Glasgow School of Art Course Specification
Course Title: PDE MSc Human Factors

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 2025-26 Academic Year.

Course Code:	HECOS Code:	Academic Session:
PPDE206 (UoG ENG5256)		2025-26

1. Course Title:
PDE MSc Human Factors

2. Date of Approval:	3. Lead School:	4. Other Schools:
PACAAG April 2020	School of Design	N/A

5. Credits:	6. SCQF Level:	7. Course Leader:
10	11	Craig Whittet Stuart Bailey

8. Associated Programmes:
MSc Product Design Engineering

9. When Taught:
Semester 2/Stage 2

10. Course Aims:

The course aims to:

- To provide the knowledge and skill base required for studio activities
- To equip the students with the experience necessary to apply a variety of human factors tools, methods and considerations, in depth, in their Major Project.

11. Intended Learning Outcomes of Course:

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Understand the issues and areas of human factors crucial to successful human-centred design
- Confidently use human factors methods and tools as a vital part of product research, specification, development and refinement
- Understand current standard sources of human factors data
- Clearly demonstrate the use of human factors considerations in design project work through an iterative process
- Understand and apply anthropometrics software packages
- Develop skills in user research methodologies

- Integrate human factors aspects alongside other engineering and design issues to create a successful project resolution.

12. Indicative Content:

The following sessions, given by guest speakers drawn from academia, industry and consultancy, have been chosen to show a wide range of considerations, and to encompass physical, psychological, social and cultural issues relating to products, tasks and environments. The series includes:

- Overview – frameworks, methodologies, reference sources
- Case studies
- Aspects of the following:
- Skeletal and muscular systems, physiology
- Psychology, cognition and perception
- Social and cultural issues
- Usability and user research methods
- Task analysis
- Organisational and environmental factors
- Health and safety
- British, European and World standards
- Software and software systems
- Interface, interaction and simulation
- Demographics and inclusive human factors
- The place and role of human factors in the design process
- General review sessions.

13. Description of Summative Assessment Methods:

Assessment Method	Description of Assessment Method	Weight %	Submission week (assignments)
Human Factors Report	Written report 2000 – 3000 words	75	Week 13 Stage 2
Presentation	10-minute Human Factors presentation covering key outcomes of the project.	25	Week 13 Stage 2

13.1 Please describe the Summative Assessment arrangements:

The completed PDE MSc Human Factors report/presentation and project outcomes are the basis for the summative assessment. Students must pass both components of the assessment.

Students on this course will be assessed on their ability to:

- Display a critical understanding of evaluated Human Factors concepts through project work design journal and report;
- Demonstrate a good command of core Human Factors methods and tools when conducting research into user centred design
- Demonstrate a capacity to undertake research into a particular user group;
- Demonstrate that the product solution and its interactions have been comprehensively evaluated;
- Communicate Human Factors solutions through physical and virtual models;
- Communicate to others key factors of a user centred approach.

- The final grade will be submitted to the Glasgow School of Art and University of Glasgow, James Watt School of Engineering Exam Board.

14. Description of Formative Assessment Methods:
Engagement with formative assessment is a mandatory requirement. Student and peer feedback is offered throughout project with detailed feedback provided after interim presentation. The main areas of student engagement are: seminars, critiques, workshops, tutorials
14.1 Please describe the Formative Assessment arrangements:
Formative assessment is primarily an interim student presentation event, studio staff provide feedback. The purpose of this is to help students understand areas of strength and weakness and provide advice for future direction or further learning. Feedback for this project will consist of verbal comments made during studio critique or presentation, or one-to-one in the studio. Main assessment events will be followed-up by written feedback, accompanied by a tutorial discussion with studio staff.

15. Learning and Teaching Methods:	
Formal Contact Hours	**Notional Learning Hours**
20	100
15.1 Description of Teaching and Learning Methods:	
Industrial and Site Visits	

16. Pre-requisites:
PDE MSc Introduction Project

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:
This course introduces students taking the taught postgraduate programme in Product Design Engineering to a range of core studio and workshop skills that have been selected to provide a sound basis to facilitate a response to a set project brief and Product Design specification.

22. Indicative Bibliography:
The bibliography is available in the Library Section of CANVAS (Virtual Learning Environment). Human Factors Guest lectures will also recommend text based on student project and focus