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Welcome

Tervetuloa

Bienvenido



**Master in Urban Climate &
Sustainability**
GCU
Glasgow Caledonian
University

University for the Common Good

 **LAB University of
Applied Sciences**



**Universidad
de Huelva**



Welcome to the **Master in Urban Climate & Sustainability.**

Your programme will take place over two years in 3 locations. Glasgow, Lahti & Huelva.

This Information pack aims to answer general practical questions and also to inform you about **Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU)**. Formed in 1993, GCU has campuses in Glasgow city centre, London and New York.

Home to over 16,000 students we are one of the largest universities in Scotland.

According to the Research Excellence Framework, GCU is the top modern university in Scotland by research power. The University's social policy research impact at world-leading levels has ranked GCU as in the top 10 in the UK.



University for the Common Good



Glasgow Caledonian University <https://www.gcu.ac.uk/>
has a large modern library with superb resources, hundreds of thousands of books, e-books and journals containing over 63 million articles. There are numerous cafés and a large refectory on campus as well as an on-campus modern health and fitness centre, University sports clubs, a hair salon and beautician.

See here for more details:

<https://www.gcu.ac.uk/theuniversity/universityfacilities/>

As well as here for new students:

<https://www.gcu.ac.uk/new2gcu/>



MUrCS course dates



Induction week: **Glasgow GCU** 4th Jan 2021 – 7th/8th Jan 2021 **MUrCS Induction activities are compulsory.**

Semester 1: **Glasgow GCU** 11th Jan 2021 – 1st Apr 2021 ***Easter Break: 5th – 9th April 2021***

Semester 2: **Glasgow GCU** 12th Apr 2021 – 4th Jun 2021

Summer break (incl. virtual/on-site internships): 5th June 2021 – 8th August 2021

Semester 2: **Lahti LAB** 9th Aug 2021 – 8th Oct 2021 *Mid term Break: 11th – 15th Oct 2021*

Year 2

Semester 3: **Lahti LAB** (with modules from **UHU**) 18th Oct 2021 – 10th Dec 2021

Christmas Break and move to Huelva : 11th Dec 2021 – 9th Jan 2022

Continue semester 3: **Huelva UHU** 10th Jan 2022 – 4th Mar 2022

Semester 4: Thesis 7th March 2022 – 12th Sept 2022 (GCU or LAB or UHU)

Graduation Nov 2022

ACCOMMODATION

Finding accommodation in Glasgow takes time so it's best to start looking as soon as is practical.

On campus is the Caledonian Court complex providing self-catering flats.

With ensuite shower and bathroom including bills = £118.00 / week

With sharing shower and toilet facilities including bills = £99.79/week

Prices include power, heat, lighting and wired/wireless internet access. Prices are based on contracts per semester so dates outwith semesters must be added on.

Our Accommodation Office has advised that they will have rooms free from 03/01/2021.

Earlier entry could also be arranged but please be aware that 1st & 2nd Jan are public holidays in Scotland and many services will be closed. Additionally, it may be difficult to get service on 24th-27th Dec due to Christmas.

Please note Caledonian Court do not accept families.

For applications and more information visit:

<https://www.gcu.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/accommodation/howtoapply/> and for specific enquiries please email the Accommodation Office at: accommodation@gcu.ac.uk

ACCOMMODATION

Cheaper options are Private (privately owned) Halls of Residence available here:

<https://www.unitestudents.com/glasgow>

<https://www.libertyliving.co.uk/student-accommodation/glasgow>

<http://www.studenthousingguide.co.uk/properties/victoria-hall-glasgow/>

Prices for all three, including bills start at around £97 per week. Usually Halls of Residence do not accept families

There is a flatshare online forum for students who are happy to share a flat. This is hosted by the Student Representative Council (for Glasgow University) and is a great opportunity to make friends in the city : <https://www.glasgowstudent.net/services/flatshare/view/>

The city's universities & colleges set up the Private Accommodation Database (PAD), all accommodation featured here conforms to their safety requirements. Search for property here:

<https://www.glasgowpad.org/>

ACCOMMODATION

Families can rent a flat in Glasgow. Good sites for flat renting are:

<https://www.s1homes.com/>

<https://www.lettingweb.com/>

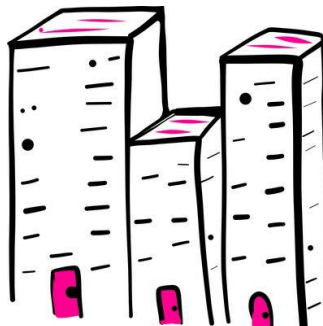
<https://www.citylets.co.uk/flats-rent-glasgow/>

<https://www.zoopla.co.uk/to-rent/flats/glasgow/>

Some flats are advertised on Gumtree.com but there is no regulation on this site so please beware.

GCU Student Association has an accommodation page with a downloadable booklet that comes recommended: <https://www.gcustudents.co.uk/accommodation>

If you have any questions about areas of Glasgow that will be suitable, just ask anne.bowman@gcu.ac.uk For example, Paisley is cheap but it's a bit far out to travel easily to Glasgow and hence transport costs are higher.



BANKING & FINANCE

Students must set up a bank account in order to receive the funding which is paid to students by GCU. GCU is paid in EUROS, we then must use the EU approved currency converter <http://ec.europa.eu/budget/graphs/inforeuro.html> to convert this to pounds.

Due to students having to use both pounds in the UK and euros in Finland & Spain, to minimise bank charges, previous students used online bank accounts.

Most of them use Monzo: <https://monzo.com/> or Transferwise: <https://transferwise.com/> These online accounts seem to be the best accounts for MURCS students as they can be set up before you arrive which would help in our aim of you receiving your first payment at the end of January 2021.

Here are some student responses and suggestions about Monzo and Transferwise:

1. Monzo – happy with it.

2. Monzo and TransferWise. I had a good experience with them. They have great service and are very cooperative.

The registration process is very convenient and easy. If you lose your card you can block the account from the application instantly and a new card is issued.

The only problem is if you have cash that you need to **input** to your account, you can't use an ATM, you have to go to a specific place/shop which is available within UK only. Otherwise I haven't had any issue. I can withdraw money whenever I want and to be honest the euro, pound thing isn't an issue for me at least.

3. Monzo: I am using Monzo bank since my arrival in the UK. I am satisfied with it. For international transfers they are connected with Transferwise.

The only con is that if someone outside UK is going to send money to this Account, they must use the Transferwise account.

From others experience, Monzo compared to Transferwise doesn't have any commission in transferring money inside the UK. I would definitely suggest Monzo.

4. We think Monzo works great, and the new cohort should continue using the same! We did face some issues when it came to reimbursement from Expat insurance. But it is possible for us to set up a temporary Euro account on Transferwise for such reimbursement purposes. However apart from that the Monzo customer care support is great. Also the online application is very user friendly, and things like splitting expenses or temporarily blocking the card (in case of theft/ loss) works seamlessly.

5. Monzo & Transferwise:

I have been only using Monzo bank account and it has served me well in terms of making usual payments.

6. As you may already know many of MURCS students have been using Monzo bank account and the rest are using Transferwise.

I heard from people using Transferwise that they have an upper-hand as they easily can extract bank statements for "single transactions", which can be important for claiming refunds and for insurance related issues.

The major drawback for both the banks is that it is impossible to deposit cash in these accounts, as they do not have any conventional bank service outlets.

If you use cash, I would suggest additionally you open a bank account in Glasgow that has a physical outlet. So that they can deposit cash and do their urgent online payments during the first month of arrival; in case there is a delay for making the first payment. As most places do not accept cash at all.

BANKING & FINANCE

If you do wish to open a conventional bank account in the UK, there is a Santander ATM <https://www.santander.co.uk/uk/> on campus, however there is no counter service at this branch. As the campus is in the city centre, there are no shortage of ATMs.

A conventional bank account in the UK will charge commission on converting pounds to euros and on payments abroad (non-UK) whereas an online account such as Monzo or Transferwise will not.

Common conventional banks, where you will find branches and counter service in Glasgow are:

Bank of Scotland
Royal Bank of Scotland
Clydesdale Bank
HSBC

GLASGOW AIRPORT PICK-UP

GCU usually runs a free taxi pick-up service from Glasgow Airport for new International students only. We are still waiting for confirmation if this will run in January.

Here is this year's link to give you an idea how it works:

<https://www.gcu.ac.uk/student/support/international/airportmeetandgreet/>



GCU International Students

GCU offers a number of learning resources and support to International students which you can see here:

<https://www.gcu.ac.uk/study/internationalstudents/facilitiesupport/>

Specifically we have a department dedicated to supporting visa applications and giving helpful advice:

<https://www.gcu.ac.uk/student/studentlife/international/visaimmigrationsupportandadvice/>

with a downloadable visa guide here: www.gcu.ac.uk/visaguides



Admissions /UK Visa process

All non-EU international students studying at GCU will require a UK visa to enter and study in the UK. This will mainly be a Tier 4 Visa to cover your time in the UK. If you are travelling with family, your family will need Standard Visitor Visas. The rules for all visas are changing and we expect new policy guidance on this from the UK government in Oct 2020. Due to Brexit, the rules for EU students may also change, we will keep you updated.

You can apply for your visa once you receive your CAS letter from our Admissions department. **Please watch out for correspondence from the Admissions team** (via the partnershipapplications@gcu.ac.uk email address) and carefully check the CAS Data check information so the CAS can be issued. If there is a delay in responding to any request this can impact the CAS and so your visa application.

Admissions /UK Visa process

As previously mentioned our dedicated Visa team will provide support with document checks and guidance on the online form

<https://www.gcu.ac.uk/student/support/international/visainformation/>

If you have a specific Visa enquiry please email the VISA mailbox visa@gcu.ac.uk and mark the email as 'For the attention of Janet'. Janet is the advisor for the MURCS Programme.

Finnish Residence Permit

For Semester 2 in Lahti, Finland, all non-EU international students will require either a **Finnish Residence Permit** or similar. This will be applied for from Glasgow and we will hold an information session on this nearer the time. Applications are submitted online and will require a visit to the Finnish Embassy in London during term time. The project administrator anne.bowman@gcu.ac.uk will be available to advise on travel options to get from Glasgow to London and on related matters.

Information on the **Finnish Residence Permit** can be found here:
<https://migri.fi/en/studying-in-finland> This process is in general more straightforward than the UK Tier 4 visa application process.

All 2018 & 2019 MURCS students that applied for **Finnish Residence Permits**, did receive them.

Spanish Visas

For studies at UHU, Huelva, Spain. Any Visas will be applied for online, from Finland. The UHU team assisted MURCS students with all Visa and accommodation enquiries this year and will be happy to do so again.



Universidad
de Huelva

Minimum IT kit required for students

Please be advised that you will be required to run various proprietary software (licensed versions will be provided to you free of charge) some of which (such as ENVI-met) do not work well on Mac OS. You are strongly advised to bring with you a windows-based computer for your own academic work.

GCU Coronavirus Information

Whilst the situation relating to Covid-19 is ever changing, please see GCU's guide to a safe return to campus here:

<https://www.gcu.ac.uk/student/coronavirusuptodateinformation/safereturntocampus/>

And you can stay updated here:

<https://www.gcu.ac.uk/student/coronavirusuptodateinformation/>



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We are delighted to welcome you to GCU and look forward to supporting you through your studies.

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