GCU Student Association’s (GCUSA)

The mission of the GCU Students’ Association is to represent and enable GCU students to enhance all aspects of their student experience.

The Vision of GCU Students’ Association is that GCU students will have an outstanding experience that will live with them forever and have the following values: Diversity; Community; Participation; Fun; Support and Leadership.

In line with the objective in the Students’ Association Big Plan 2014 (Strategic Plan) to develop a fun and supportive community for all our members, the student body are encouraged to participate in a range of engagement activities for the good of individual members, for the good of the university community, for the good of students nationally, for the good of the communities our campuses in Glasgow and London and our partnership institutions internationally serve and for the good of the Environment.

The full complement of activities are listed in the Students’ Association 2012 Community Engagement Framework and include:

• sharing skills, knowledge and facilities with local organisations, charities, schools and colleges.
• members’ volunteering in local, national and international organisations.
• members’ working as mentors to pupils in local schools through GCU’s Caledonian Club, Schools and Colleges Engagement and Transition Team, Greater Glasgow Articulation Partnership and to GCU students through Mentor and Peer Support.
• volunteer Energy Ambassadors conducting carbon audits for local businesses.
• partnering with Glasgow of Glasgow College.
• fundraising activities namely through the annual Alistair Boyd Ball and Raising and Giving Society.
• Student Officer’s being involved in local community council, community police, transport police, charitable organisations, Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Service meetings.

The Manifesto for Public Engagement invites universities to:

“work with our student body to develop and implement a student volunteering pledge in order to improve our support for their engagement with the public.”

Towards this end, Community and Public Engagement at GCU and the Students’ Association formed a working group in September 2012 and one of the outcomes of this group was a Student's Association community engagement pledge in November 2012. The pledge is outlined on the following page.
GCUSA’s Community Engagement Pledge

Alongside GCU’s ‘Engaged University’ Manifesto\(^1\) Commitment, we, the GCU Students’ Association pledge to continue to encourage and support our members (GCU Students) to participate in community engagement activities for the common good. We will continue to work in partnership with the Community and Public Engagement Steering Group, the GCU academic schools and GCU support departments and the local community to further develop student community engagement activities as an integral part of student life at GCU.

The Student EDGE audit conducted in November 2012 shows the support for community engagement across all categories and shows ambitions for growth and change to further embed community engagement in the core activities of the Students’ Association.

This pledge contributes to GCU’s forward plans to focus on community and public engagement, the student experience, career ready graduates, and internationalisation.

The Student President, General Manager and Vice-Chancellor for External and International Engagement will ensure this pledge is implemented.

We will promote this pledge to our members.

The CPESG will continue to meet to support the Students’ Association in implementing this pledge.

The Student EDGE audit will be repeated in 12 months time to measure change in the Students’ Association’s support for Community Engagement.

\(^1\) National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement’s Engaged University Manifesto