THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART

Glasgow School of Art Course Specification
Course Title: Masters Project

Course Code	HECOS Code	Academic Session
PSMI328		2023-24

Course Title	Masters Project
Course Contact	Ronan Breslin

Credits	60
SCQF Level	11
When Taught	Semester 3

Associated Programmes	MDes Sound for the Moving Image
Lead School	School of Innovation and Technology
Other Schools	N/A
Date of Approval	Programme Approval March 2023

Course Introduction

This course is intended to provide students with practical skills of creating, developing, delivering and communicating the outcomes of a research project of research in an area relating to sound for the moving image.

This is a supervised independent research project, with students responsible for determining their own project aims and objectives. Students will be expected to manage their own time on this substantial research project, typically completing both a practical element and written report.

Course Aims

This course aims to provide students with the opportunity to:
- Create and reflect upon an individual project that explores personal themes and/or professional processes within the development of a Masters level project and written report.
- Develop and demonstrate an understanding of research methodologies and research processes within the fields of sound and music production for the moving image or sonic arts;
- Develop a research project that explores personal and universal themes and ideas within the field of sound design and/or music composition for the moving image or sonic arts;
- Acquire and demonstrate an understanding of professional practice within the field of sound design and/or music composition for the moving image or sonic arts, and articulate this through a practical research project

Course Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course students will be able to:
- Exercise substantial autonomy and initiative to plan and execute a significant practical research project that explores themes and concepts applicable to audio-visual or audio only mediums;
- Demonstrate and present an original and creative audio-visual or audio-only work via a self-directed masters project using a range of advanced and specialised skills;

• Draw on developments at the forefront of sound and screen studies to critically analyse and reflect on the Masters project process and outcomes via a written thesis.

Indicative Content

Students will conduct and manage their individual projects of research under the guidance of their supervisors. A project is defined by a student with advice from an academic supervisor.
The nature of the project will vary from student to student but would typically involve one or more of the following:

- Advanced Sound Design (e.g.: recording, editing, synthesis, manipulation, 5.1 surround sound, Atmos and Immersive Sound mixing);
- Advanced Music Production (e.g.: recording, composition, arranging, 5.1 surround sound, Atmos and Immersive Sound mixing);
- Advanced Sound Post-production (e.g. mixing, dubbing and lay-off, 5.1 Atmos and Immersive Sound mixing);
- Interactive AV Applications including audio for digital games including immersive sound
- Advanced knowledge and understanding of theory, history and aesthetics of sound for the moving image or standalone sound and music production within a clearly defined theoretical context
- Research methodologies in creative practice
- Effective dissemination of research results

Description of Learning and Teaching Methods

This is a self-directed project. Students will complete a literature review and plan and conduct any required development and evaluation activities, including preparing and submitting ethical approval applications.

Students should complete a project proposal prior to starting their project. Feedback will be provided on this, and regular meetings should be held with their project supervisor to discuss progress, obtain feedback on work complete, and for suggestions and guidance on next steps.

Supervision meetings may vary in length according to need across the duration of each project.

By agreement with the Programme Leader, this course can be undertaken through distance or blended learning, with online supervision.

During the semester two peer-review sessions are held, with all students invited to present and discuss their work and progress. These sessions will be held in studio, with an option for online attendance for students studying remotely.

Indicative Contact Hours	Notional Learning Hours
12 Hours	600 Hours

Description of Formative Assessment and Feedback Methods

The main source of formative feedback will be through regular supervision meetings over the course of the project duration. There will also be two class critiques where students will have the opportunity to present their work for discussion to the rest of the class cohort. These critiques will normally take place at key points within the Semester 3 calendar – around week 4 or 5 and week 8 or 9.

Description of Summative Assessment arrangements

Students on this course will be assessed on their ability to:
- Formulate and execute a research project within the area of sound design for the moving image or music production for the moving image or both;
- Demonstrate through a written report, a critical and analytical review of the theoretical processes and concepts employed during the development and production of a research project;

Students will be required to develop a practical piece of work and produce a written report, which is related to their proposed area of study.

The assessment is based 100% on coursework, with the weightings for the written and practical components offered dependent on whether the project has a practical vs critical emphasis. Standard weightings are:

        80% Practice Based 20% Written element (3500 words minimum)
        OR
        60% Practice Based 40% Written element (7000 words minimum)

The above weightings are guidelines and open to negotiation with individual students, although most projects should adhere to one of the two options above. Students must complete all components of assessment in order to pass.

Submissions will be assessed and moderated in line with the Code of Assessment. Written feedback will be given.
Reassessment opportunities where a student has not passed the course are outlined in the Code of Assessment.

Description of Summative Assessment Method	Weight %	Submission week
Practical project and written report.	100% (80% practice, 20% report)	Week 12 (indicative)
Or		
Practical project and written report.	OR 100% (60% practice, 40% report)	Week 12 (indicative)
Or		

	OR 100% (Weightings as agreed with programme leader)	Week 12 (indicative)
Practical project and written report.		

Exchange/Study Abroad	
Can this course be taken by Exchange/Study Abroad students?	No
Are all the students on the course taught wholly by distance learning?	No
Does this course represent a work placement or a year of study abroad?	No
Is this course collaborative with any other institutions?	No
If yes, then please provide the names of the other teaching institutions	N/A

Reading and On-line Resources
MDes SfMI keylinks reading list: https://gsa.keylinks.org/#/list/1018

Bowden, J. 2004. Writing a Report: How to Prepare, Write and Present Effective Reports. 7th ed., Oxford: How To Books Ltd.
Biggam, J. (2014). *Succeeding With Your Master's Dissertation: A Step-By-Step Handbook: A Step-by-Step Handbook, 3rd Edition*. McGraw-Hill International.

The course uses the Harvard System:
Anglia Ruskin University, 2013. Harvard System [WWW Document]. URL
http://libweb.anglia.ac.uk/referencing/harvard.htm (accessed 12.17.14).

Additional texts dependent on dissertation topic.