

Glasgow School of Art Course Specification
Course Title: Project in the City



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
		2025-26

Course Title	Project in the City
Course Contact	Isabel Deakin

Credits	20
SCQF Level	11
When Taught	Semester 2

Associated Programmes	Master of Architectural Studies
Lead School	Mackintosh School of Architecture
Other Schools	N/A
Date of Approval	Programme Approval March 2024

Course Introduction

The 'Project in the City' offers students the opportunity to gain enhanced knowledge within their specialist pathway whilst working across pathways to develop a shared architectural response to a set research project. Students can benefit from the multi-disciplinary nature of the Programme and develop a deeper understanding of collaborative working through shared group work, tutorials and reviews. This knowledge is designed to support a greater understanding of the broad field of architecture and allows students to relate this new knowledge to their own specialist pathway.

The 'Project in the City' is designed to give students skills to collaborate, develop, deliver and communicate a shared output and individual response to a project set in the city of Glasgow which explores the nature of urban architecture at a strategic and detailed level. The nature of this project is intended to allow students to develop an understanding of the physical and spatial framework of the city and urban environments as well as introducing students to collaborative working methods.

Students are taught through a combination of group and individual tutorials, visits, talks and skills workshops. Through formative feedback, peer sessions and interim and final reviews, students apply their learning on the course across the semester.

Through the 'Project in the City' students can utilise, evaluate and demonstrate their individual professional, research, communication and design knowledge and skills through an appropriate response to a shared research project.

Course Aims

The aims of the course are to:

professionalism: facilitate a student's command of knowledge of professional ethics in terms of collaborative, inclusive, sustainable and safe design principles through the production of an appropriate response to a shared research question set across pathways which will advance their knowledge within their own specialism

design/create: facilitate a student's command of a creative design process through the production of an appropriate response to a shared research question set across pathways which will advance their knowledge within their own specialism

research: facilitate a student's command of research skills with a shared research question across pathways and the development of an appropriate response which will advance their knowledge within their own specialism

communication: facilitate a student's command of the integration of analogue and digital media to visually and verbally communicate structured thinking through the production of an appropriate response to a shared research question set across pathways which will advance their knowledge within their own specialism

skills: facilitate a student's command of critical reflection, communication and a structured methodology, with analogue and digital tools, through the production of an appropriate response to a shared research question set across pathways which will advance their knowledge within their own specialism

knowledge: facilitate student's command of the creative use of advanced architectural theories, concepts, and techniques to address social, ethical and climate change challenges through the production of an appropriate response to a shared research question set across pathways which will advance their knowledge within their own specialism

Course Intended Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the Course students will be able to **utilise, evaluate and demonstrate:**

professionalism: knowledge of professional ethics in terms of collaborative, inclusive, sustainable and safe design principles to produce an appropriate response to a shared research question set across pathways which will advance their knowledge within their own specialism

design/ create: a creative design process in the production of an appropriate response to a shared research question set across pathways which will advance their knowledge within their own specialism

research: research skills in the production of an appropriate response to a shared research question set across pathways which will advance their knowledge within their own specialism

communication: the integration of analogue and digital media to visually and verbally communicate structured thinking to produce an appropriate response to a shared research question set across pathways which will advance their knowledge within their own specialism

skills: critical reflection, communication and a structured methodology, with digital and analogue tools, to produce an appropriate response to a shared research question set across pathways which will advance their knowledge within their own specialism

knowledge: the creative use of advanced architectural theories, concepts, and techniques to address social, ethical and climate change challenges to produce an appropriate response to a shared research question set across pathways which will advance their knowledge within their own specialism

Indicative Content

The 'Project in the City' provides students with the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of the urban environments in Glasgow and the contemporary challenges and

opportunities that exist at a strategic and detailed level. Students work collaboratively to develop design proposals in response to a set research project allowing them to explore real world issues.

During the course students will:

- undertake fieldwork and desktop research to enable recording, analysis, and evaluation of a set research project and context
- collaborate with peers in a range of groups sizes to produce design outputs
- explore Glasgow and the nature of urban architecture at a strategic and detailed level
- produce a shared comprehensive design output and curated exhibition
- Critically reflect on the project and draw conclusions

Description of Learning and Teaching Methods

Pedagogy:

Studio is both a learning space and a form of reflective practice where knowledge, skills and attributes are transformed into design competencies. Integration of the six learning domains enables design work to be grounded in specialist knowledge relating to the student's chosen Pathway and enacted through design projects. The course is intended to develop students' mastery of iterative and reflective design practices while deploying their critical, ethical and professional position. Student learning is developed through the course, which enable students to address real-world issues in the context of specific communities and places. Groupwork and collaboration with other Pathways are core to the student learning experience, enabling students to work productively with others while contextualising the role of the architect in relation to other disciplines and practices. Specialist Pathway Leaders along with visiting guests offer students insights into the constantly changing world of architectural practice. Independent learning is fostered throughout the year.

Delivery:

The course is delivered through regular studio sessions, using a range of learning and teaching activities, including individual and group tutorials, design reviews, seminars, workshops and lectures by staff and invited guests. Design forums offer the opportunity for critical discourse around issues raised by the studio project, enabling staff and students to enter into a dialogue around contemporary architectural issues. Students are supported in preparing groupwork through briefings on strategies for collaboration and provided with example submissions.

Timetable:

Studio tutorials are delivered on a weekly basis either in groups with pin-up tutorials and design reviews at set points throughout the session concluding with a design forum at the end of the project.

Canvas:

The virtual learning environment tool Canvas is used for the dissemination, discussion, and access to relevant course information, and to signpost students to other relevant teaching and learning platforms used by GSA.

Indicative Contact Hours	Notional Learning Hours
20	200

Description of Formative Assessment and Feedback Methods

Formative activities are provided during studio courses, offering students the opportunity to obtain ongoing staff and peer feedback through discussion and review in relation to the course.

As such Formative feedback provided throughout the course fosters reflective learning while supporting the Summative graded assessment and feedback process, which generally happens at the end of the course.

Description of Summative Assessment arrangements

Summative assessment is undertaken at the end of the course and is designed and delivered to support student learning through evaluation of the Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) for each course, aligned with the professional competencies required for architectural practice. Summative assessment in this course is undertaken through coursework assignments in the form of a curated exhibition and a 1500-word individual report. The coursework assignment submission involves visual and text-based submissions utilising both digital and physical tools and formats. Written feedback is provided on all summative assessments.

All submissions will be assessed and moderated in line with the GSA Code of Assessment. Reassessment opportunities where a student has not passed the course are outlined in the GSA Code of Assessment.

Description of Summative Assessment Method	Weight %	Submission week
Curated Exhibition (groupwork) Students are required to design and curate an exhibition of the collaborative outputs	50%	Semester 2 Week 11
Individual Report Students are required to submit an illustrated Design Report including the collaborative output and provide a critical reflection on the project (1500 words)	50%	Semester 2 Week 11

Exchange/Study Abroad

Can this course be taken by Exchange/Study Abroad students?

No

Are all the students on the course taught wholly by distance learning?

No

Does this course represent a work placement or a year of study abroad?

No

Is this course collaborative with any other institutions?

No

If yes, then please provide the names of the other teaching institutions

Reading and On-line Resources

Supporting the course, an indicative reading and on-line resource list is accessible via [Resource Lists](#). This list will be reviewed and updated annually. Supervisors, tutors and peers will provide further recommendations appropriate to student's chosen research subject.