

**Glasgow School of Art Course Specification**

**Course Title: Dissertation Project**

*Please note that this course specification is correct on the date of publication but may be subject to amendment prior to the start of the 2023-24 Academic Year.*

<b>Course Code:</b>	<b>HECOS Code:</b>	<b>Academic Session:</b>
UDDIS4		2023-24

<b>1. Course Title:</b>
Dissertation Project

<b>2. Date of Approval:</b>	<b>3. Lead School:</b>	<b>4. Other Schools:</b>
PACAAG August 2022	School of Innovation and Technology	

<b>5. Credits:</b>	<b>6. SCQF Level:</b>	<b>7. Course Leader:</b>
40	10	Dr. Jessica Argo

<b>8. Associated Programmes:</b>
BDes Sound for Moving Image

<b>9. When Taught:</b>
Semesters One and Two

<b>10. Course Aims:</b>
The course aims to support students in the creation of a self-directed research project. Students will pick their own subject matter, devise tailored research questions and identify appropriate research methods for their dissertation. Tutors will provide supervision, so the students become familiarised with complex practical techniques, insightful critical theory and methods of analysis appropriate to their chosen topic.

<b>11. Intended Learning Outcomes of Course:</b>
By the end of this course students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate an ability to exercise autonomy and initiative in planning and undertaking a substantial piece of individual work relevant to a self-chosen domain in the field of Sound for Moving Image</li> <li>• Apply knowledge, skills and understanding in the execution of a self-defined project involving research, development, and/or investigation</li> <li>• Present a dissertation, together with implemented practice-based work and appropriate documentation in a suitable academic format.</li> <li>• Present specialist information to a live audience in a short seminar</li> </ul>

**12. Indicative Content:**

Topics range from research skills to personal and professional development, including:

- Support in Writing a Dissertation
- How to be a Freelancer (contracts, small business skills)
- Exhibitions in GSA (and beyond)
- Physiological Monitoring for Sound and Immersive Experiences (Galvanic Skin Response, Respiration, Pulse)
- Sound and the Museum: User Testing for Interactive Exhibits
- Working with Participants
- Data Safety
- Visual Trends in Graphic Design
- Student requested topics
- workshops on Critical Theory and Immersive Contexts

**13. Description of Summative Assessment Methods:**

Assessment Method	Description of Assessment Method	Weight %	Submission week (assignments)
EITHER: 1. Extended Practice-Based Research Project	5,000 words dissertation and practical	100%	Week 12 of Semester Two
OR: 2. Extended Dissertation Research Project	10,000 words and practical.	100%	Week 12 of Semester Two

**13.1 Please describe the Summative Assessment arrangements:**

Students submit a practical project and written dissertation (either 5000 words or 10,000 words). A handbook will advise on the standard format for dissertation and project submission. Alternative formats can be submitted upon consultation and written agreement of the programme leader.

All projects and dissertations will be double marked.

Students will hand in an electronic submission.

The final text submission must use Harvard Referencing.

**14. Description of Formative Assessment Methods:**

Engagement with formative assessment is a mandatory requirement, in Peer Reviews and supervision meetings.

**14.1 Please describe the Formative Assessment arrangements:**

Students and supervisors will arrange a schedule of regular meetings – recommended once a fortnight. Supervision meetings can be individual or shared in a small group.

Students are required to keep a reflective journal of the project (shared in supervision meetings) and they should write up a supervision meeting record to summarise key actions.

Peer Review presentations will be held where staff and peers deliver written feedback in real-time using Padlet. Presentations can be pre-recorded. Key formative review will take place at the end of Semester One.

Supervisors will provide regular feedback through discussion, to aid with project planning, development, reading and occasionally providing comments on drafts of the student's project dissertation.

**15. Learning and Teaching Methods:**

Formal Contact Hours	Notional Learning Hours
24	400

**15.1 Description of Teaching and Learning Methods:**

Throughout the academic year there will be a series of:

- supervision meetings (individual, or in small groups of students with similar themes) every 2-4 weeks
- peer review presentation days
- taught workshops

Workshops will be run by SIT tutors, sometimes featuring GSA Support departments, such as Careers and Enterprise staff. They will share their expertise with the both the BDes Sound for Moving Image and BSc Immersive Systems Year 4 students, fostering cross-discipline learning.

**16. Pre-requisites:**

Successful completion of Stage 3

**17. Can this course be taken by Exchange/Study Abroad students?** No

**18. Are all the students on the course taught wholly by distance learning?** No

**19. Does this course represent a work placement or a year of study abroad?** No

**20. Is this course collaborative with any other institutions?** No

**20.1 If yes, then please enter the names of the other teaching institutions:**

N/A

**21. Additional Relevant Information:**

N/A

**22. Indicative Bibliography:**

Students may select topics from across a broad range of Sound related areas, and may refer to the resource lists from across the GSA.