

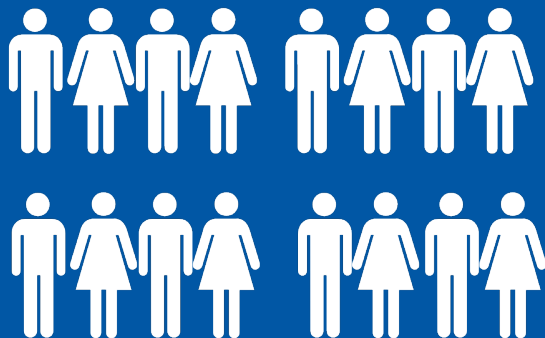
Magnus Magnusson Awards 2023



Helping Glasgow Caledonian students realise their dreams



38 countries



134 Students

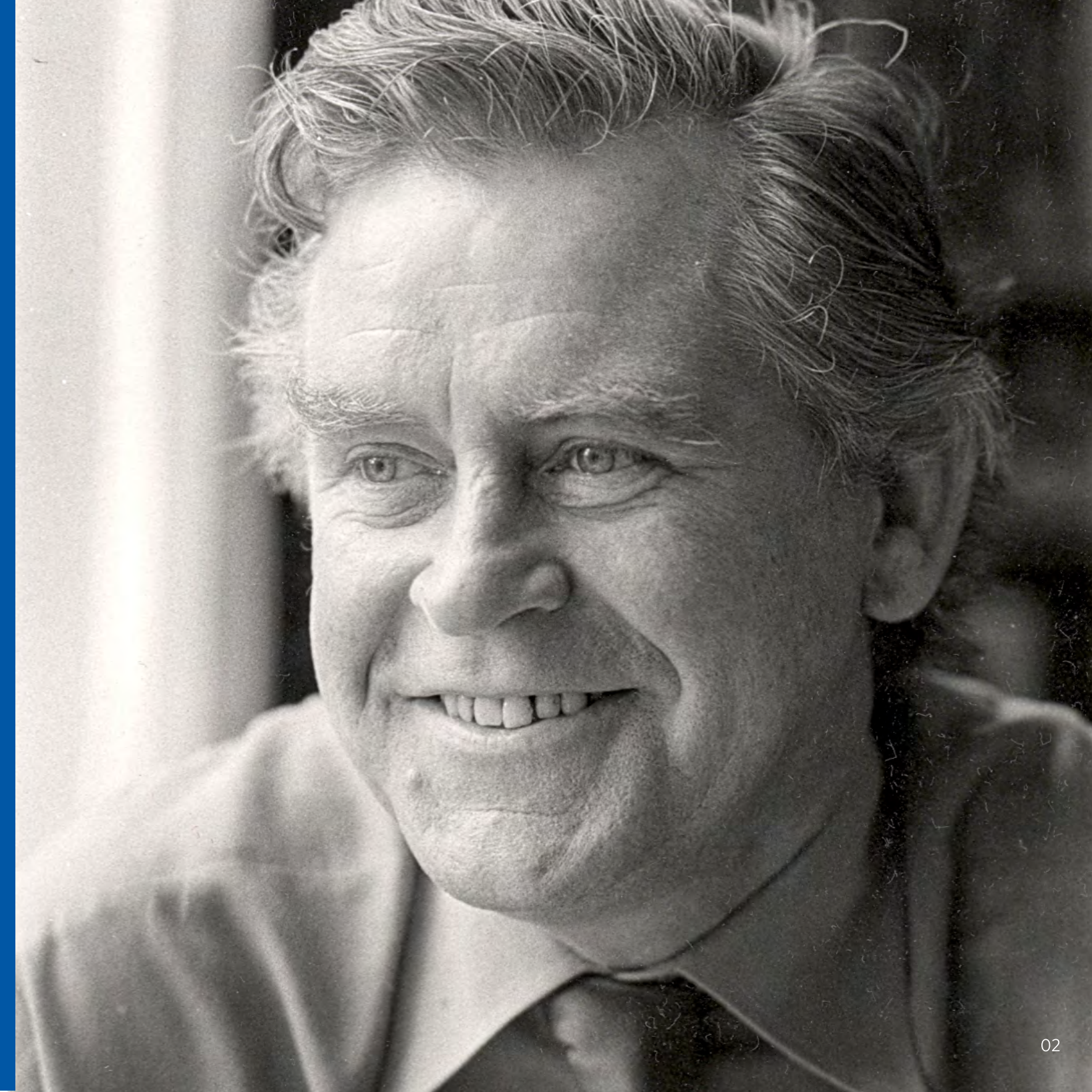


£550,000

Since 2007, the Magnusson Awards have provided Glasgow Caledonian students with incredible opportunities to realise their dreams, whilst making a positive impact on the lives of others around the world and in their local communities.

The Magnusson Fund was established by the University, in honour of our late Chancellor, television presenter, journalist, writer, historian, professional Icelander and “lad o’pairs”, Magnus Magnusson KBE. Each year, thanks to the generous support from our donors, Glasgow Caledonian students have the opportunity to apply for a Magnusson Award of up to £5,000 to support their dreams and ambitions. Shortlisted students pitch their ideas in front of a panel of donors chaired by Magnusson Fund Honorary President, Dr Sally Magnusson, with projects ranging from volunteering in developing countries to delivering community projects or starting a business. What makes the Awards truly unique is that no idea is out of bounds. We look forward to offering even more talented students the chance to realise their dreams and ambitions in the coming years.

Journalist and broadcaster Dr Sally Magnusson, daughter of Magnus and honorary graduate of Glasgow Caledonian, has been at the forefront of the Magnusson Awards since 2007. She worked closely with the University to establish the Magnusson Awards in memory of her late father. She chairs the Award selection panel every year, ensuring her father’s passion and commitment to learning and life opportunities translates to those students chosen to receive an Award. The Awards present a potentially life-changing opportunity for students and are in high demand, so selecting recipients is a rigorous and rewarding process.





Professor Steve Decent

Principal and Vice-Chancellor
Glasgow Caledonian University

It is with great pleasure I welcome you all to Glasgow Caledonian tonight for this year's Magnusson Awards. Over my first few months at the University I heard many tributes paid to the Awards, and the life-changing projects made possible by the donors who give so generously to the Magnusson Fund.

As a member of the judging panel this year, to hear first-hand of the inspiring ambitions and ideas conceived by our students, certainly brought the Awards to life for me. As Principal of Glasgow Caledonian, I am keen to encourage talent, enthusiasm and altruism as demonstrated by all those who applied for an Award.

This event, which we are delighted to host for the winners, their families and guests, recognises the ambitions of our community, and also celebrates our role as a civic university, driving forward our Common Good mission. I am so pleased that we are involved in such an impactful initiative.

Tonight, we congratulate our 2023 winners, and take inspiration from students who embody the University's mission, for the Common Good. We wish them every success with their endeavours.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our donors whose wonderful generosity makes all of this possible, and Dr Sally Magnusson whose continued commitment to the Magnusson Awards is truly appreciated by the University community.



Dr Sally Magnusson DLitt

Honorary President

Magnus Magnusson Fellowship

As ever, it is a great pleasure for me to be part of the Magnus Magnusson Awards at Glasgow Caledonian University. I know that my father cherished his time as Chancellor of the University and believed deeply in bringing out the full potential of every single student.

Every year the Magnusson judging panel is presented with an inspirational variety of exciting initiatives, and has the difficult task of choosing the worthy winners. This year I was delighted to welcome the University's new Principal, Professor Decent, to the panel and to have his involvement in the selection. It is incredible to know that since the Awards began they have helped more than 130 students to fulfil their dreams, at home and abroad.

Connecting all the winning projects over the years is the steadfast commitment to an idea. It is very evident when an applicant has thoroughly researched their intended project and has a genuine passion for it. I always find this a very powerful aspect of the Magnusson Awards. Glasgow Caledonian's continued support of the Awards, and of these talented young people, is immensely uplifting. Thank you to the Magnusson Fund donors who give so generously to help these students pursue their goals and ambitions.

This year's inspirational winners have some outstanding ideas, and I know that they will put their Awards to good use. I'm looking forward to hearing about their endeavours and their accomplishments, and wish them well for their future plans.



2023 Magnusson Award Winners





Erica Charles

2023 Mike Smith Magnusson Award winner

Erica will use her Award to travel to Kenya to volunteer her project management and teaching skills with a small charity, One By One, which provides restorative care, educational support and sustainable living to vulnerable people.

"Words cannot express how grateful I am to be a recipient of the Magnusson Award. The financial support received means I am able to work in Kenya with One by One, a small charity that provides refuge and education to survivors of human trafficking and bonded labour. This trip will be life-changing as well as life-enhancing, and it will help to solidify my own personal and professional commitments to social justice and change. Funding from the Magnusson Award means that I not only get to support communities in Kenya, but I can also become a more informed advocate when I am back in the UK."



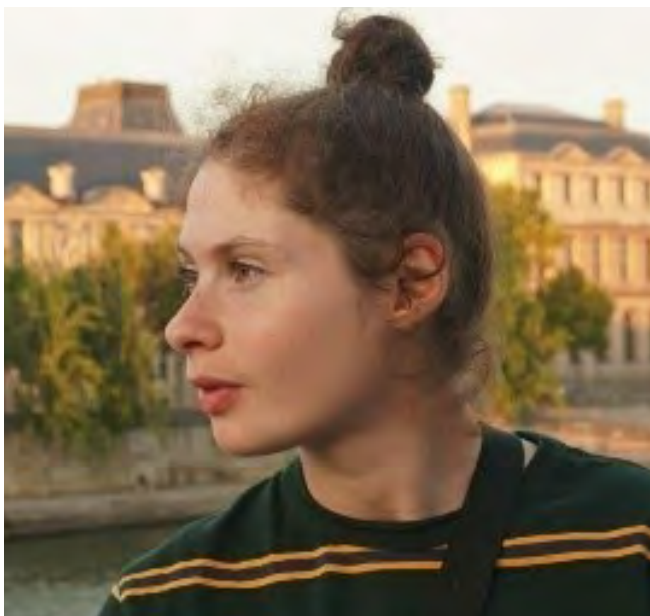
Renesmee Vieira

2023 Santander Universities Magnusson Award winner

Growing up, Renesmee experienced a lack of opportunities for personal development, and never had the chance to travel abroad.

Renesmee will use her Award to travel to Thailand and further her experiences and ambitions as a tourism student.

"I am thrilled to receive a Magnusson Award. For me, it provides a wonderful chance to explore some of the goals I aspire to achieve personally and also as a tourism student. I look forward to the opportunity to travel, and feel very fortunate to have this financial support which was crucial for me to be able to do this. My Award will allow me to have great travel experiences in a variety of countries, and have the chance to make new friends and bring me out of my comfort zone. Thank you to Santander Universities for making this possible."



Rachel Mair

2023 Sir Alex Ferguson Magnusson Award winner

Rachel has ambitions of attaining her UEFA B Licence, and will use her Award to follow the pathway to achieve this, contributing to the rise of women's football in Scotland.

"I am incredibly touched and grateful to receive the Magnusson Award. This award enables me to reach my ambitions in making a difference in women's football and women's sport. I will now be able to carry out my UEFA B Licence with the Scottish FA, and develop further in my football coaching career. With the UEFA B Licence, I will be able to take a step further in achieving a female coaching academy, getting females with an interest in football, into coaching to make a direct impact and increase the amount of female coaches in the game. I must thank the University for the support it has given me this year, and for believing in me. I also want to say how grateful I am to the panel who made the kind decision to grant me this Award. Thank you also to Sir Alex for his generosity in providing this funding. I can assure you all that my ambitions in female football will be reached, with thanks to your support and my personal drive."



Gino Obaseki

2023 Nicol Family Magnusson Award winner

Gino will use his Award to empower underprivileged and disadvantaged girls and women in Lagos, Nigeria through teaching and sharing economically viable skills and start-up equipment/resources.

"Words cannot adequately express how I feel. Yet even so, I consider it a great honour to have been given the Magnusson Award at such a pivotal point in my life. This Award will help magnify the works I have done in my community since 2016 and ensure the sustainability of this initiative. It is no doubt that this funding will help to create a ripple effect that will be referenced in years to come. Thank you to the Nicol Family for making this possible."



Grace Iyoha

2023 Glasgow Caledonian Magnusson Award winner

Grace will use her Award to set up a mobile library supporting schools and communities that have poor access to library services in Abuja, Nigeria.

"I am thrilled to be selected for a prestigious Magnusson Award. I am convinced this mobile library project will make a difference in the community and schools that will have access to the learning resources. Wider access to learning creates a positive impact on children's ability to dream and be inspired, paving a way for a brighter future. Through this Award, I can positively contribute to addressing barriers that affect childhood literacy, with the provision of books in areas which need them the most. I am happy to be part of a university that seeks to bring good to disadvantaged communities."



Garda Rosemary

2023 Sir Alex Ferguson Magnusson Award winner

Garda will use her Award to challenge menstruation stigma in rural Kenya, by improving girls' access to education and opportunities through distributing menstrual products, education programmes, messaging and mentorship.

"I am beyond thrilled, honoured, and deeply humbled to receive the Sir Alex Ferguson Magnusson Award. It means so much to me as it validates the importance of addressing menstrual poverty and breaking the stigma around menstruation. My Award will enable me to make a real impact in the lives of girls and families in Kenya by providing access to menstrual products and promoting education and empowerment. I am grateful for the opportunity to create positive change in my community and beyond. I am committed to making a meaningful difference in the lives of those affected by menstrual poverty. Thank you for recognising the significance of this cause, and supporting my efforts to make a tangible difference in the world."



In Conversation with past winners

Colin Stone Magnusson Award winner 2012

We are delighted to welcome back to campus broadcast journalist and presenter, and Glasgow Caledonian graduate, Colin Stone, as our host of the Magnusson Awards 2023. Colin will speak with previous winners Robbie, Chidozie and Rianna about the positive impact their Awards have had on them, and on the lives of others.

As a Glasgow Caledonian Multimedia Journalism student, Colin received his Magnusson Award back in 2012, to be a part of the Press Operations team at the London Olympics that year. Since graduating he has had an exciting career in broadcast media, including live reporting on the STV News at Six, to being the senior reporter for Scotland's biggest commercial radio station, Radio Clyde. He now plays a key role in a business skills training platform, Pink Elephant, where he teaches effective communication skills to clients from all over the world.



Chidozie Nwaigwe

Mike Smith Magnusson Award winner 2022

Chidozie's Magnusson Award helped him to build a 24-hour central water-dispensing site for a community in Nigeria which was suffering from an acute shortage of potable water and a spike in water-borne diseases. Throughout his project, Chidozie used renewable energy to develop the site, instead of petrol generators, enhancing the sustainability of the project.

Drilling of the borehole began at the start of July 2022, and with the help of members of the community, Chidozie was able to complete his project over ten days, to coincide with his 30th birthday!

On receiving his Award, Chidozie said: "It is an ecstatic feeling to know that through the Magnusson Fund, I will be actualising my long-time dream of providing free potable water for my rural community in Isiala Mbano, Imo State in Nigeria. This vision is borne out of the love and compassion I have for my people, and their general wellbeing. My profound gratitude goes to the Magnusson team, for birthing this noble funding initiative and touching lives all across the earth, through its many acts of magnanimity. Thank you!"





Rianna Raymond Williams

Sir Alex Ferguson Magnusson Award winner 2022

Rianna, a PhD student, used her Sir Alex Ferguson Magnusson Award to develop a sex education programme for young people in Jamaica, using podcasting as a vehicle for engagement and change.

On receiving her Award, Rianna said:

"I'm really excited to receive the Sir Alex Ferguson Award. I'm looking forward to fulfilling my dream of developing a podcast project with young people in Jamaica. I'm really thankful for the opportunity to travel, expand my network and provide a platform for young people in Jamaica to tell their own stories and amplify their voices utilising podcasting tools as a mechanism to share and learn, whilst channelling and developing my creative practice. I hope that as part of this project, I'm able to inspire others to pursue their dreams."



Robbie Norval

Santander Universities UK Magnusson Award winner 2021

Robbie, a PhD student at Glasgow Caledonian, used his Award to deepen the impact of the work carried out by his social enterprise, Lingo Flamingo that promotes language learning for older adults, particularly those living with dementia. Robbie was able to enhance learning resources and implement new courses, as well as fund training for carers and care home workers to help them learn how to teach a language-learning session to seniors. This was extremely useful during the pandemic, and allowed classes to continue despite lockdown restrictions. Robbie also set up three 10-week language courses in different areas of the country, focusing on Gaelic and French, delivering lessons to people with dementia, enabling them to enjoy the cognitive benefits of learning another language.

On receiving his Award, Robbie said: "I am delighted to receive support from the Magnusson fund, it is much appreciated and will go a long way in helping Lingo Flamingo deliver engaging and meaningful activities for people living with dementia. It has been a very different year for both carers and care home residents, and this funding will allow us to contribute some moments of joy and happiness to carers and residents within care home settings."



The Glasgow Caledonian University Foundation

Glasgow Caledonian University Foundation raises funds to help transform lives through education. To date the Foundation has raised over £10.5 million, supporting thousands of students through a variety of educational opportunities. The majority of our funding supports widening access initiatives, providing opportunities for all, regardless of background. Our Founding Donor, Sir Alex Ferguson CBE, was inspired to establish a scholarship and awards fund, to ensure that a variety of educational opportunities could be accessed by talented students irrespective of personal circumstances, and has donated almost £1 million to date.

Over £2 million has been raised to support the University's outreach activities, including our award-winning Caledonian Club

and Advanced Higher Hub where we seek to raise aspirations, build key life skills and increase articulation into higher education. Our Common Good Campaign, launched during the pandemic, raised funds to help those students who were hardest hit, providing financial and wellbeing support, as well as employability opportunities through our award-winning MINT (Mentoring, Internships, Networking and Talks) initiative. As the University for the Common Good, we are always inspired by the ideas, drive and ambition of our students who wish to make a difference in society. We are also inspired by our donors who commit to giving so generously, and encourage our students to succeed in life.



Sir Alex Ferguson CBE, Founding Donor and GCU honorary graduate

"I am delighted to continue to work with Glasgow Caledonian University who is truly committed to breaking down barriers to provide equal access to higher education. I enjoy my time meeting the students, seeing the different personalities and characters, but overall seeing them thrive on the opportunity of being supported."

Glasgow Caledonian offers a variety of awards that provide life-changing opportunities and experiences – from support with accessing education to recognising specific achievements, from helping develop business ideas to funding international study experiences, our awards help students to realise their potential and fulfil their ambitions.

Liam, Sir Alex Ferguson Scholarship beneficiary

“When I first heard that I would receive this scholarship I was honoured. For me, financial support of any kind was valuable. I have never been in a strong financial situation and I was worried about how I would be able to afford going to university. So, I put my scholarship to effective use and was able to afford items such as a new laptop, food and transport. I have been struggling during the current cost of living crisis, and when I received additional scholarship funds as well as food vouchers, gym membership and more, I was once again reminded of the kindness of Sir Alex Ferguson, as well as the great Foundation team at the University that reached out to me. I will forever be thankful.”



Hannah, Construction Management prize recipient

Hannah met her prize sponsor, Ken Macrae from Balfour Beatty, at this years School of Computing, Engineering and Built Environment's Annual Celebration.

“Receiving this award is great. It has made me strive to keep that calibre up for my work, and I have done since then. It has given me a real sense of pride. I know that sounds really clichéd but it’s an amazing feeling to be recognised for my work. I really do appreciate it.”





Celebrating 16 years of the Magnusson Fund

Each year we are inspired by the ideas and ambitions of our talented students. We are fortunate to see their skills and confidence grow as they deliver projects that change lives in their local communities and around the globe. It is down to the commitment and generosity of our remarkable donors that these unique opportunities are realised. Your support makes these projects financially possible, and your belief in their ideas drives our students to do the best they can. Thank you for helping to truly change lives.

Donation Form - Magnus Magnusson Fund

My Details:

Name:	
Address:	
Postcode:	Email:
Telephone:	Mobile:

I wish to make a regular donation to Glasgow Caledonian University of

£	Monthly	£	Quarterly	£	Annually
---	---------	---	-----------	---	----------

via Direct Debit starting on the 1st / 15th / 25th * (Delete as appropriate)

Name(s) of Account Holder(s):

Branch Sort Code:	Bank/Building Society Account No:
<div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>

Signature:	Date:
<div></div>	<div></div>

Single Gift Cheque/CAF Voucher

I enclose a cheque made payable to Glasgow Caledonian University or a CAF voucher for:

<input type="checkbox"/> £25	<input type="checkbox"/> £50	<input type="checkbox"/> £100
<input type="checkbox"/> £250	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	

Signature:	Date:
<div></div>	<div></div>

Gift Aid Declaration:

☐ Yes, I am a UK taxpayer and I agree to Glasgow Caledonian University claiming tax on all past, present and future donations I make to the charity. Please treat my donations as Gift Aid donations. By ticking this box I confirm that I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference. I understand that other taxes, such as Council Tax and VAT, do not qualify towards Gift Aid and that Glasgow Caledonian University will reclaim 25p of tax for every £1 that I give. Please tell us if you no longer qualify for Gift Aid.





Scott Burnett from Santander Universities with Sally Magnusson

“Santander Universities is proud to support the Magnusson Fund because it gives the students of GCU the opportunity to realise their dreams, achieve their potential, and have a rewarding experience that will forever shape their lives.”

Scott Burnett, University Relationship Manager, Santander Universities



“My sister, brother and I are all delighted to support the Magnusson Awards in the memory of our father, William Nicol - a former governor of Glasgow Caledonian University. His passion was supporting education and opportunity in all its forms for people from a wide range of backgrounds and diversity. These Awards provide a platform to enable students at Glasgow Caledonian University to reach for their dreams. We are proud to support the Magnusson Awards.”

David Nicol, on behalf of the Nicol family.

Magnus Magnusson Fund Donors

The University and the Magnusson family would like to warmly thank the following individuals, companies and trusts for their generosity in supporting the Magnus Magnusson Fund.

Individual Donors

- Mrs Elaine Acaster OBE
- Mr & Mrs Peter Addyman
- Ms Sheila Bain
- Mr Archie Baird
- Mr Crawford Beveridge CBE
- Mr Alistair Burrow MA LLB
- Mr John Chapman
- Dr and Mrs Martin Cheyne
- Dr Elie Chilton
- Prof Roger Crofts CBE FRSE
- Mr Brian J Dempsey
- Ms Gillian Dinsmore
- Mrs Jo Dowling
- Dr & Mrs Robin Easton
- Mr Fraser Elgin
- Dr Peter Finch DUniv
- Sir Alex Ferguson CBE
- Miss Alison Frazer
- Professor Brenda Gourley
- Mr Mike Graham
- Lord Dr Willie Haughey OBE DTech
- Mrs Elizabeth Hudson
- Dr Archie S Hunter
- Mr Alan & Mrs Alma Hutton
- Professor George L Irving CBE and Mrs Dorothy Irving
- Mr Norman Izzett
- Mr Paul Jordan
- Dr Thomas M C Lindsay
- Sir John Lister-Kaye Bt OBE
- Dr Winifred Logan Gordon
- Bill Lucas
- The Right Hon. Lord Macfarlane of Bearsden
- Dr Colin MacKay CBE
- Mr John Maclean
- Dr Gordon Thomson Masterton OBE DTech
- Mr Norman J McIntosh
- Dr James McVittie OBE
- Mrs Ellen Menzies
- Reverend John Miller
- Mr Alasdair Milne
- The Very Rev. Dr William J Morris
- Mr Kenneth Munro
- Lord Nickson of Renagour
- Mr Henry Perfect
- Mr James Purdon
- Sir William Rae
- Professor Seona Reid CBE
- Mrs Sarah Scott
- Rt Hon Lord Steel of Aikwood KT, KBE, PC
- Professor William Storrar
- Professor Joe Thomson
- Sheriff Nigel & Mrs Snjolaug Thomson
- Mr Graeme Waddell
- Ms Dorothee Weber
- Mrs D Winterbottom
- Professor Emeritus Hamish Wood CBE FRSE

Organisational Donors

- Arnold Clark Automobiles Ltd
- Bill and Margaret Nicol Charitable Trust
- Bishops' Conference of Scotland
- Ede & Ravenscroft
- Glasgow Caledonian University
- Glitnir Bank
- Icelandair UK
- Kaupthing Singer & Friedlander
- Mastermind Club
- Santander Universities
- The Merchants House of Glasgow
- The Robertson Trust
- UNISON
- Universities and College Admissions Service



Glasgow Caledonian University Foundation
Cowcaddens Road, Glasgow G4 0BA, Scotland, United Kingdom

gcu.ac.uk/foundation

Find out more about the Magnusson Fund at
gcu.ac.uk/magnusson