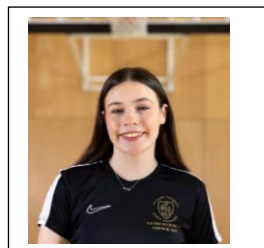


## **GUSA Council Member - Nomination Form & Manifesto 2025/26**

Position:	Alumni Convener
Name:	Eilidh McQuillan
Club:	Trampoline



Hi everyone, my name is Eilidh. I am a third-year history student and the current GUSA Alumni Convener. I have been a member of the trampoline club since my first year, where I have taken on various roles, including being the club's publicity officer, fundraising, and coaching. This year, I joined water polo, which has been an incredibly rewarding experience. Learning a new sport and playing as part of a team has been one of the highlights of my year. Sport has been a central part of my life from a young age, and it remains integral to my university experience. Through my involvement in GUSA over the last two and a half years, I have gained an in-depth understanding of the behind-the-scenes work necessary to running sports, and I am genuinely passionate about upholding this work to the highest standard.

This year has been thoroughly rewarding. I have had the opportunity to work with amazing students, staff, and alumni. I successfully organised GUSA's annual 1881 Council Alumni Dinner. After listening to feedback from the previous alumni convener, senior council members, and the alumni themselves, I made the decision to remove plus ones which was very positively received. I had various speeches throughout the night, including a keynote address from GUSA Council Alumnus Mark Beaumont. Additionally, I worked with the University's Development and Alumni Office (DAO) to create a donation page where club alumni can donate to their sports clubs. I have been working with the DAO, individual clubs, and the UofG Sport Team to have this running by the end of this semester. This platform will allow club alumni to donate to their sports clubs and act as a more professional page for clubs to fundraise from. Furthermore, with the update to the club sport management portal, I have worked with the GUSA President and the UofG Sport Team to create a new way to collect contact details for our alumni mailing list. This will allow us to maintain contact with our GUSA Alumni following their graduation, enabling us to invite them to events and share current success. Moreover, I have worked with Lexie, our health and performance convener, to organise an event where GUSA Alumni have been invited back to talk to current students about the importance of sport after graduation. The event has a focus on employability and professional development, which is something I would aim to push further if I was to be re-elected.

I believe that event management and organisation are key skills required to fulfil the remit of this role. I am confident in my event management skills, with experience organising a variety of GUSA and professional events. Last year, I organised a race night on behalf of the trampoline club, raising nearly £500 for Glasgow and Clyde's Rape Crisis Centre. I managed bookings, ticket pricing, decorations, prizes, and publicity for this event. Furthermore, in a more professional setting, I organised a quiz and networking gathering for summer interns at Scottish Power during my summer placement this year. This was highly successful and allowed all the interns to meet and connect with each other. This demonstrates my ability to organise more professional events. Additionally, I have experience organising the events undertaken by the alumni convener through my past year's work.

Another skill I believe is essential to the role is communication and teamwork. Through coaching I have developed my communication skills by teaching my peers new skills and helping them to improve. As not everyone learns in the same way I have learned to adapt my coaching style to better suit individual needs. Through my past experience on council and on a club committee, I am confident preparing for and speaking at meetings. I believe with the experience I have gained in the past year, I understand the challenges of this role and I am well-equipped to deal with them.

If I were to be re-elected, I would like to continue working on the donation platform implemented this year. I believe a week-long coordinated fundraiser across clubs would be a great way to raise awareness of this platform and grow donations for clubs. For this I would coordinate with the DAO, the publicity convener and club CTS to highlight the work clubs are doing, demonstrate how to access and use the platform, and highlight the positive impact of the donation. I would like to expand this page to include not only club sport donations, but also GUSA initiatives/campaigns such as outreach or women in sport.

For 1881, I would use the knowledge I gained organising the past dinner and continue listening to alumni feedback about the event, to ensure it is well attended and enjoyable. I would keep the removal of plus ones implemented this year, due to the positive feedback received from alumni. Additionally, I would keep the union as the location, again, this was very positively received by alumni attending.

For the second event, I would aim to host something beneficial to current students as well as alumni. The professional development event being ran later in the semester gives graduates an opportunity to develop their skills public speaking and benefits current students' preparation for professional life.

I would also like to utilise LinkedIn more as a platform for posting for Alumni. I think posting things like newsletters here would be an effective way to connect with alumni.