

Glasgow School of Art Course Specification

Course Title: Dissertation

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 2024-25 Academic Year.

Course Code:	HECOS Code:	Academic Session:
PCUR303		2024-25

1. Course Title:
Dissertation

2. Date of Approval:	3. Lead School:	4. Other Schools:
PACAAG April 2023	School of Fine Art	N/A

5. Credits:	6. SCQF Level:	7. Course Leader:
60	Level 5, SCQF Level 11	Dr Karen Di Franco and Dr Alexandra Ross

8. Associated Programmes:
Master of Letters in Curatorial Practice (Contemporary Art)

9. When Taught:
Stage 3

10. Course Aims:
<p>The MLitt Curatorial Practice (Contemporary Art) Programme jointly run by The Glasgow School Of Art (in which its studio is housed) and Glasgow University aims to build a creative study culture and environment for a rewarding learning experience. A range of learning opportunities are offered throughout the programme, appropriate to the aims of each Stage. The aims reflect and prepare for, the professional context of Contemporary Art Curatorial Practice.</p> <p>This Course is designed to enable you to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and sustain an argument in an area of your personal research interests and situate it within the theme of contemporary curating; • Promote an engagement with other scholarly, critical, or theoretical arguments relevant to that area; • Encourage the application of acquired research skills to a supervised research project; • Enable you to demonstrate an advanced knowledge and understanding of ethical good practice and your ethical responsibility as applicable to research.

11. Intended Learning Outcomes of Course:
On completion of the dissertation you should be able to:

- Demonstrate the ability to execute a sustained, focused, and coherent research project;
- Demonstrate pertinent skills, research expertise and potentially practical application in the field of curatorial practice;
- Demonstrate substantial and detailed first-hand knowledge of their chosen area of research and mastery of the main relevant primary and secondary sources;
- Apply good ethical practice as pertaining to research;
- Demonstrate the ability to execute a substantial piece of written work in clear and appropriate academic English, supported by adequate referencing and relevant visual material;
- Demonstrate the ability to work independently.

12. Indicative Content:

This final 60-credit Masters Project option for the students on the Master of Letters in Curatorial Practice (Contemporary Art) focuses through the submission of an extended dissertation. In effect this option allows you to critically analyse and develop your ideas, historically, contextually, creatively and innovatively through the theoretical (written) application of knowledge. This will be supported by tutorials and seminars throughout the Stage led by staff that will help to develop from the proposal and realise the project and dissertation throughout the course.

13. Description of Summative Assessment Methods:

A Dissertation (15,000 words) 100%

Assessment Method	Description of Assessment Method	Weight %	Submission week (assignments)
A Dissertation (15,000 words)		100%	Semester 3, Week 11

13.1 Please describe the Summative Assessment arrangements:

The Summative Assessment within the Dissertation has one submission and Summative Assessment point, which occurs at the end of the course with submission of the written Dissertation. The grade awarded results from a diagnostic breakdown of learning achievements, strengths and weaknesses.

14. Description of Formative Assessment Methods:

Engagement with formative assessment is a mandatory requirement.

Feedback will be given throughout the writing process (draft submissions) by tutors, during tutorial appointments and critique sessions. In this way feedback is an ongoing process and integral to the teaching and learning methods.

There will be a formal Formative Assessment point at the midpoint of the term with evidence of development and progression with feedback provided.

Support and guidance will also be given throughout Stage 3 as you develop your dissertation towards submission.

14.1 Please describe the Formative Assessment arrangements:

Feedback will be presented through tutorial appointments and critique sessions throughout the course. At the midpoint of the term you will be asked to present your work for formative assessment followed by feedback in relation to development and progression. This will include assessment of draft writing.

The dissertation is 15,000 words in length and will be on a topic chosen by you in consultation with the course convenor during Stage 2.

The Department will appoint a supervisor who will see you to discuss and comment on your work at least three times during Stage 2. A proposal will be submitted after the Easter vacation. The supervisor will comment on it. The dissertation will be submitted at the end of August.

15. Learning and Teaching Methods:

Formal Contact Hours	Notional Learning Hours
15	600

15.1 Description of Teaching and Learning Methods:

A guiding principle of the programmes pedagogical strategy is that learning and teaching is actively informed by the teaching staff's professional practice and research. All Curatorial Practice tutors are practising curators, theorists and / or artists.

Teaching and Learning Methodology

The programme is structured around the core principle of the integration of theory and practice. The methods of teaching explore the inter-relationships of the theoretical with the practical. This Stage of the programme is built around the core of independent practice supported by tutorials and seminars.

In Stage 3 you have the opportunity to select one from three choices for your final project, either the Masters Project in Curatorial Practice 1 (a fully realised curatorial project), Masters Project in Curatorial Practice 2 (a curatorial project and extended essay submission) or a Dissertation (fully written Dissertation). Whether pursuing a Master's Project or a Dissertation, it is expected that your work will conform to the growing canon of the field of curating.

The core of the learning is focused around the growth of an independent curatorial practice and this is supported throughout the term with the development of knowledge and independence gained through the different aspects of the teaching activities.

Critical discourse in the School Of Fine Art and the School of Culture and Creative Arts is valued as a key learning and teaching tool and is embedded in the activities above. Critical discourse is crucial to the transfer of knowledge, contextualising individual practice, as well as fostering a culture of reciprocal learning within the student cohort.

Professional practice is an integral part of studying at the School of Fine Art and is embedded with the course curriculum of the stages of the programme, and further supported by the Careers Service. It provides you with the opportunities, experience and skills to engage professionally within the local, national and international art world and curatorial contexts.

Timetable: Individual tutorials and supervision sessions.

16. Pre-requisites:

You will have completed Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Master of Letters in Curatorial Practice (Contemporary Art) by this point (with 120 credits) including the following courses:

- Curatorial Practice 1 (40 credits)
- Research Methods and Methodologies in Practice (20 credits)

- Curatorial Practice 2 (40 Credits)
- PGT elective (20 credits)

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?	Yes
20.1 If yes, then please enter the names of the other teaching institutions:	
Glasgow University (School of Culture and Creative Arts)	

21. Additional Relevant Information:
N/A

22. Indicative Bibliography:
Issued via Canvas including recommendations for purchase. A list of key readings can be requested from the Programme Leader.