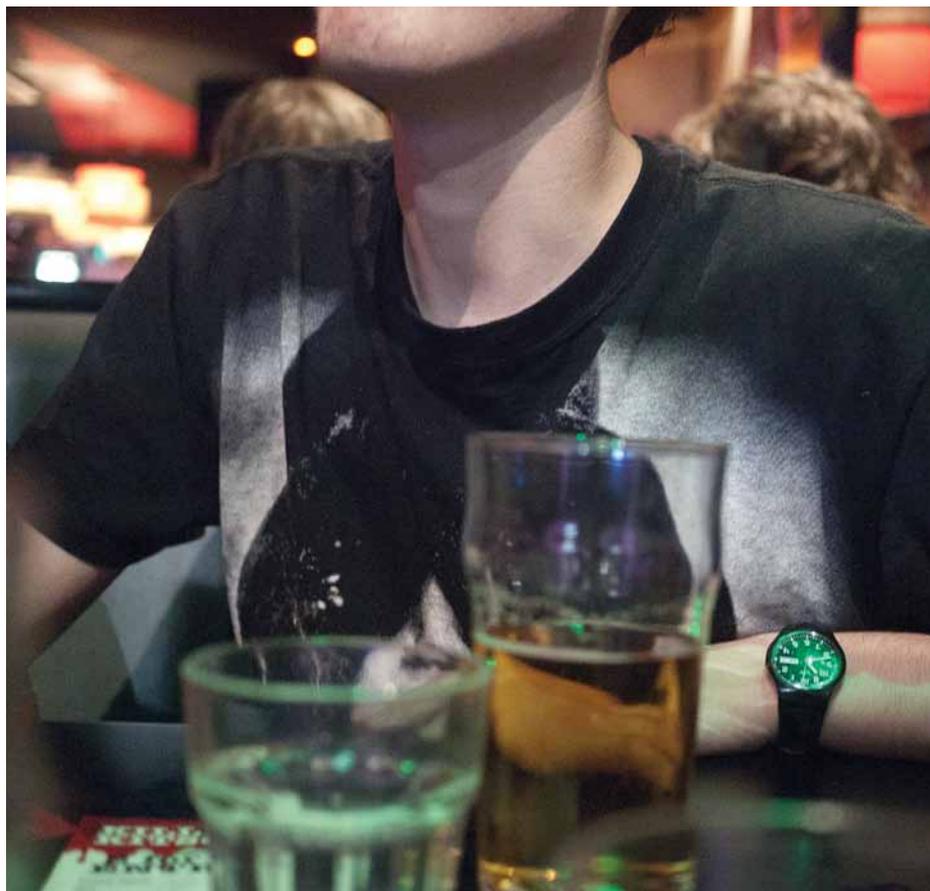
Stereo, Mono and The 78 are all run by the same people and offer charming variations on a central ethos of unpretentious socialising in welcoming, comfortable spaces. Each bar has its particular highlight - be it the ambiance and food available at The 78 or the home-brewed concoctions you can try at Mono whilst catching a gig or browsing their record store - but they all offer good booze and vegan food, and with their spread of locations you'll be catered for from the West End right into the heart of town.

Nice n Sleazy, or Sleazys to its army of loyal and varied regulars, found on 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. 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. 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 should visit specialist pubs like the Ben Nevis on Argyle Street; the suitably patriotic decor will probably whet your tourist appetite as well.



Polymath

Glasgow has several bars who offer the whole pub experience to the highest standard whilst still retaining a down to earth and accessible atmosphere and price list. The Ivy 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 locally-sourced and carefully thought out menu and residencies from some of the city's most respected DJs.

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 boozer is richly deserved. The performances from Muldoon's Ragtime Jazz and Blues Band every Saturday at MacSorleys are a particular highlight.

Tennent's is the default lager in most Glasgow bars. It's better than Carling or Fosters but not as nice as it's other local lager St Mungo's which is cropping up in more and more pubs.

(Pictured above: Nice N Sleazy)

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, The 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 really 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, LuckyMe and Fortified are the darlings of the London music media and the city's best clubs seem to be two steps ahead of anywhere else.

All clubs close at 3am (or 2am if they're outwith the city centre) and most open between 10pm and 11pm. Most have a student discount and some will have free passes going round on the night or reduced entry guestlists for facebook followers and the like. There's no one 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 UK bass heads will still throw in classics from Prince to Underground Resistance.

► *Numbers*

FIRST FRIDAYS, SUB CLUB

Numbers manage to somehow be at the vanguard of the UK's electronic 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.

► *Optimo*

MONTHLY SUNDAYS, SUB CLUB

Their 13 years of weekly Sundays will go down with The Hacienda and Paradise Garage in clubbing mythology. After a year off, they've just launched a new monthly with the first night 'Optimo celebrates 25 years of



acid house' as a sign of the sort of one-off, carefully curated nights they have planned. People will tell you it's not as good as it used to be, but the generation before them probably said that too; the resident's ever shifting tastes and heterogeneous back-catalogue means the night never stands still for long. An old poster of theirs said "you won't like it, sugar", and it's not for everyone, but if it is for you, be prepared to write-off a fair few Monday mornings to it.

► **La Cheetah**

QUEEN STREET, CITY CENTRE

A small sweaty basement space under a pub which holds about 200 people. Also the home of the city's best small nights. Residents like Stay Plastic, Highlife, Mount Heart Attack and Slabs all form a real community of music geeks and DJs. The entry fee is normally about £8/10 but mainly worth it to see obscure and rare acts up-close and personal.

► **Subcity**

Subcity's reach extends far beyond the normal university radio pigeon-hole [see p19], one of its best exports are its parties. Subcity only puts on DJs who contribute at the station which is a good thing as they happen to be the home of pretty much every upcoming DJ in the city. They don't have a regular ven-

ue or vibe but their in-house technical team always go overboard with the sound system and have recently produced some impressive visual set-ups as well. You might not know any of the names playing but previous regulars have gone on to become household names including Hudson Mohawke, Optimo, Slam, Mungo's Hi Fi...

► **Pressure**

LAST FRIDAYS, THE ARCHES

The home of techno in Glasgow run by Slam and Soma Records sees some of the biggest names in the business 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 (around £15-£25).

► **Vitamins**

One of many smaller collectives worth checking out in the city, the Vitamins crew do two things well: bringing together otherwise disparate elements of the Glasgow scene and finding some interesting, if not entirely legal, places to hold a party. Previous parties saw a few hundred folk in the know head to a temporary club built in a forest, a warehouse and a rammed 3 story flat in the West End.

Indie & soul

► **Pinup Nights**

LAST FRIDAYS, FLYING DUCK

Ostensibly an indie night but, as often comes with that territory, it's a fairly eclectic playlist that sees Girls Aloud and Beyoncé sit next to The Rapture and The Smiths. Guest DJs include men from bands like Aidan Moffat (Arab Strap), Paul Thomson (Franz Ferdinand) and Carl Barat (The Libertines).

► **Soul Cellar**

3RD SATURDAYS, FLYING DUCK

Northern soul, rare soul and the like from local soul aficionados. Free entry before 11pm and cheap drinks.

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.

► **Killer Kitsch**

TUESDAYS, BUFF CLUB

A night based around electro-house and classic party records. Justice, Fake Blood and Simian Mobile Disco are the defining sound of this night although classics from Prince and the Beastie Boys will slip into the mix every so often.

► **Thursdays at 520**

CLUB 520, SAUCHIEHALL STREET

520 try to sit half way between their neighbours The Garage and the city's 'proper' clubs by offering more specialist music but at a student price. They don't always get the balance right but the Thursday night lineup is hard to argue with. Rotating between

some of the city's finest names including Mungo's Hi Fi, Mixed Bizness and Mixkings the music covers the bassier end of the spectrum with dancehall, dubstep, hiphop and recent UK releases alongside a healthy mix of dance floor filling classics.

► **iAM**

TUESDAYS, SUB CLUB

The Sub Club is Glasgow's most respected club venue and normally commands a £10 door tax and £3 a drink. Tuesdays see the club drop to £1.50 a drink and free entry (if you email them). The night's residents might be a couple of young locals instead of Optimo or Derrick Carter but the soundsystem is still the best in the UK. Guests include the cream of Glasgow's young DJs, the music policy is the right side of electro and party.

LGBT

Glasgow's gay scene is dominated by the G1 Group aka Social Animal. Their main venue the Polo Lounge and sister venue Delmonicas is the scene to some people. Like the mainstream straight venues, the drinks are cheap, the entry fee is cheap and the music is cheap. There are a handful of alternatives out there though, including:

► **Lock Up Your Daughters**

3RD FRIDAY, FLYING DUCK

A party to bring together all the 'fags and lesbians' run by LUYD magazine who celebrate all things 'glorious and queer'. Their parties, magazines and film nights all have riot grrrl and in-your-face attitude on the surface but they are a pretty friendly bunch and their events are attended by a fairly mixed crowd.

► **Menergy**

MONTHLY, STEREO

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



Glasgow's 3am curfew for clubs means there is always an after-party on in some poor fool's house.

city life...

LIVE MUSIC

You only need to look around at the walls of the city's pubs and cafes or 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 passionate proponents who enforce said rules ruthlessly) and bars where you're not actually sure what colour the walls are underneath the impromptu wall-paper is clearly well served by a gaggle of promoters ('gaggle' being the correct collective nomenclature in this instance) competing for your attention.

In order to accommodate all these gig promoters, Glasgow is equally well-served in terms of venues. A lot of those small bars who are barely able to 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 don't know is there because the door has been subsumed into the amorphous mass of posters). 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.

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,

the Royal Concert Hall and Hampden Stadium. 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), so much so that you might 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 particular 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 Mono, Nice n Sleazy, Stereo 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.

Venues like The Captains Rest, The Arches and King Tut's Wah Wah Hut (unsurprising-



ly shortened to just King Tut's) have booking agents who organise most of the line-ups that you'll see play there, but you can sometimes catch shows put on by external promoters taking advantage of the venue's cheap hire fee as well.

PCL, the promoter that takes care of the bookings at The Captains Rest, tends to book acts with a focus on the 'alternative' (although you'd probably never catch the crowd saying that) and having at least some degree of independent credibility. Typically (but not exclusively) guitar-based, the Rest's booking policy fluctuates between NME fodder towards the more underground spectrum of acts.

Due to a fairly recent change in personnel and focus, The Arches has begun to increase

its profile as a live music venue as of late. With a fairly diverse booking policy which reflects the versatility of what is a very flexible arts space, the regular showcases of experimental electronic acts and the slightly less frequent appearances of experimenters from other musical areas are of particular note.

King Tut's, operated by DF Concerts (aka those small-timers who put on T in the Park), used to sport the most critical acclaim of all its peers in Glasgow's music community and the list of bands that have passed through its doors has been proudly publicised. You might still catch the occasional exciting act at Tut's, but its lustre among the city's gig-goers has arguably faded in recent years due to a booking policy lacking any distinct direction or inspiration.

...live music



Open mic & bar music

Glasgow has a recent 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 reception and drinking can sometimes make the whole ordeal easier.



House shows are common-place and easy to find out about once you start following a few local acts on Facebook. (Pictured above: Vendor Defender)

Aside from open mic nights and ticketed events, a lot of the city's bars offer free (or very cheap) live music on selected nights throughout the week. Places like MacSorleys, The Halt, 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 provid-

ing 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 and which ones aren't.



LIVING

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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 Glasgow 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-iron 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 Shed 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 city cycling, you

should pick up a copy of *Cyclecraft* by John Franklin before you head out.

Campus to halls minibus

The SRC run a free bus service between halls and campus Monday - Friday during term time. The morning service runs between 7.30 and 10.30am and the evening service from 5.30 to 11pm. 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 also available during these times but must be booked 48 hours in advance by calling 0141 339 8541 or via the SRC website.

...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, and uses a simple pricing structure including a single ticket at £1.20 and a return ticket at, believe it or not, £2.40.

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 Sub-crawl. 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 £1.80 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 336 6969, 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 and, despite the variety on offer around the city, are very similar from brand-to-brand so there isn't really much to differentiate between them.

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. 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 (don't worry, they're definitely there too), 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 (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.

Shops like KRK Continental 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 531 8822.

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. Although there is no pharmacy on campus for the time being, if you have a repeat prescription you can order it to the Barclay Medical Centre and pick it up from reception. For one-off prescriptions the closest place is Boots on Byres Road.

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 Medi-

cal 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 on 08457 90 90 90, 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.

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 local NHS sexual health centre, the Sandyford Initiative.

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. This includes 65% of new chlamydia cases and 55% of new cases of genital warts.

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 or sores, 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 health websites or having an embarrassing chat with your flatmate about what's wrong down there – just go and get a check up either with your GP or at the Sandyford Initiative. For quick, reliable info online, NHS 24 is always the best bet.

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 has 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 get it over the counter in some pharmacies for around £20. 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 miss another period just to make sure. If you are pregnant, you may need to make a big decision as to whether to go ahead with the pregnancy or not.

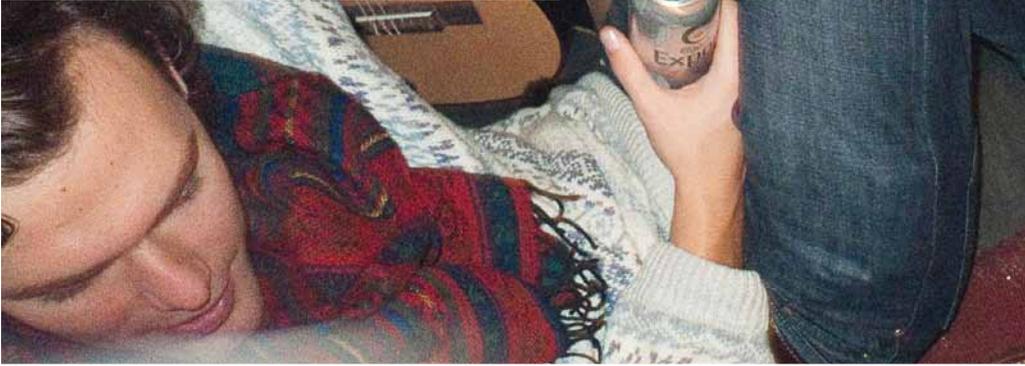
You can go to your GP, or the Sandyford Initiative, for a free pregnancy test. The reason for your visit will be kept confidential. The doctor will test your urine and give you a result within a few minutes. If you can't get to the doctor, home pregnancy tests from the chemist or supermarket are the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

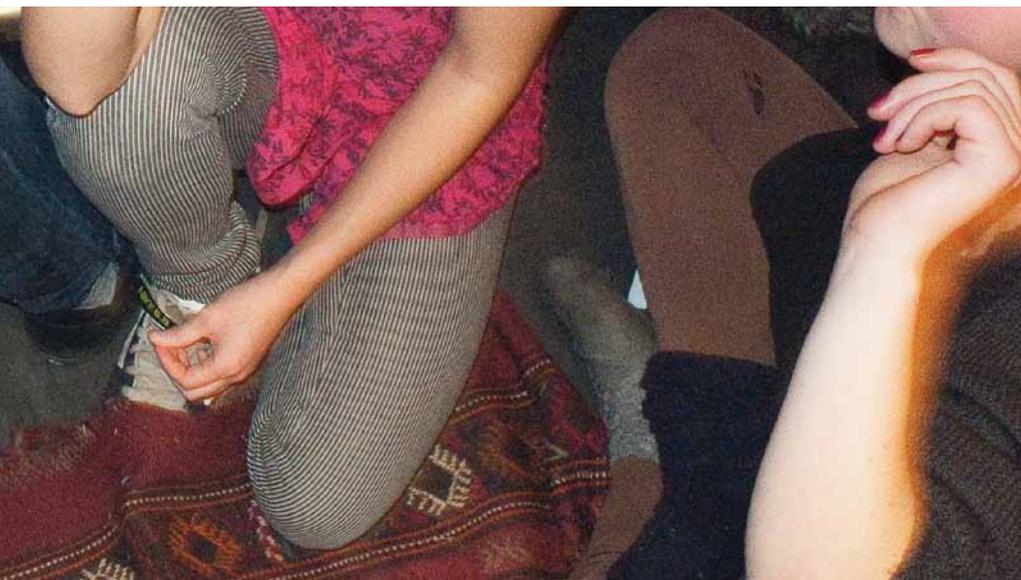
Always eat something before you go out. Food slows the absorption of alcohol and gives you energy so you can handle the pace.

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, para-

noid 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 time-

table 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 p24]



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 as-

sistants 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.

Residents' committees

Each hall has a residents' committee. They are supposed to do two things: represent the views of residents to the halls managers, and organise events for residents.

The committee is elected early on in the year and given a budget to go towards events or new facilities for the halls (eg a pool table). Any resident can stand for election and an active committee can make a real difference, campaigning for better rules and services.

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

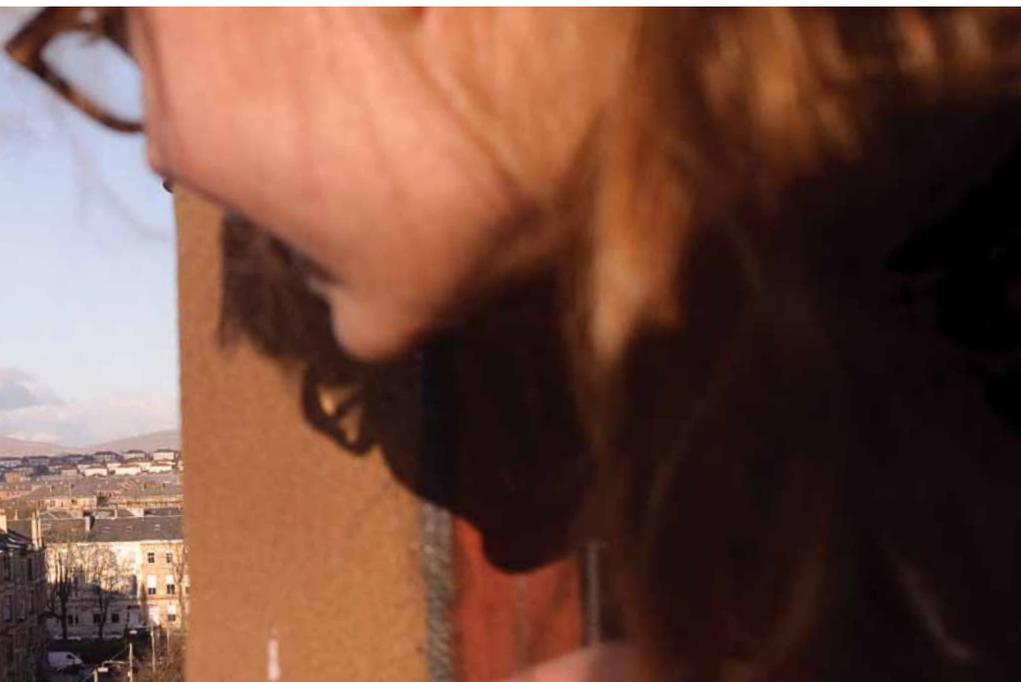
Renting your own place can be pricey, make sure you factor in all the expenses before deciding you can afford that extra £50 a month for that Hillhead Street address. Make sure you get receipts for any money you spend and keep them until the end of your tenancy.

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.



There isn't a Tenancy Deposit Protection Scheme in Scotland yet, although the legislation is in place and a scheme should be up and running sometime in 2011-12. In the meantime though, it's important to make sure that you leave the property the way you found it, to minimise the chance of any deductions from your deposit [see p120].

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 stu-

dent 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.

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: Bo-

tanics, 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 would 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 £1.20 and 10 minutes from campus. The downside is an extra 20 minutes on the walk home from town.

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?
- » Get a receipt for all payments made.
- » Get 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 money 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

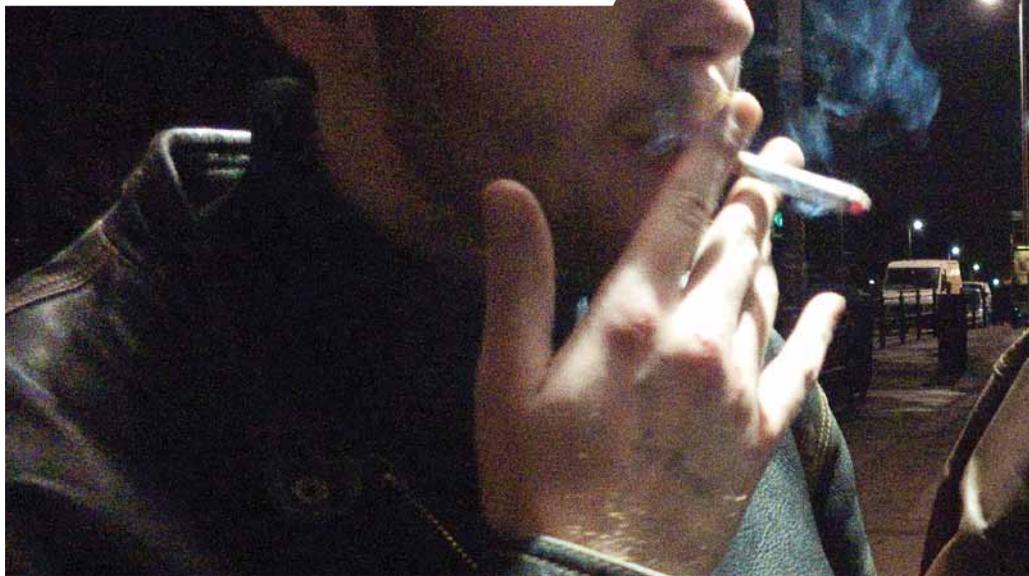
▶ ***Glasgow University Accommodation Office***

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.

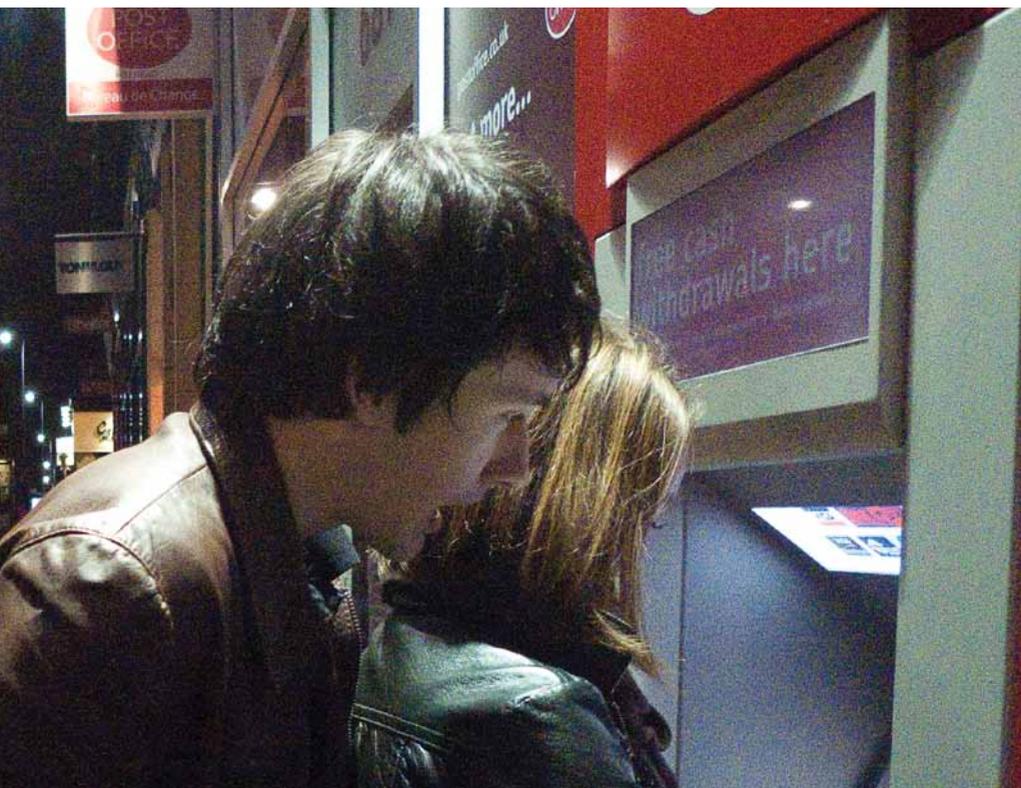
Whether your student loan has just come in and you've taken to using legal tender as toilet paper, or if it's the end of the month and you've had to go into the bank to withdraw what's left of your "savings" because for some reason cash machines don't give out £3.24 notes, budgeting your way through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

sential regular expenses like your phone bill or your internet provider, or splashing out on small luxuries like eating out or getting taxis 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. The size of your loan 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 £6,202 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 £15,000 a year 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**

Chances are, you'll need a job for at least some of the time you're at university. Whether it's a few hours a week, all year round or an intensive marathon during the holidays, it's essential to know how to find a decent job and what rights you have once you get one.

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 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 2011 for 16-17 year olds it's £3.68, for 18-20 year olds it's £4.98 and for those who are 21 and over it's £6.08. Check your pay slip to make sure you are being paid a legal amount.



Spending less time hanging out with your mates to going to work can be tough, but so is living off discount beans for weeks



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 2011-12, you if you earn less than £7,475 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

Sir Alan 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*

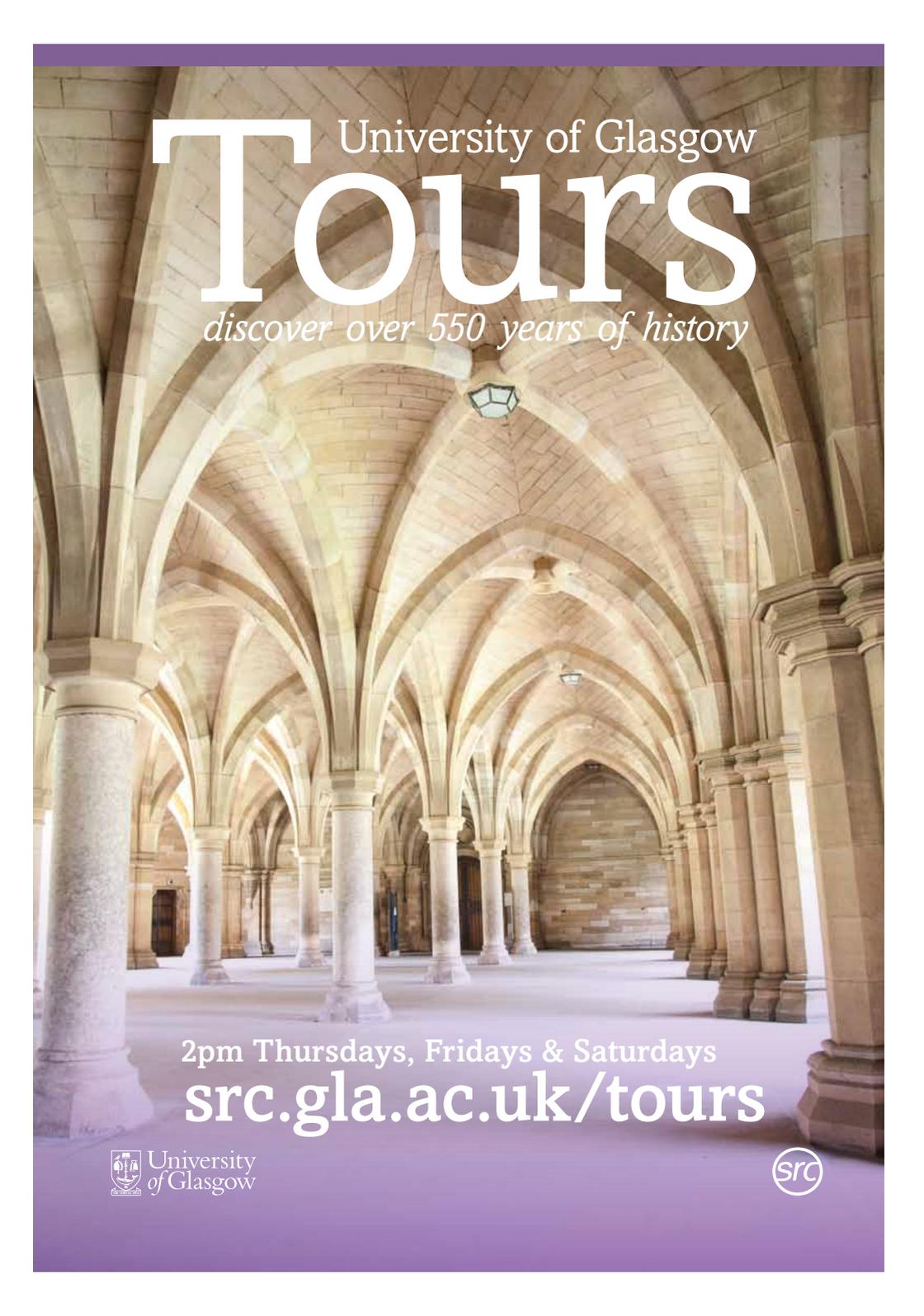
workSMART is a website run by the UK Trade Union Council with lots of simple to follow explanations of employment rights and advice for workers.

▶ *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.



University of Glasgow Tours

discover over 550 years of history

2pm Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays

src.gla.ac.uk/tours





University | The
of Glasgow | Hunterian

The Hunterian welcomes you to Glasgow!

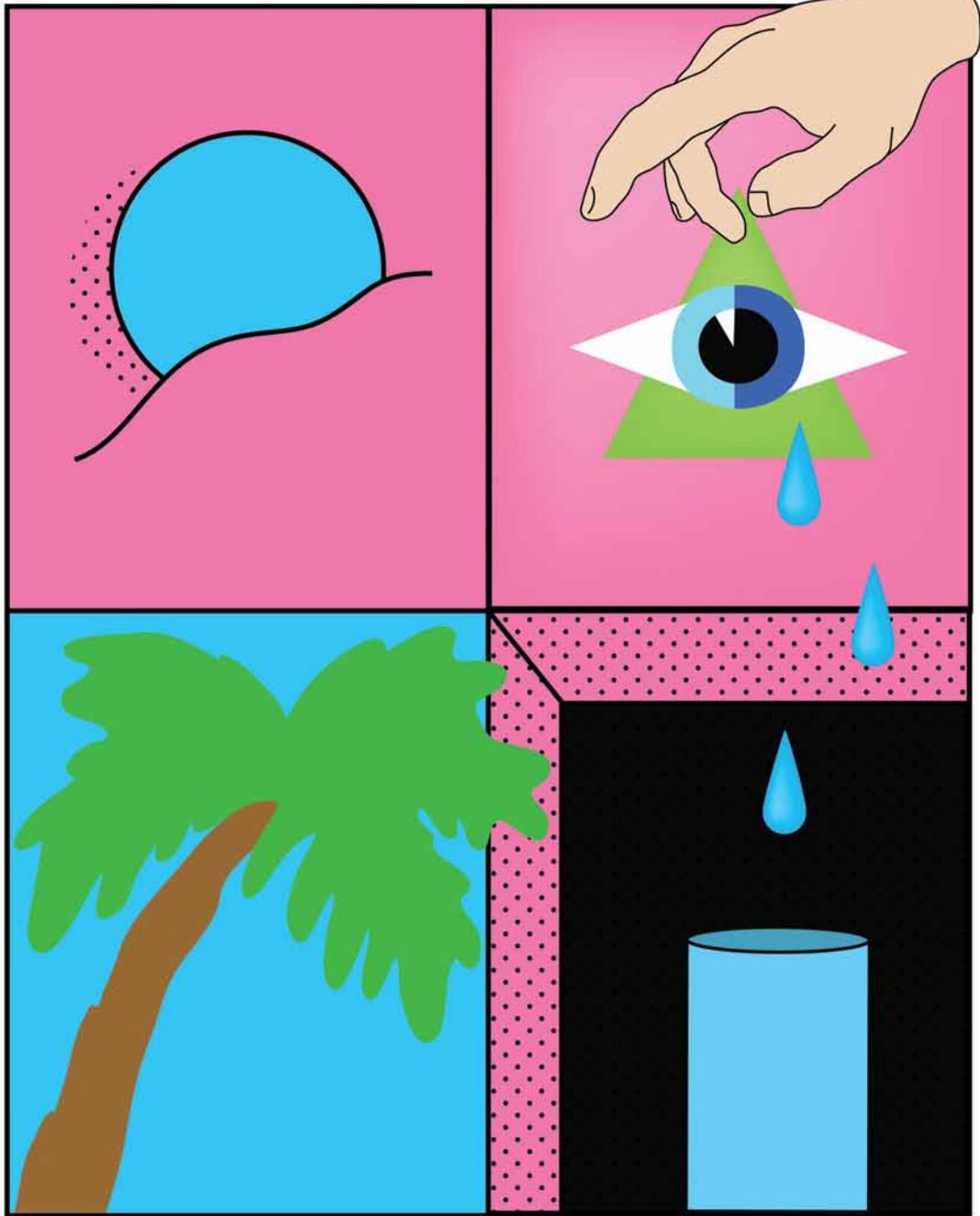


Sign up to our e-newsletter, find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter

www.glasgow.ac.uk/hunterian

The University of Glasgow, charity number SC004401





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.

Department

Faculties are divided into departments who concentrate on a specific area of study. This often defines the final degree a student receives; ie, a student who studies in English Literature within the Arts and Social Sciences College will graduate with a degree in English Literature.

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.

...glossary

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.

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 p18].

GUM

Glasgow University Magazine [see p20].

GUSA

Sports Association [see p16].

GUST

Glasgow Uni Student TV [see p20].

GUU

Glasgow University Union - one of two student unions on campus [see p12].

The Hill

The big west facing slope in Kelvingrove Park. [see p54]

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

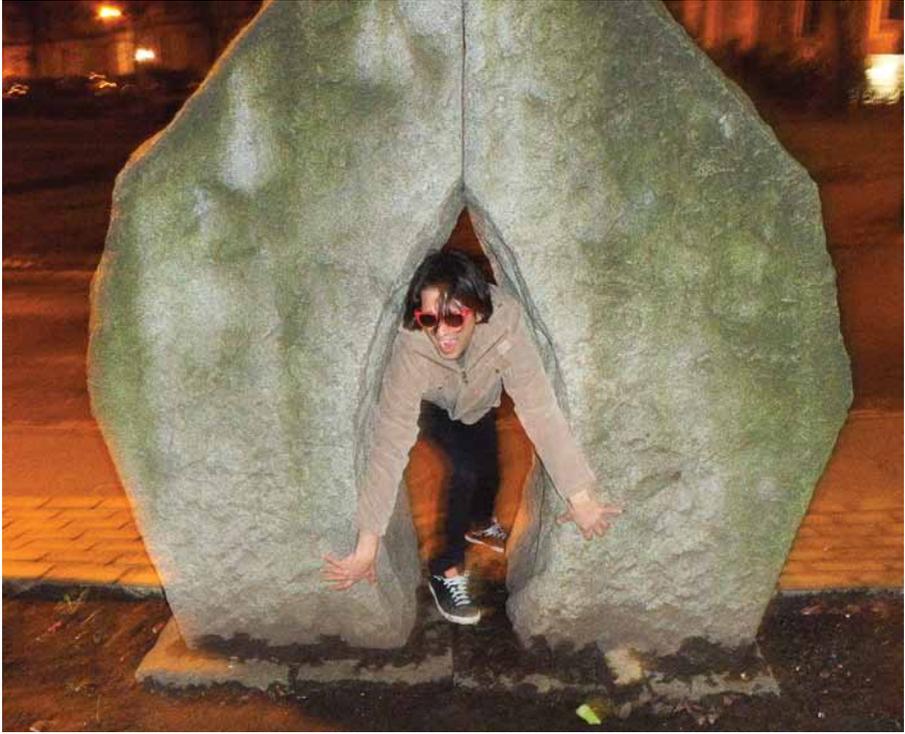
This is the service responsible for registering students, examinations, distribution of grant and loan cheques, financial aid, tuition fees and graduations. The Registry is based in the Fraser Building at the centre of campus although most stuff is accessed via the Student Enquiries desk.

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.



G is for Granite Vagina

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.

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 p12].

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 p10].

Subcity

Radio station based at the Uni [see p19].

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...

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