

VOTE SIMON WARD

#1 FOR VPSD!

I'm Simon Ward, a 4th year Journalism student at GCU. I'm running in the elections on the 23rd-24th February for the position of Vice President of Student Development and I'm hoping to get your vote! The past three years have been the best years of my life, meeting a great mix of people and I'm in no hurry for it to end. I am part of the men's football team, a presenter on RadioCaley and the current Sports Editor for The Edit magazine. Being involved within the Students Association has made my experience at GCU an incredibly memorable one and I strongly believe that I have the determination, open-mindedness and the necessary social skills to represent all students at GCU.

If elected I plan to

- Address the issue of feedback. Feedback of exam coursework marks varies massively from each module and there is no system in place to inform students of when they are expected to find out their marks. I hope to implement a plan whereby tutors have a specified turnaround time (e.g 3-4 weeks) from when the work is completed to when the feedback is dispatched to the student. This makes students aware of when feedback is due and also holds lecturers accountable if they do not meet the deadline. I want to ensure that the quality of feedback is to a sufficient standard; with copies of work, along with constructive comments highlighting areas of improvement.
- It has been identified that some students are unhappy with their timetable with complaints stating that they are too spread out over 5 days, with late finishes and early starts. Whilst this does not affect some students there are many of them who are being asked to travel in early from home only then to be found waiting two or three hours for their next class. I suggest that different schools work with each of their programmes to come up with a solution that is viable for all students. This will give students a timetable that allows them to attend classes in longer periods giving them the best chance to succeed at GCU.
- Caledonian Student Parliament? Have you been? Do you know what it is? This is where students get the chance to vote on the matters that affect the university and their learning environment. Motions in parliament have led to major change at GCU yet are only decided upon by 20-30 students. I would like to encourage as many students, from whatever faculty, to attend and have their say on the important matters which affect the way they study.
- I want to improve the employability of all students at GCU by encouraging participation of the volunteer courses and career services that are available. With more students graduating with degrees; there is an increasing need to stand out when applying for jobs. The Student Leaders Programme is open to all volunteers and is a fantastic opportunity for volunteers to gain transferable skills that immediately impress prospective employees. Together with the Careers Service I want ensure that students have the best possible chance of finding a career that is tailored to their abilities.
- I want to promote, encourage and utilise the online learning environment of Blackboard to its full extent with a view to introducing a Blackboard App for all smart phones. This will then improve the communication between students and lecturers through its various tools, making sure every student is aware of class changes, announcements and deadline dates as well as ensuring notes and lecture slides are readily available.