

Glasgow School of Art Course Specification

Course Title: Studio Work 4 - Partial Year Exchange In



Image Credit: Cameron Young, Mackintosh School of Architecture, Year 4, 2023-24

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
SW4104EXIN		20256-26

Course Title	Studio Work 4
Course Contact	Kirsty Lees

Credits	30
SCQF Level	Level 10
When Taught	Semester 1

Associated Programmes	Bachelor of Architecture with Honours, Diploma in Architecture
Lead School	Mackintosh School of Architecture
Other Schools	N/A
Date of Approval	PACAAG April 2025

Course Introduction

The Studio Work 4 Exchange In course is concerned with the relationships between architecture and the city, and Glasgow in particular which is used as a model for study within the Studio project.

The course is designed to refine students' professional skills, design processes, research methods, communication skills, architectural knowledge and representation skills required to create safe, sustainable, and efficient design proposals, while expressing architectural character, and meaning. Students refine their critical thinking and design methodology, supported by specific knowledge delivered through subject specialist courses in professional studio, and architectural technology.

The Studio Project, Urban Housing, is set in the city of Glasgow and offers the opportunity to explore the nature of urban architecture from the strategic to the detail. 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 the corresponding social, political, cultural, and environmental conditions resulting in a detailed design proposal.

Students are taught through a combination of group and individual tutorials, visits, talks and skills workshops. Through formative feedback, peer reviews, and formative assessment, students apply their learning on the course to the Urban Housing Project. The studio brief is accompanied by a selection of selected texts which situate the design projects within a wider architectural discourse.

The studio offers students the opportunity to integrate the specialist knowledge delivered in the Architectural Technology (AT) course refining specialist technical knowledge for application through their individual design project.

Course Aims

The aims of the course are to:

professional: refine a student's ability to use knowledge of professional ethics to produce an individually defined architectural position evidenced through a complex architectural design proposal

design/create: refine a student's ability to use a creative design process in the production of complex architectural design proposal

research: refine a student's ability to use advanced design led research skills in the production of a complex architectural design proposal

communication: refine a student's ability to use advanced analogue and digital media to visually and verbally communicate a complex architectural design proposal

skills: refine a student's ability to use communication and a clear methodology, with digital and analogue tools, in the production of a complex architectural design proposal

knowledge: refine a student's ability to use architectural theories, concepts and techniques to address social, ethical and climate change challenges in the production of a complex architectural design proposal

Course Intended Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the Course, students will be able to **appraise, integrate and articulate:**

Professionalism: professional behaviours and ethics in terms of collaborative, inclusive, sustainable and safe design principles to produce an individually defined architectural position evidenced through a complex architectural design proposal in the context of the city of Glasgow

Design/Create: a creative design process in the production a complex architectural design proposal in relation to the context of the city of Glasgow

Research: advanced design led research skills in the production a complex architectural design proposal in the context of the city of Glasgow

Communication: the ability to use advanced analogue and digital media to visually and verbally communicate a complex architectural design proposal in the context of the city of Glasgow

Skills: a clear methodology, with analogue and digital tools, in the production a complex architectural design proposal in the context of the city of Glasgow

Knowledge: knowledge of architectural theories, concepts, and techniques to address social, ethical and climate change challenges in the production a complex architectural design proposal in the context of the city of Glasgow

Indicative Content

The Studio Work 4 Exchange In course is designed to give students the opportunity to explore architecture as a response to the contemporary city, using the city of Glasgow as their urban model. Students refine their critical thinking and design methodology, through a project that addresses urban design, and housing within the inner city.

Exploring the challenges and opportunities of contemporary architectural practice together, and in dialogue with the urban context of Glasgow, through a major Urban Housing project in Glasgow. Studio Work 4 Exchange In course is designed to equip students with the tools for reading and understanding a city, the value judgements necessary to support a creative and sustainable, design proposal and the ability to evaluate their position as future architects.

During the course students will:

- Engage in individual research and collaborative practice to appraise multiple perspectives of the challenges and opportunities posed by the project briefs, resources, studio input and discussion

- Integrate the breadth, depth and interconnectivity of individual and collective research to articulate personal critical positions in response to the project brief
- Appraise design decisions of scale, volume, proportion, circulation, spatial organisation and material selection through an iterative design process that employs a rigorous design methodology
- Critically evaluate and evidence the impact design decisions have on carbon emissions, the urban realm and individuals
- Present their design proposals at various stages of development to various audiences in a range of settings and be curious, open to discussion, and declarative about their ideas

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 subject areas, Architectural Technology/ History and Theory, Professional Studio, and enacted through design projects. The course is intended to develop a student's command of iterative and reflective design practices while defining their critical, ethical and professional position as an architect and designer.

Student learning is developed through the course, supported by staff and student field trips, which enable students to address real-world issues in the context of specific communities and places. Groupwork and collaboration is 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. Studio tutors 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 addressing contemporary architectural issues. A hybrid approach to learning through in-person and on-line support offers students access to flexible and inclusive learning. Private study consists of both staff-directed study and independent student-directed study.

Timetable:

Typically lectures, tutorials and workshops, reviews and design forums.

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
30	300

Description of Formative Assessment and Feedback Methods

Formative activities are provided during the course, offering students the opportunity to obtain ongoing staff and peer feedback through presentation, discussion and review of design projects.

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 studio courses is undertaken through coursework assignments in the form of studio design projects. Coursework assignment submissions involve 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
Students are required to submit a digital Portfolio of work which will be holistically assessed. The Portfolio will incorporate the presentation of their design project and a Design Report (1000 words).	100%	Semester 1 Week 13

Exchange/Study Abroad

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