

Position:	President
Name:	Karl Kirkpatrick
Club:	Athletics



My name is Karl Kirkpatrick, and I'm very excited to be re-running for the position of President of Glasgow University Sports Association.

I have a lot of experience within GUSA, which I believe makes me a perfect fit to continue to lead the association as President:

- GUAC member 2020 – present
- GUAC Social Secretary 2021-22; Fundraising & Alumni Convenor 2022-23
- GUSA Freshers' Helper 2021-24; Helper of the Week 2022
- GUSA Events and Recreation Convenor 2022 – 2023
- GUSA Secretary 2023 – 2024
- GUSA President 2024-present

I am incredibly knowledgeable around the inner workings of GUSA and UofG Sport and have built strong relationships this year that serve GUSA well. I have excellent time management, organisational, and problem-solving skills, as well as being an experienced public speaker, all of which work to my benefit as President. I have managed to fit a lot into the last 9 months since taking over as President and have worked to deliver on manifesto points from last year. The highlights have included:

- Supporting clubs with issues around welfare, conduct, facilities and more.
- Applying for and receiving funding from the University to hire a student intern who will support key work around underrepresented groups in sport (SIMD 20/40, non-EU international, and disabled students) and the promotion of being active through the Active Buddy Programme, allowing for more time to be focused on this vital area.
- Overseeing the expansion of the Women's Only Hour, turning it into a bookable class, and then securing a second weekly session.
- Leading, alongside Dominique and Sophia, a successful Freshers' Week and our 24/25 cohort of GUSA Freshers' Helpers.
- Working with the Glasgow-based charity Rising Stars to bring local schoolkids onto the UofG campus and into the Stevenson Building to watch BUCS basketball games, giving them an insight into sport at UofG.
- Developing a successful GUSA Survey which gathered 1,000 responses, and facilitating focus groups for clubs and international students, allowing me to more accurately represent the views of our members.
- Holding office hours to increase accessibility to the GUSA President and allow more people to share their views.
- Developing a connection between GUSA and Partick Thistle Football Club.
- Representing UofG at BUCS and SSS events, as well as other key conferences.

The above points are all proof that I have worked hard this year, but there is more still to be done. In a second year as GUSA President, I would like to continue work on all of the above, as well as the following:

**Lobby for a fairer membership model, and more leniency around membership deadlines:** It is clear that better payment options for a UofG Sport membership are desired – I will work with Sport to make this a reality, **which I believe is achievable through the upcoming Sport Strategy**. Additionally, a barrier to international student participation in clubs is the fact that a membership must be purchased by week 1 of the semester. This puts students who arrive in Glasgow later at a disadvantage and can mean that they never get involved in sport at university. I would like to explore and encourage more leniency around this.

**A focus on the upcoming UofG Strategy for Sport:** My immediate priority is ensuring that the strategy properly represents the needs and views of students. I have done a lot of work around this so far and look forward to seeing it to completion. The importance of this strategy cannot be understated.

**New methods of communication:** Feedback shows that using our own social media for promotion has a good, but obviously limited, reach. I would therefore like to start utilising posters and emailing more effectively, to reach a larger group of students and increase engagement.

**Prioritising accessibility:** Following the success of the Female Only Hour and Accessible Swim sessions, I would like to introduce an Accessible Hour in Studio 1. The Female Only Hour has provided a safe space for females to train, and I would like to extend this to students with disabilities who feel less able to train in Pulse/Powerplay. I also want to ensure that accessibility is appropriately addressed in the upcoming Sport Strategy, and that club committees are well-educated around disability and accessibility.

**Work with Widening Participation:** It has been great this year to develop a connection with the Widening Participation team, and to speak to groups of WP students about our offering. I want to develop this link further next year, especially through the intern mentioned above. Sport is a force for good and should be accessible to all, and I want to ensure that this is the case at UofG.

**Increased MSL efficiency:** Whilst the new MSL portal has worked well in parts, there are areas where it has not been so effective. I will work with the Sport Development Team to ensure that the portal is more efficient in the next academic year, and that it is easier for students and club committees to use.

**Engage with societies, specifically nationality-based societies, to promote our clubs at the start of the semester:** Alongside the Outreach Convenor, I will reach out to country/heritage-based SRC societies over the summer and promote our Freshers' Week activities. Non-EU international students are one of the groups which are underrepresented within GUSA, and I aim to close this gap by building connections with these groups. Additionally, I believe that promotion in different languages, and within private halls of residence, are key to expanding our reach.

**Wednesday afternoon classes:** Classes being scheduled on Wednesday afternoons is still an issue, proven by the number of exemption letters I have written this year so far. Additionally, time is a restraint faced by all students. The university stating that Wednesday afternoons should be kept free is good, however this is not upheld in all subjects. I would therefore like to garner support from the SRC on this and lobby UofG to keep Wednesday afternoons free in all subject areas.

**GUSA's structure:** I will continue the work that has been ongoing this year around GUSA's organisational structure in liaison with the university, and make sure that the association is fully financially and legally compliant.

**New Vice Chancellor:** I will meet with the new UofG Vice Chancellor to ensure that his view of GUSA and sport generally at the university is positive from the outset.

**GUSA Council:** As I have done this year, I want to continue to meet regularly with the other GUSA Council members to ensure that they are meeting their goals and doing what is expected of them. Setting KPIs at the start of the year will be key to this. I also want to ensure that the GUSA Senior Council is made up of those from a diverse range of backgrounds, and with a range of experience.

**Student feedback:** I want to continue to be accessible and open to ideas and feedback from students, and plan to continue a weekly Office Hour, making this in-person where possible.

This year, I've demonstrated my dedication and ability, and I hope I have earned your trust. It is impossible to capture everything in just two pages, but please reach out with any questions or for a chat,