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Master in Urban Climate & Sustainability



University for the Common Good



Universidad
de Huelva



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Welcome

Tervetuloa

Bienvenido



**Universidad
de Huelva**



University for the Common Good

Glasgow Caledonian University was formed in 1993. We have campuses in Glasgow city centre, London and New York. Home to over 16,000 students we are one of the largest 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.





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 spa.

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



GCU International Induction Activities for Students will begin from the second week in September and throughout the month with a Welcome programme that will be sent out to you in due course. The activities range from the practical (a trip to Ikea), to the social (a ceilidh dance), to the cultural (the Music Mile tour) or the Hampden stadium tour. These activities are not compulsory but they do sound like fun!!

Induction week: **Glasgow GCU** 16th Sep 2019 – 19th Sep 2019 MUrCS Induction activities **are compulsory**.

Semester 1: **Glasgow GCU** 23rd Sep 2019 – 20th Dec 2019

Semester 2: **Lahti LAMK** Early Jan 2020 – mid May 2020

Summer School 1, **Lahti, LAMK** Late May 2020 – early Jun 2020

Summer School 2, **Finland** (*location tbc*) Jun 2020

Year 2 information will be provided in due course.

ACCOMMODATION

Finding accommodation in Glasgow takes time so it's **best to start looking as soon as possible**. Also a short term let (less than 6 months) can be more difficult to find. Some academic courses start in August so by September choice can be limited.

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 are based on contracts per semester.

For applications and more information:

<https://www.gcu.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/accommodation/howtoapply/>

ACCOMMODATION

There are Private (privately owned) Halls of Residence available here:
<https://www.unitestudents.com/glasgow>

<https://www.libertyliving.co.uk/student-accommodation/glasgow>
(Prices for both, including bills start at around £100 per week.)

There is a flatshare online forum for students who are happy to share a flat. This is hosted by a Student Representative Council (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

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/> , Transferwise is also another option: <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 in September 2019.

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.

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

For September arrivals GCU runs a free taxi pick-up service from Glasgow Airport.

A link will be sent out to you once it has been updated. Here is last year's link to give you an idea how it works:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/meet-and-greet-taxi-service-at-glasgow-airport-september-2018-tickets-47544345417?aff=erelexpmlt#>

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 Tier 4 Visa process & Finnish Mobilty Notification

All non-EU international students studying at GCU will require a Tier 4 UK visa to enter and study in the UK.

You can apply for your visa once you receive your CAS letter from our Admissions department. For Trimester B in Lahti, Finland, all non-EU international students will require either a **Finnish Residence Permit** or to submit a **Finnish Mobility Notification**.

If you are not travelling with dependents on your visa, once you receive your Tier 4 UK visa, you should submit a **Finnish Mobility Notification**.

<https://migri.fi/en/mobility-notification-to-finland>

This is both cheaper and more convenient than the **Finnish Residence Permit**. It costs 100 euros while the **Permit** costs 360 euros. The **Mobility Notification** must be submitted as soon as you receive your Tier 4 visa, the **Residence Permit** must be applied for in early October and requires a visit to the Finnish Embassy in London during term time. The Finnish Embassy receives a “Christmas rush” in winter due to Lapland tourism. This can cause delays to any dealings with the Embassy during this time. Contact anne.bowman@gcu.ac.uk if you have any questions regarding the **Finnish Mobility Notification**.

Finnish Residence Permit

If you are travelling with dependents on your visa, then you will not be eligible to submit the **Mobility Notification** and must apply for a **Finnish Residence Permit** <https://migri.fi/en/studying-in-finland> This can be done online and in general is more straightforward than the Tier 4 visa application process.

As mentioned the **Residence Permit** 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.

All 2018 MURCS students applied for and received **Finnish Residence Permits**, so while this option is less convenient, it is still very achievable.



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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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LAMK

Lahden ammattikorkeakoulu
Lahti University of Applied Sciences



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