

Glasgow School of Art Course Specification

Course Title: Core Research Methods: Research Methods and Methodologies in Practice

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:
PCXS101		2024-25

1. Course Title:
Core Research Methods: Research Methods and Methodologies in Practice

2. Date of Approval:	3. Lead School:	4. Other Schools:
PACAAG April 2023	School of Fine Art	By special request only

5. Credits:	6. SCQF Level:	7. Course Leader:
20	11	Laura Edbrook

8. Associated Programmes:
This course is available to students on PGT programmes within the lead School, with some availability to other Schools by special request only

9. When Taught:
Stage 1

10. Course Aims
<p>General:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide students with opportunities to critically develop disciplinary research methods; • Enable students to autonomously design their own research project / object/ practice with a critical grounding in appropriate research methods both relevant to their disciplinary specialization and, where relevant, enabling of trans, multi, or inter-disciplinarity; • Provide students with a rigorous understanding of research ethics as relevant to their research / practice; • Facilitate critical reflection on the relationships between forms of research and modes of practice in order to encourage robust and /or innovative applications of existing methods. <p>Specific:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To introduce you to explore different research methods and methodologies • To enable you to understand approaches to research in and through arts practice • To inculcate the critical analysis of appropriate research methods and methodologies

- To enable you to understand research through practice and the contexts of practice
- To support the growth of research and its applicability to and within different modes of practice
- To enable you to develop an in-depth understanding and knowledge of how to undertake research appropriately within independent arts practice and study

11. Intended Learning Outcomes of Course:

Upon successful completion of this course you will be able to:

- Evidence your understanding of a range of relevant research methods.
- Demonstrate a high level of knowledge of research methodologies and their applicability to practice.
- Evidence your ability to analyse and critically evaluate research methods in relation to a chosen aspect of practice and/or context.
- Demonstrate an appreciation and negotiation of the role of ethics in Artistic Research.

12. Indicative Content:

The content of the programme is delivered in line with the timetable of delivery, in weekly sessions, for example:

Weeks 1-6

- Core Lectures

Weeks 7-8

- Programme Specific Tutorial/Seminars

Weeks 9-12

- Independent Study

Week 13

- Final Submission

The initial 6 weeks of lectures present core research strategies and explore different research methods and methodologies relevant to contemporary Fine Art research in its broadest sense (inclusive of multiple interdisciplinary approaches). The secondary strand offers the space for you to decide which strand of research investigation and methodological enquiry you deem most relevant to your individual research and practical interests.

The Course will open up theoretical critique of various core research methodologies and initiate the debate surrounding their application to practice and how this might be developed individually, in relation to your ongoing practical study within your core programme courses.

13. Description of Summative Assessment Methods:

Assessment Method	Description of Assessment Method	Weight %	Submission week (assignments)
Critical Evaluation and Reflective Journal (500 words + Journal)	Development of a Reflective Journal and 500-word Critical Evaluation	20	Semester1, Week 12

OPTION 1: Essay (3000 words)	Construct a research methodology (or method) as a proposition to practice	80	Semester1, Week 12
OPTION 2: Research Exposition (c. 1500 words)	Construct a research methodology (or method) as a proposition to practice	80	Semester1, Week 12

13.1 Please describe the Summative Assessment arrangements:

The Summative assessment requirements for this course are:

Critical Evaluation and **Reflective** Journal (500 words + Journal) 20%

- A research journal documenting the research undertaken throughout the course
- A critical evaluation outlining the key aspects of research developed towards the second assessment method (Essay 3000 words)

OPTION 1: Essay (3000 words) 80%

- An essay that outlines a research methodology (or method) as a proposition for practice, fully developing the context, research methodology and their importance in the development of practice[s].

OPTION 2: Research Exposition (circa 1500 words) 80%

- A research exposition that outlines a research methodology (or method) as a proposition for practice in alternative form. Forms may include: visual essay, video essay, annotated catalogue, audio work or research poster and should be agreed in advance with your programme contact tutor. Your research exposition will fully develop the context, research methodology and their importance in the development of practice(s).

14. Description of Formative Assessment Methods:

Formative assessment occurs throughout the course, with particular arrangements built into the final 2 weeks of direct 'group' teaching and programme-led tutorial. Staff will provide formative assessment and feedback/feed forwards within tutorials, seminar discussions and group critique. The tutorial will support and provide feedback with direct reference to the final submission.

Engagement with formative assessment is a mandatory requirement.

14.1 Please describe the Formative Assessment arrangements:

Teaching staff will offer ongoing feedback and guidance you in relation to your progress with reference to the Course Learning Outcomes.

15. Learning and Teaching Methods:

Formal Contact Hours	Notional Learning Hours
21	200

15.1 Description of Teaching and Learning Methods:

This course operates on Wednesdays and is 2 hours each week for 12 weeks.

16. Pre-requisites:

N/A

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:
Barrett, Estelle and Barbara Bolt, eds, <i>Practice as Research: Approaches to Creative Arts Enquiry</i> (London: I.B Taurus, 2010)
Biggs, Michael, and Henrik Karlsson, eds, <i>The Routledge Companion to Research in the Arts</i> (Abingdon: Routledge, 2011)
Gray, Carole and Julian Malins, <i>Visualising Research: A Guide to the Research Process in Art and Design</i> (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2004)
Knowles, Gary and Ardra L Cole, <i>Handbook of the Arts in Qualitative Research: Perspectives, Methodologies, Examples, and Issues</i> (Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publishing, 2008)
MacLeod, Katy and Lin Holdridge, eds, <i>Thinking Through Art: Reflections on Art as Research</i> (London: Routledge, 2006)