

GUSA Council Member - Nomination Form & Manifesto 2025/26

Position:	Alumni Convenor
Name:	Samantha Harvey
Club:	Swimming and Waterpolo, and Athletics



My name is Sammie Harvey and I am currently a 3rd year student studying economics and sociology. During the past 3 wonderful years of being at Glasgow University I have been a GUSA member, trying my hand at different sports including athletics, swimming and lacrosse. While in the Glasgow University Lacrosse Club (GULC), **I was elected Social Secretary in the second semester of my first year** and was re-elected for the role in my second year. Being involved in GUSA has been a huge part of my university experience and has given me many strong friendships and opportunities. The positive impact GUSA has made on me through sport will stay with me for the rest of my life and I believe that my experience in GUSA has created a resource of knowledge and opportunities which will help me while at and beyond university. If elected, I would try my best to improve the current symbiotic relationship between GUSA and its alumni and for this reason I am running for the GUSA Alumni Convenor 2025/26!

Why I should be GUSA Alumni Convenor:

- I have first hand experience planning and executing events that connect alumni with current students. For the **GULC annual ball, I successfully planned, organised and ran the event two years in a row**, hosting over 50 attendees each year. I would transfer the skills and experience gained from the 2023 and 2024 lacrosse balls to the role of alumni convenor into planning student events and the annual 1881 ball.
- From my time on the GULC committee, I learned the importance of clear communication. During my role as social secretary, I further developed my communication skills allowing me to be a strong communicator with both students and external staff. My **strong communication skills** guarantee that I would successfully and effectively execute the role of alumni convenor. When organising the 2023 and 2024 lacrosse balls, I found it difficult to engage with the alumni of the club through the club's facebook page. Although the facebook page included some alumni, its main use was not for student-alumni communication and so it is possible that the lines of communication relevant for the alumni (the invitation to the annual ball) were not received. If elected into the role of alumni convenor, I would strive to create a clear line of communication between alumni and GUSA clubs in order to increase their connectivity.
- For a significant amount of my time at university, I have been a member of the GULC committee, and that role has prepared me for the challenges that will come with being Alumni Convenor. When I was the re-elected Social Secretary, I proved my **excellent time management skills** which allowed me to be a full-time student and a present member of the GULC committee. From my experience as Social Secretary, I learned the importance of timing when planning club socials and balls which would translate to planning an event such as 1881. In order to ensure that 1881 receives as much engagement as possible I would send out correspondence soon after my election into the role and create a plan of action for the event as I have done when planning the multiple, successful socials and balls for GULC.

My plans:

- 1881
 - ◆ If elected, I would continue on the tradition of the annual 1881 event which invites previous and current members of GUSA council to an evening dedicated to GUSA. I believe that this is a fantastic event as it fortifies the relationship between those who have been and currently are dedicated to the impact that GUSA has on students and their university experience. Due to the positive feedback from previous years, I would continue to use the GUU as the venue for the event as it allows alumni to enjoy an evening in the nostalgic building.
- Club alumni networks
 - ◆ Although some clubs within GUSA have already created successful alumni networks, I would work to make this a reality for all clubs within GUSA. In order to do this, I would implement a **voluntary network** within clubs allowing for alumni to be contactable by the clubs with news and future events, such as alumni balls. By creating these connections between students and alumni, there is a chance for students to benefit from the knowledge gained by the alumni as well as allowing them to network, leading to possible **opportunities in the future**. This would build on the work done over the last year working on the alumni database. I would like to make it possible for clubs to create their own database following the voluntary acceptance of future alumni so they are creating strong foundations for the future of the clubs. These databases would allow for the clubs to easily contact their alumni for upcoming events, with their consent, streamlining the valuable resource that is club alumni.
- Club support
 - ◆ Not only would I support clubs by creating alumni networks that would act as a platform to connect GUSA clubs with their alumni, I would create ways for clubs to sustain that relationship. One possible way to achieve this would be to create **clear and comprehensive handbooks** for clubs informing them of ways to maintain their respective alumni networks as well as possible events that would be held by clubs to further reinforce these networks. This handbook would help to ensure that as few problems as possible are encountered when navigating club alumni responsibilities. This club support would also allow for a new potential position of Alumni Secretary on club committees. Although some clubs already have this position within their committees, I would help smaller and less established clubs to build a long lasting club-alumni relationship.

I strongly believe that maintaining relationships between students and alumni within GUSA is imperative as it mutually benefits all involved. Creating and sustaining alumni networks within GUSA clubs allows for possible future opportunities for students through the use of networking as well as giving alumni a chance to impart knowledge and advice to those within their old clubs. If these relationships are not sustained, I feel that the valuable resources and opportunities presented by the alumni of GUSA could be lost which would be a great shame for all.

Thank you for taking the time to read my manifesto for GUSA Alumni Convenor 2025/26.