



Glasgow Profile

Scotland's biggest city and one of the UK's largest centres for education, Glasgow welcomes more than 24,000 international students to its five universities every year.

Friends International (FI) has had a team in Glasgow for many years, and given the size of the city and international student body, the emphasis has continued to be on enabling the local church to welcome, reach out and befriend international students well. Currently, much of the work is focused on supporting seven international cafes that are organised by local churches, as well as four Christian Unions (CUs). The international cafes are hosted by churches across the city, with different student populations and nationalities attending them. They provide spaces for international students to make friends, learn about Scottish culture, practice English and also enable local Christians to get to know students and walk alongside them. As a follow-up, many of the cafe teams run seekers' Bible studies or discipleship courses.

Moreover, the team runs centre-wide outreach activities, such as the International Welcome in September, which pulls together churches from across the city in a joint outreach to international students. In 2025, FI Glasgow partnered with 16 different churches, as well as four CUs, to host over 30 social events and seven freshers' stalls to welcome newly arrived international students to the city.

Additionally, for the last nine years, Glasgow has been running The Philip Project course, aiming to grow international Christian students in cross-cultural Bible handling skills and showing our commitment to walk with international students of all stages of faith, with the goal of raising up disciples; engaging with the mission of the church in the world.

In the past, our Local Link scheme was successful in drawing on opportunities to work with private student accommodations, and to link international students directly with local Christians from partner churches that were not running international cafes. There are more opportunities to cooperate with student accommodations, as well as seeking out student demographics that do not fully engage with our activities yet. An addition to the team would provide more capacity to start new initiatives.

In addition to the general responsibilities of an FI Staff Worker (which can be found in the accompanying job description), specific responsibilities of this post include:

- Sharing faith with and discipling international students.
- Envisioning, partnering and resourcing churches and CUs for mission among international students with a view to further develop the ministry.
- Mentoring CU student leaders.
- Assisting to develop the Local Link programme, which links up international students with local Christian buddies.
- Assisting in new initiatives that co-operate with local private student accommodations, such as setting up a new table talk programme, or similar.



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