

**CITY** OF GLASGOW  
COLLEGE

Let Learning Flourish



2021-2030  
Student Academic  
Experience Strategy

# STRATEGIC VISION

City of Glasgow College will be a sector leader with an international reputation for academic and professional excellence. We will provide an outstanding student learning experience underpinned by industry, enterprise and the professions.



INSPIRATION | EXCELLENCE | INNOVATION

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# INTRODUCTION

This Student Academic Experience Strategy has been developed in alignment with the College Strategic Plan, informed by relevant external and internal research and experiences, through broad stakeholder engagement including students, colleagues, and the industries we serve. All this within a changing Tertiary Education landscape in Scotland. Through its implementation, we seek to enable all students to achieve their full potential, through supporting successful progression, raising levels of attainment, enhancing student attributes, and preparing for work and/or further study.

City of Glasgow College has successfully redefined college learning, and is widely regarded as a world-class super college, delivering further and higher education and personalised learning opportunities. Over the next decade, the expansion of high-quality digital provision, with the enhanced capabilities of staff and students, will be required to provide a flexible curriculum responsive to economic needs (Cumberford Little report 2020). The complex and aspirational needs of our students, and their changed expectations of education, will be met, as the student is at the heart of all we do at City of Glasgow College.

Our college will continue to serve a diverse, multi-ethnic, community - connected and multi-generational student body. Our students of the future will be accustomed to the seamless and inextricable integration of technology into their lives on an unprecedented scale. In this context City of Glasgow College is shaping its offer and planning from the future. These students will learn alongside our 'lifetime learners' which will demand pioneering, digitally-supported, intergenerational and personalised learning - stimulating and innovative.

At City of Glasgow College, our City Learning and Teaching will be Active, Blended and Connected. Students will be co-creators of their own learning, challenged with real-life problems and solutions. Alongside industry specialist practitioners and experts, students will develop the skills to help them attain, achieve, and progress to a positive destination. Their experience will re-shape their future and create pathways to new careers.

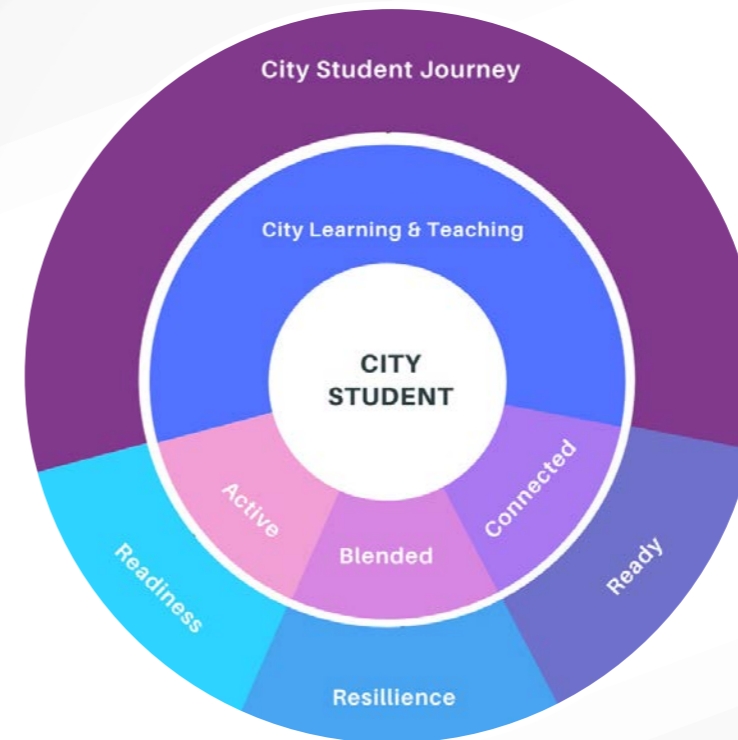
We are committed to a culture of Quality Enhancement and evidence-based practice in our provision, and the highest levels of student performance.

In a world of ongoing change, our students will be entering highly competitive employment markets. Employers will seek high levels of relevant technical, digital and professional skills as they recruit, as well as adaptability in the face of change, to rise to future challenges and shape solutions.

The City of Glasgow Student can be confident of a high quality, engaging, and inclusive experience. There will be opportunities to develop life skills, build relationships that foster a sense of belonging, and to take those next steps into industry, work or further study. Throughout the City Student Journey, we continue to engage and support our students to ensure they get the right help at the right time. From application to graduation, the welfare, well-being and future success of the City Student is our focus.

This Strategy, which was informed by students, sets out a commitment to be a college where individual needs are anticipated at every step of the student journey, and are met in a proactive and purposeful way.

## Student Academic Experience Strategy THEMES



### City Student:

The City Student will gain much more than qualifications and technical skills. The City Student will develop a whole series of personal skills and attributes - building up soft skills, interpersonal skills, career management skills, and all the attributes that are reflective of the City of Glasgow College experience that students can articulate and employers recognise.



# City Learning & Teaching:

At City of Glasgow College, our City Learning and Teaching will be Active, Blended and Connected. Students will be co-creators of their own learning, challenged with real-life problems and be able to identify benefits to themselves and others. This Strategy will continue to

position City of Glasgow firmly at the forefront of pioneering digital innovation in stimulating, innovative approaches to learning and teaching. Learner Analytics will enhance engagement of students with their learning and ensure ownership of learning.



**Active**

- Learning focuses on the application of knowledge, skills and wider competencies where Project and problem based learning strategies are utilised.

**Blended**

- All Learning and assessment opportunities are 'digital first' and supported by blended opportunities.
- Systems, technologies and processes are optimised for digital environments.

- Learning experiences are accessible, customisable and personalised.

**Connected**

- Opportunities to work on collaborative activities across disciplines are commonplace.
- Contributors from, and engagement with external stakeholders are embedded in curriculum ensuring courses are fit-for-purpose and reflective of industry standards.

# City Student Journey:

Throughout the City Student Journey, we will engage with our students to ensure they receive the support they need, when they need it. From application to graduation, our focus is the welfare, well-being and future success of the City Student.

We will review and enhance the Student Journey to optimize the integration of digital systems, to achieve efficiencies and timeliness of information and support - all designed to ensure a seamless experience from application to graduation.



**Readiness**

- Accessible and relevant information, advice and guidance.
- Online and responsive application systems.
- Inclusive and targeted support through the use of student analytics.

**Resilience**

- Welfare and well-being support.

- Opportunities for social interaction with other students.
- Opportunities for self-development.

**Ready**

- Specialist advice on careers, personal development planning and further study.
- Developing a skills portfolio for employment.
- Finding a job.



## AIM 1: City of Glasgow College Student

The City of Glasgow Student can be confident of an engaging, inclusive and excellent experience with opportunities to develop life skills, and to build relationships that foster a sense of belonging.

Our City Student will develop and progress, to take confidently those next steps into industry, work or further study. Every student will have a City of Glasgow College digital portfolio to evidence the wider generic attributes they have gained.

- 1.1 Develop City of Glasgow student attribute/metaskills that are reflective of the City of Glasgow College experience that students can articulate and employers recognise.

O B J E C T I V E S



## AIM 2: | City Learning and Teaching

At City of Glasgow College, our City Learning and Teaching will be Active, Blended and Connected. Students will be co-creators of their own learning, challenged with real-life problems and be able to identify benefits to themselves and others.

This Strategy will continue to position City of Glasgow College firmly at the

forefront of pioneering digital innovation in learning and teaching, led and shaped by lecturing staff who are actively engaged with the pedagogical development of their discipline. The College will provide a broad and flexible curriculum enabling all students to develop their full potential using stimulating, innovative approaches to learning and teaching.

2.1 Conduct a full portfolio review to ensure delivery of a relevant work-related portfolio meeting employer and sectoral demands. The Curriculum will be underpinned by 3 key Principles: Active, Blended and Connected and ensure equality, diversity and inclusivity and integrate sustainability and environmental impact management.

The curriculum review will:

- Create a suite of interdisciplinary/cross faculty courses
- Develop a suite of accredited Short courses/microcredentials
- Develop clear pathways with several entry/exit points to careers/further study
- Provide relevant work placement, work related, work readiness and entrepreneurial/enterprising opportunities across all courses.

O B J E C T I V E S

2.2 Progressively develop all formal learning spaces on campuses as collaborative, technology-rich and learner-focused spaces to enable our students towards independent personalised learning and encourage peer to peer learning.

2.3 Provide and implement the best possible Virtual Learning Environment for our students and staff which is accessible, inclusive, reliable and adaptable and incorporates learner analytics to support students and staff in the monitoring and enhancement of student engagement, attainment and satisfaction.

2.4 Develop and adopt appropriate innovative and effective digital assessment and feedback systems across all courses and reduce assessment burden.

2.6 Develop a Comprehensive programme of academic staff development for all Learning and Teaching Staff to develop practice and gain recognition from professional bodies such as GTCs and AdvanceHE.

2.7 Every new City of Glasgow lecturer to participate in the Lecturer development pathway in advance of teaching and will have or achieve a formal teaching qualification within a time-limited period (from PDA to TQFE).

O B J E C T I V E S

2.8 Identify, share and introduce innovative practices, opportunities and activities such as “practice zones” across college through, networks, events and public platforms and deliver a sector leading Annual CofG Learning and Teaching Conference.

2.9 Create opportunities for Learning and Teaching staff secondments to the Learning and Teaching Academy to develop and share practice across College.

2.10 Implement cyclical reviews of Faculties and courses, employing student feedback, course performance data, stakeholder feedback, student voices and learning analytics to ensure evidence- based decision-making about course viability, course quality assurance and enhancements.

2.11 Create the Library of the Future developing Library spaces for increased collaborative and social learning a place that students and staff can call their own and create a valued academic and supported community with a blend of digital services and library expertise that will extend a physically rich experience.

# O B J E C T I V E S



# AIM 3: | City Student Journey

Throughout the City Student Journey, we will engage with our students to ensure they receive the support they need, when they need it. From application to graduation, our focus is the welfare, well-being, and future success of the City Student.

We will review and enhance the Student Journey to optimize the integration of digital systems, to achieve efficiencies and timeliness of information and support – all designed to ensure a seamless experience from application to graduation.

3.1 Review and enhance the Student Journey to make best use and integration of digital systems to achieve efficiencies and timeliness of information and support to

ensure a seamless experience from application to graduation.

O B J E C T I V E S

3.2 Development of a Student Retention Framework encompassing: student preparedness for college;

- an effective induction and welcome experience building a sense of belonging within an inclusive learning community;
- promotion of health and wellbeing amongst the student community;
- enhanced processes for the early detection and intervention of students at risk of failure or withdrawal from study;
- facilitation of students' transition through their whole college journey and into employment, and;
- ensure robust data informs ongoing improvement of retention and success strategies.

3.3 Review of 'Guidance' offering and subsequent development of comprehensive academic and pastoral support in line with changed student experience.

3.4 Refresh the College Employer Engagement Strategy ensuring long term strategic partnerships are well evidenced within each faculty, supporting staff development and the building of alumni & professional networks.

3.5 Develop a College Careers strategy outlining the provision and direction of Careers Information Advice and Guidance and commitment to high quality guidance on education, training and employment opportunities to prospective, current and former students.

3.6 Work in Partnership with the Student body to deliver a refreshed Student Partnership Agreement identifying key areas for development agreed between CitySA and the College.

O B J E C T I V E S



# CITY OF GLASGOW COLLEGE

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