Glasgow School of Art Programme Specification
Programme Title: International Foundation

Ezgi Sahinoglu *Untitled* 2018

1. Programme Details	
Programme Title	International Foundation
School	School of Fine Art
Programme Leader	Conor Kelly (C.Kelly@gsa.ac.uk)
Award to be Conferred	Cert HE Art & Design
Exit Awards	Certificate in Higher Education
SCQF Level	7
Credits	120
Mode of Study	Full-time
HECOS Code	101361/101109

Academic Session	2025-26
Date of Approval	Programme Approval February 2024

Awarding Institution	University of Glasgow
Teaching Institutions	Glasgow School of Art
Campus	Garnethill
Lead School/Board of Studies	School of Fine Art
Other Schools/Board of Studies	N/A
Programme Accredited By (PSRBs)	N/A

2. Entry Qualifications	
Highers	Standard: ABBB, including a literate subject Minimum: BBCC, including a literate subject
A Levels	Standard: ABB and GCSE English at A/7 grade or above Minimum: BBC and GCSE English at A/7 grade or above
Other	International Baccalaureate: 30 points overall in the Diploma, including 18 at Higher Level, normally including English and Maths. Irish Leaving Certificate: Four Highers at H2 or above - subjects required as per Scottish Highers. Other eligible qualifications for entry include Foundation Diplomas in Art & Design, Higher National Certificates (HNC), Higher National Diplomas (HND), Foundation Degrees, Level 3 Diplomas, and other Further Education and Higher Education qualifications in related subjects. Entrants may begin their studies in Stage 2 or Stage 3 depending on the level of prior qualifications and other entry criteria. Detailed information about the required grades for individuals holding or studying these qualifications can be access on the website.

| | Applicants from outside the UK and Ireland should also consult our international student pages for details of accepted qualifications from specific countries.

Applicants who do not meet entry requirements through formal qualifications but can demonstrate experience, skills and abilities at the appropriate level can also be considered.

Additional entry requirements: Applicants are normally required to submit a portfolio or work and may be required to attend an Interview as part of their admissions assessment. |
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| **English Language Requirements** | Applicants who are not a national of, nor have obtained a degree in one of the countries on the approved UKVI exemption list or those who require a Student Visa, will need to provide evidence of their English language ability.

GSA's preferred test is the IELTS for UKVI (Academic) test taken at a UKVI approved test centre. GSA require all students, who require a student visa, to meet the following requirements to gain entry:

- IELTS for UKVI Academic with an overall score of 5.0 with a minimum of 5.0 in all components;
- An alternative Accepted English Language Test which can be found on the Postgraduate 'How to Apply' page of the GSA website. |

3. Programme Introduction
The International Foundation (IF) is a Year 1 programme (SCQF 7) taught over one academic year that introduces students to the basic principles of Art and Design at HE level. The programme acts as a bridge into the study of undergraduate Art and Design where students can explore their creative practice before choosing an area of specialist study. Learning and teaching is delivered through studio-based projects alongside bespoke tuition in communication within a creative context. Students graduate from the programme with a Certificate in Higher Education (Cert HE) and ordinarily progress to Year 2 (SCQF 8) of UG programmes.

The programme provides a supportive environment for students whilst they develop their studio work and learn to articulate their understanding of that work in the context of specialist study. Our dedicated programme staff includes studio tutors and English language tutors who work alongside students to develop a shared knowledge and appreciation of Art and Design. Workshops and demonstrations provide students with skills and technical abilities that are applied in response to assigned project briefs. The programme is made up of 5 courses, delivered over 2 Semesters. They include:

Semester 1 |

Foundation Studio 1 (30 credits)

Foundation Studio 1 provides an introduction to the study of Art and Design and supports students' first experiences in a studio-based learning environment. Each student is invited to explore a range of creative approaches and techniques in response to an assigned project. Learning and teaching is supported through workshops and assigned projects that prioritise 2D, 3D and digital making.

Creative Communication (10 credits)

Creative Communication supports students' development of language and communication skills and strategies to help them thrive in the studio environment. The course is accessible for students using English as a second language and complements Foundation Studio 1 by strengthening the link between studio-based learning and student communication.

Co-Lab (20 credits)

Co-Lab is a 4-week project-based course shared by all undergraduate programmes at the GSA. It brings students together from across the schools and programmes of GSA to foster community and explore their identity as emergent creative practitioners and learners through practice-based learning, collaboration, and reflection.

Semester 2

Foundation Studio 2 (40 credits)

Foundation Studio 2 is designed to support the development of students' knowledge and understanding of specialist study within Art and Design through two distinct pathways – Fine Art Practice and Design Practice. The course provides specialist tuition, alongside the time and space for students to develop a greater understanding of their chosen specialism.

Communication in Context (20 credits)

Communication in Context complements the pathways of Foundation Studio 2 and supports students, including those using English as a second language, to further develop communication skills and strategies for working within specialist creative practices, paying particular attention to language for critical analysis and reflection.

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4. Programme Aims

The aims of the programme are:

- To provide students with a broad-based introduction to Art and Design studio-based practice and a basic knowledge of specialist undergraduate study
- To foster students' understanding of creative and sustainable processes that use a range of 2D, 3D and digital making in response to thematic project briefs
- To help students develop basic research practices that support critical and analytical thinking within an art and design context
- To develop an ability to communicate confidently and effectively using a range of language resources in a community of shared learning
- To develop critical thinking in the context of Art and Design through analysis, reflection and self-evaluation

5. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes

After full participation in and successful completion of the programme, students will be able to:

- Apply a basic knowledge of specialist study in art and design in preparation for Year 2 specialist undergraduate study
- Use a range of sustainable technical processes including 2D, 3D and digital making in response to a thematic project brief
- Demonstrate an ability to conduct research that supports critical thinking in an art and design context
- Demonstrate an ability to communicate confidently and effectively using a range of language resources in a community of shared learning
- Apply critical thinking through analysis, reflection and self-evaluation in the context of art and design

6. Description of Learning and Teaching Approaches

Learning and Teaching on the programme adopts a range of approaches to support learners from diverse educational backgrounds. Each course employs a range of learning and teaching strategies designed to stimulate, challenge and support students as they progress through the programme. Courses on the programme are delivered through collaborative teaching between our specialist studio tutors and language teaching team. The approaches to Learning and Teaching include:

Shared Studio
Central to teaching on the International Foundation is the shared learning space of the studio. It is a place of production and reflection, as well as being the main location for individual and group learning, display, discussion, analysis and assessment. The academic and social ethos of the studio is intended to encourage and actively support group learning as well as support the integration of language and critical thinking alongside developing and making work.

Workshops & Demonstrations
Workshops and Demonstrations provide hands-on instruction for students in practical making and technical processes. Students learn new ways of making by participating in practical workshops that support 2D, 3D and digital making.

Seminars
Seminars are group discussions that invite students to use a range of communication methods to articulate their thoughts and ideas in relation to Art and Design. Seminars can be staff or student led and are an effective forum for sharing emerging research practice.

Tutorials
Regular tutorials are an integral part of learning and teaching and can take the form of one-to-ones with staff or in small groups. Tailored to the needs of individual learners, tutorials help staff and students to identify areas of potential development, providing practical advice and guidance that supports learning. Tutorials are scheduled to provide feedback and discuss academic progress.

Lecture
Although most learning is through more informal studio-led approaches, lectures from staff and visiting staff remain an opportunity for knowledge sharing. All lectures are recorded for learners with diverse needs.

Progress Review
Progress Reviews provide an opportunity to share practice and reflect on the development of project work. They enable students to receive verbal and written feedback from peers in response to works-in-progress or project outcomes in the supportive atmosphere of the studio. Progress Reviews encourage students to discuss and critically reflect on their work in the context of their creative practice.

Blended Learning
The programme makes use of several digital opportunities as part of learning and teaching. All courses will be taught in-person making use of the virtual learning environment, Canvas, to support learning and teaching. Canvas is used for communications, announcements, access to programme information, and assessment submissions. Synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities are supported through Canvas. Other digital learning technologies such as, Padlet, Miro and Zoom, are also used to support teaching.

Fieldwork
Fieldwork provides students with a range of learning experiences, including opportunities to gather first-hand information (primary research) as part of their studio practice and to test site-specific ideas and works beyond the studio.

Exhibition
As well as being an opportunity to showcase new work, the exhibition is a valuable learning and teaching tool that helps develop a greater understanding of how to communicate to an audience and engage a wider public.

Peer and self-evaluation
Throughout the year, students are encouraged to engage in peer and self-evaluation. There are formal and informal opportunities to identify successes in project work and also provide constructive feedback on areas that require further development.

7. Description of Assessment Methods

The programme uses two distinct forms of assessment – formative and summative assessment – to support learning and teaching, and to determine progress and level of attainment.

Formative Assessment
Formative Assessment happens while the student is learning and takes place throughout the academic year. During formative assessment students receive guidance and critical feedback on their ability to meet the learning outcomes. Formative assessment helps to inform the kind of teaching each student requires and helps students to identify successful aspects of their practice and any areas which require further development. All students participate in formative assessment.

Summative Assessment
Summative Assessment determines progress and level of attainment in relation to the intended learning outcomes. It is an assessment that is held at the end of each course and determines whether a student passes and achieves the required academic credits to progress.
All Summative Assessment submissions will be assessed and moderated in line with the Code of Assessment, which outlines reassessment opportunities where a student has not passed courses.

Grading Scheme
Submissions will be assessed and moderated in line with the Code of Assessment

8.Programme Structure				

Stage 1				
Course	**Credits**	**SCQF Level**	**Semester**	**Course Code**
Foundation Studio 1 (FS1)	30	7	1	
Creative Communication (CC1)	10	7	1	
Co-Lab (FYE)	20	7	1	
Foundation Studio 2 (FS2)	40	7	2	
Communication in Context (CC2)	20	7	2	
Total Stage Credits	**120**			

9. Outgoing Exchange and Visiting Student Arrangements
N/A

Stage 2 Exchange and Visiting Student Courses				
Course	**Credits**	**SCQF Level**	**Semester**	**Course Code**
N/A				

Stage 3 Exchange and Visiting Student Courses				
Course	**Credits**	**SCQF Level**	**Semester**	**Course Code**
N/A				

10. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements and Other External Reference Points
Subject Benchmark Statements describe the nature of study and the academic standards expected of graduates in specific subject areas. For further information relevant to this programme see: https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-art-and-design-17.pdf?sfvrsn=71eef781_22

11. Programme Regulations and Requirements for Progression
https://www.gsa.ac.uk/about-gsa/key-information/our-structure/academic-services/student-regulations/programme-and-course-regulations/