



# Master in Urban Climate & Sustainability



Welcome **Tervetuloa** **Bienvenido** **Willkommen**



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Welcome to the **Master in Urban Climate & Sustainability**. Your programme will take place over two years in Glasgow, Lahti, Huelva and Dresden.

This Information pack aims to answer general practical questions related to your first period of mobility 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.

*Glasgow Caledonian University is ranked in the top 5% of universities globally, third in Scotland and 14th in the UK. Times Higher Education Impact rankings, 2022*

**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 cafés and a large refectory on campus as well as outdoor eating areas. Set in the heart of Glasgow city centre, GCU is right next to Glasgow's main bus station and close to both Queen Street and Central train stations as well as shopping districts, numerous cafés and restaurants.



University for the Common Good



### **GCU International Students**

GCU offers a number of learning resources and support to International students:

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

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

<https://www.gcu.ac.uk/currentstudents/support/international/studentvisa>

You can also contact our VISA team directly by emailing [visa@gcu.ac.uk](mailto:visa@gcu.ac.uk). The team do experience a high volume of enquiries but will respond as soon as they can. When emailing, please quote your student ID number in the email and add **MURCS student** to the subject line. This will enable them to identify your needs. They are very familiar with our programme.

See here for new students:

<https://www.gcu.ac.uk/currentstudents/support/induction>



## GCU Admissions Process

**Receive GCU Offer letter by email**, containing student ID number (e.g. S1234567 – please quote this number in university correspondence).

**Accept your offer via the application portal.**

After you have fulfilled any conditions in your offer, you will receive the following from our Admissions department:

- **CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies )Data check** (please reply to this swiftly so as not to delay the CAS process).
- CAS letter (from the CAS team) & GCU Sponsor Letter (from the Programme coordinator - Anne).
- Apply for your UK Student Visa using the number on your CAS Letter. Your Sponsor Letter outlines the Programme dates, the total scholarship amount you will receive and states that your course fees will be paid. This letter will aid your visa application as evidence of your finances.
- Receive (hopefully) positive UK visa decision.
- Arrange travel to the UK.
- Receive insurance policy provided by MURCS, in September, valid from travel date.

## UK Visa process

All international students studying at GCU will require a UK visa to enter and study in the UK: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-to-come-to-the-uk>

MURCS students usually require a Student Visa: <https://www.gov.uk/student-visa> This will generally be issued for the duration of the entire Masters Programme.

If you are travelling with dependants, please see the **Your partner and children** section of this site.





## **MUrCS course dates**

**GCU International Student day 16 Sep 2022**

**Induction week: Glasgow GCU 19-22 Sept 2022**

**\* Induction activities are compulsory**

**Semester 1: Glasgow GCU 27 Sep – 22 Dec 2022**

**Semester 2: Lahti LAB 6 Jan – 28 May 2023**

***Easter Break Week: 10 April 2023***

***Summer break (incl. optional virtual/on-site internships): 12 June 2023 – 3 September 2023***

### **Year 2**

**Semester 3: Huelva UHU 04 Sep - 17 Dec 2023**

***Christmas Break and coursework submissions***

**Semester 4: Thesis 15 Jan 2024 – 14 Sep 2024  
(GCU or LAB or UHU or HTWD)**

**Graduation – Nov 2024**





## **ACCOMMODATION**

Finding accommodation in Glasgow takes time so it's best to start looking as soon as is practical. There are a number of options:

### **Caledonian Court**

**On campus** the **Caledonian Court** complex provides self-catering flats.

Prices are based on contracts per semester so dates outwith semesters must be added on. Discounts on days not used within a semester are not available.

Please note Caledonian Court do not accept families or non-GCU students.

For applications and more information visit:

<https://www.gcu.ac.uk/internationalstudy/accommodation>  
and for specific enquiries please email the Accommodation Office at: [accommodation@gcu.ac.uk](mailto:accommodation@gcu.ac.uk)

Private (privately owned) Halls of Residence available for single students here:

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

<http://www.studenthousingguide.co.uk/glasgow-student-accommodation/>

Victoria Hall:

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

Buchanan View is very close to GCU campus and allows visitors.

<https://www.studentroost.co.uk/locations/glasgow/buchanan-view>

**\* Usually Halls of Residence do not accept families.**



## ACCOMMODATION

### Flatshare

There is a flatshare online forum. 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/>

You can also find rooms on Facebook groups for the individual universities in Glasgow.

### Families

Families (or anyone) can rent a flat in Glasgow. Good sites for flat renting are:

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

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

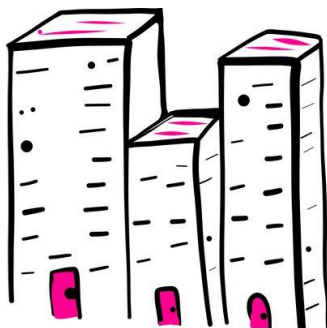
<https://www.citylets.co.uk/flats-rent-glasgow/>

<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 be careful. Flats usually require a deposit as well as 1 or 2 months' rent in advance. 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](mailto: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**

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 Transferwise: <https://transferwise.com/>  
However it is better to research the issue of bank accounts before arrival.

Your monthly stipend will be paid in euros around the middle of each month. A payment schedule will be sent to you once the programme has started.

Whilst all efforts will be made to set up payments as soon as possible, it is likely that your first payment, once you meet all requirements, will be made in mid October 2022. Please ensure you have enough money to cover your costs until then at least.

This first payment will include travel & installation, if you are eligible for them, as well as the stipend, once all requirements have been met.





## GLASGOW AIRPORT PICK-UP

GCU usually runs a **free** taxi pick-up service from Glasgow Airport for new International students only. If you are not arriving at Glasgow Airport this service will not be available:

<https://www.gcu.ac.uk/student/support/international/airport-meetandgreet/>





## 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. Applications are submitted online and may require a visit to the Finnish Embassy in London during term time.

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 Student visa application process.

All previous MURCS students that applied for **Finnish Residence Permits**, did receive them.

## Accommodation for LAB Finland and UHU Spain

For LAB university Finland, there is student accommodation near the LAB campus and LAB university staff will facilitate your application for this.

For accommodation in Huelva, Spain there is no standard UHU university accommodation. Students generally find their own accommodation there, however UHU staff will be able to assist MURCS students with this and are currently exploring options.

## Spanish Visas

For students with a **Finnish Residence Permit** a visa for studies at UHU, Spain is not necessary.



## 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.

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

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University for the Common Good



Universidad  
de Huelva



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TECHNIK UND WIRTSCHAFT  
DRESDEN  
UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

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