Masterplan: The Vision

Vision: A world-class, world-changing university

The University of Glasgow’s vision for the future, which is defined in their strategic plan ‘Inspiring People, Changing the World University Strategy 2015-2020’, is the driving force behind the development of this masterplan.

The University’s mission is to bring inspiring people together and create a world-class environment for learning and research, empowering staff and students to discover and share knowledge that can change the world.

The University have adopted a placemaking approach as the best means of delivering their vision and are using the following principles from the strategy to guide the development of their masterplan:

People

To build on its position as one of the world’s great research universities, the University of Glasgow must ensure the best staff and attract outstanding students in a competitive global context.

Place

The campus will be a place which attracts and retains employees/staff and engage staff together in a way which fosters the sharing of knowledge and innovation in a world-class environment for learning and research.

Purpose

To inspire a culture of discovery through world-class research, the campus will offer a range of internal and external spaces for innovative research, teaching, training and supporting an exciting and ambitious knowledge economy.

An integral part of the city

The University’s location is to develop the historic Winton burying ground as an evident cultural, learning and research environment which is a venue into the world, of cultural and intellectualAmsterdam of the Racecourse.

The University of Glasgow (Charity number 501708)
The purpose of the masterplan

The initiative marks the beginning of a period of significant investment for the University that will anchor the move from the city centre in 2012 and the construction of the Gilbert Scott Building, a building synonymous with the heritage architecture standing the city of Glasgow.

Aiming to address the 14 acres formerly occupied by the Western Infirmary Hospital provide an opportunity for the University to create a world class, world changing campus.

The masterplan is the planning framework that will ensure that the new development delivers the University’s strategic aspirations and is a coherent and co-ordinated manner which achieves the quality standards and environmental principles.

The material presented in this exhibition form part of the public consultation for a forthcoming application for Planning Permission in Principle. Subject to approval by Glasgow City Council, the masterplan will form the basis of all development within the area, with subsequent detailed applications for individual buildings being the subject of a series of applications for Approval of Major Works specified in Conditions, within the terms of the Planning Permission in Principle.

The Campus Development Framework

The Gilberrt Scott Campus Development Framework, which was approved by Glasgow City Council in April 2018, sets out a clear and engaging framework for the new campus to deliver on a range of University priorities, including education, research and development.

The principles underpinning the Campus Development Framework are based on the University’s strategy, and are designed to ensure that the University’s new campus is a world-class, world-changing campus.

The Campus Development Framework is underpinned by an extensive consultation programme between 2012 and 2014.

It was intended that masterplanning for individual sites or groups of sites within the development area of the Campus Development Framework, such as the masterplanning proposals for the former Western Infirmary site, would be brought forward as appropriate in the future to establish detailed principles of layout and form of buildings.

Planning Application Process

We are here.

Planning Policy Context

The University’s planning policies are set in a national context which are relevant to the proposed application for Planning Permission in Principle.


Relevant strategic policy is contained within The Glasgow & Strathclyde City Region Strategic Framework (2012).

Relevant city wide policy is contained within Gilbert Scott Development Plan (2017). Within that plan the role of the Gilbert Scott Campus is covered, Policy Policy SU4 (infrastructure, hospital and further education) - City Plan EXPRESSThe City Plan contains areas of “Core, Hospital and Further Education” within the city and one new healthcare and tertiary education campus.

In 2022, the University’s Campus Masterplan is expected to be completed, and applications for Planning Permission in Principle are expected to be submitted, subject to the planning process.

Applications for individual buildings under Approval of Major Works specified in Conditions (AMC)

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Inspiring Place
A place that encourages people to come together to exchange ideas and knowledge and stimulates collaborative learning and research.
An inspiring environment that physically and visibly connects both internal and external spaces.
Spaces that encourage people to work together in a collaborative manner and which also respond to evolving learning and research needs.

Placemaking Strategy
The principles, Place and Purpose placemaking principles, which have been drawn down from the University’s values, have been translated with an analysis of how the University is organised to develop a spatial strategy that is the basis of the new campus masterplan.
The key aspects of the approach are:
- Moving away from the perception of the University’s Colleges being a series of separate buildings, or “silos”, towards an overlapping network of shared spaces of learning and research.
- Maintaining the identity of each College within the clustered network of buildings and the overlapping spaces in between providing the opportunity for social activities, informal learning and collaborative working.
- Skinning the boundaries between the University and the surrounding neighbourhoods by introducing mixed use at these interfaces within existing public spaces.

Approach to the Western Site
The Campus Development Framework has provided a clear set of urban design principles which have informed the basis of the masterplan for the former Western Infirmary site.
The key elements of the masterplan are:
- A permeable network of streets and spaces that open up new connections between the Campus and the surrounding area.
- The introduction of a new pedestrian cycle route connecting Byres Road and Kelvingrove Park.
- A central space on the heart of the Western Site which will be a new civic space for the University and the West End.
- Mixed use development on Church Street that integrates the western edge of the site with the surrounding area.
- The proposed removal of the UCTY’s hospital block.

The former Western Infirmary site with the four axial buildings which are prominent to be retained

The community route established in the Campus Development Framework is central to the masterplan and has been included to provide a better connection between Byres Road and Kelvingrove Park.

Defining new urban connections between Church Street and the central area of the Campus.

The masterplan maintains the permeable network of streets and spaces that are central to the Campus Development Framework.

A new retail space into Byres Road is Kelvingrove Park and the University to Church Street.

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Defining New Urban Connections

The masterplan is principally about making connections, bringing the University’s Colleges together, bringing parts of the city together and bringing people together to strengthen the University’s student experience, global research profile and its contribution to Glasgow and beyond.

The masterplan for the Western Site promotes connection between the new development and the existing campus, and the surrounding area, with new public spaces that allow people to move freely through the new quarter and open up views of key landmarks.

These routes are linked by gateway spaces at the junctions with Kelvinbridge Park, Church Street and Blythe Road and the new square of the heart of the Western Site.

Map showing the proposed new link from Kelvinbridge Park to the south boundary of the site and up to the heart of the campus. The gateways are not representative of architecture.
Active Public Spaces

The masterplan seeks to create a University environment that is a more active place with active use of ground floor to articulate the campus and facilitate greater levels of informal socializing and interaction in teaching and learning.

This will be achieved by considering the space as a lively part of the city, an active academic environment, rather than an isolated campus.

The ground floor, through most of the Western site, is given over to social functions and social spaces with the remainder available for academic and research spaces at upper levels. The scheme plan opposite and the section below illustrate the approach to providing a permeable network of internal, external and street-level spaces, including the commons around the new square, which will help to culminate activity in all weather.
Public Space Strategy

The new and enhanced public spaces and streets will be designed as active spaces that will encourage students, staff and the local community to use them and enjoy them.

Defining important new public spaces

Enhancing the existing streetscape

Movement and Travel

The university is exploring proposals which will enhance University Avenue to enhance the visual and aesthetic quality of the streetscape, while accommodating the needs of both students and staff. The university has developed a Public Realm Strategy which will be implemented over the next five years.

Key features of the developing strategy include:

- Pedestrianised streets
- Integration of heritage buildings
- Improved public space
- Sustainable travel
- Improved public realm
- Improved public space
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The university is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all students and staff, and is working closely with local authorities to ensure that the streets are well-lit and free from litter.

The university is also working with local businesses to promote the use of public transport and cycling, and is encouraging the use of sustainable travel options.

The university is committed to reducing its carbon footprint and has set targets to reduce its carbon emissions by 2030. The university is also working with local authorities to develop a sustainable transport strategy for the city.

The university is proud to be a member of the Universities Climate Coalition, and is working closely with other universities to promote sustainable practices.

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Adaptive reuse of existing buildings

It is proposed to retain the key historic parts of the former hospital site, to use them as mixed-use spaces in a way which will bring the site alive to the area. This will include a new town square, at a key interface with the surrounding neighbourhoods, by making academic use of a range of complementary commercial uses, such as work space for start-ups, private sector rewards, hotel accommodation, cafés, restaurants and some retail.

The University sees this area as having great potential as an innovation quarter which would act as a link between their academic research and the wider commercial world.

Key listed buildings helping to define new urban spaces and routes

The proposed for the retention and adaptive reuse of existing buildings have been developed with conservation architects Simpson & Brown, who have an extensive understanding of the historic buildings on the site from their previous work on the Glasgow Conservation Workshop. The proposals develop and enhance the existing historic buildings, including the reuse of redundant and redundant key historic buildings, while giving new life through creative adaptive reuse.

The masterplan proposes the demolition of the Phase 1 building which was completed in 1974 as part of significant redevelopment of the Western Infirmary site. This building is considered to be no longer fit for purpose and is of a scale and mass that is inappropriate to the context, so the University see its removal as a positive contribution to the campus and the surrounding area.  

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