

Glasgow School of Art Programme Specification
Programme Title: BA (Hons) Fine Art

Please note that this programme specification is correct on the date of publication but may be subject to amendment prior to the start of the 2025-26 Academic Year.

1. Programme Details	
Programme Title	BA (Hons) Fine Art
School	School of Fine Art
Programme Leader	Dr. Zoe Mendelson, Lesley Puntun, Sara Barker; Dr. Deborah Jackson
Award to be Conferred	BA (Hons) Fine Art
Exit Awards	Stage 1 – Certificate of Higher Education Stage 2 – Diploma of Higher Education Stage 3 – BA Fine Art Stage 4 – BA (Hons) Fine Art
SCQF Level	Stage 1 – Level 7 Stage 2 – Level 8 Stage 3 – Level 9 Stage 4 – Level 10
Credits	480 credits
Mode of Study	Full time
HECOS Code	100054/100783/100055

Academic Session	2025-26
Date of Approval	PACAAG August 2025

Awarding Institution	University of Glasgow
Teaching Institutions	Glasgow School of Art
Campus	Garnethill, Glasgow
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 GCSE English at A/7 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 required to submit a digital portfolio of work and accompanying statement. Guidelines are available at: https://www.gsa.ac.uk/study/undergraduate-degrees/how-to-apply-fine-art-and-design/
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 6 with a minimum of 5.5 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

BA (Hons) Fine Art at Glasgow School of Art is a dynamic, studio-centred programme, fostering communities focused on exploring and shaping contemporary art.

The ethos of the School of Fine Art emphasises creative dialogue and celebrates the diverse experiences and perspectives of the students and staff who make up our community. The programme embraces practices and histories from all over the world, whilst also being deeply rooted in the vibrant artistic potential of Glasgow, recognising its significant contribution to the cultural landscape of Scotland and the UK, as well as its international reach.

Glasgow's rich cultural and artistic heritage will inform the work you make. You will test your work in a public context through engaging with some of the city's numerous cultural spaces and venues. Designed to build confidence, these external events and exhibitions enable you to explore how your

practice can engage audiences and reach new publics. The city will animate and help drive your practice and you will contribute to the way Glasgow is continually enlivened by artists, musicians and other creatives who choose to live, study and work professionally in the city.

The School of Fine Art curriculum invites you to push the boundaries of your discipline and encourages interdisciplinary collaboration. The BA Fine Art Programme is made up of three discipline-focused, studio-based departments: Sculpture and Environmental Art; Fine Art Photography; and Painting and Printmaking

The department of **Sculpture and Environmental Art** enables you to explore dynamic relationships between object-making, material and dematerialised practice, public art, and social engagement. The approach of the department is a pioneering, multidisciplinary exploration of contemporary art practice underpinned by an immersion in the critical dialogues and cultural debates that shape the future of art practice. Events, exhibitions and performances on the GSA campus, in the city and its surrounding landscape give the curriculum a particular character that allows you to develop a practice that explores how art engages with people, places and our social environment.

The **Fine Art Photography** department provides a unique platform to explore photography and its role as a specialist medium within contemporary fine art practice. With a focus on experimentation, hands-on creation and critical enquiry you are invited to challenge historical and conventional notions of the photograph. You will ask critical questions of the medium through your research and the work you develop and exhibit to explore photography's possibilities and contribute to its future direction.

Painting and Printmaking at GSA reflects the complex and changing conditions, ethics and currencies of art-making, responding to new ideas. An awareness of histories and applications of painting and printmaking alongside contemporary debate are all fundamental to our programme of study, which acknowledges and critiques our disciplines' legacies, and prioritises experiment and innovation. The programme encompasses a range of approaches to our disciplines and proposes expanded ways of making and thinking.

Running throughout all four stages of the programme is a series of interdisciplinary credit-bearing courses designed to deepen your critical awareness, allow opportunities for cross disciplinary working and extend the set of influences that help underpin your practical enquiry. These include the **Fine Art Critical Studies (FACS)** courses which bring together students from other departments to research and discuss key ideas that inform the way art is made, received and understood. Your FACS courses are geared towards cultivating your intellectual curiosity, engaging you with different ways to perceive, explain, and understand how meaning is made through critical theory and artistic practices.

The BA (Hons) Fine Art programme is led by a team of dedicated practicing artists, writers, curators and researchers and nurtures the development of a dynamic, inclusive and supportive learning environment. A range of learning styles and approaches to making work are supported and there is significant level of choice in how, and the pace at which, you learn. This is exemplified in the final year where you can opt for writing a dissertation or select a shorter extended essay alongside a unit called Creative Platforms that challenges you to extend your research and practice in a public context.

Creative and intellectual independence, developing resilience and self-reliance, whilst also acknowledging your inter-dependence with others, are encouraged. The programme facilitates the development of graduate attributes including the ability to collaborate, utilise interpersonal skills

and effectively communicate. These are supported by an enterprising learning culture that engages students as responsible citizens with an active awareness of ethics, safety, sustainability and social justice.

BA (Hons) Fine Art at the Glasgow School of Art prepares students for the future, whether you want to pursue careers as artists, in arts education, writing, curation or other creative areas. The programme seeks to create assured and specialist fine art graduates with individual and creative identities, prepared for employment, self-employment and postgraduate study.

4. Programme Aims

The aims of this programme are to:

- Build research skills and methods to enable the ongoing development of fine art practice, contexts and theory
- Enable you to be critical and reflective in your approaches to making and thinking within a fine art context
- Build understanding, skills and processes in fine art that encourage an experimental and exploratory approach to practice and the development, realisation and presentation of bodies of work
- Develop a community of practice that enables collaboration and promotes sharing, equity and inclusion
- Support you to build autonomy, communication and professionalism through self-directed learning and engagement
- Foster an awareness of ethics, sustainability and social justice as relevant to fine art as well as social and professional contexts

5. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes

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

- Build a continuous and active practice of research that supports the development of your work in relation to the wider contexts of fine art practice and theory
- Establish critical thinking, reflection and evaluation through your enquiry in fine art
- Generate individual creative practice and processes to make artwork and related activities allowing for experimentation, risk and the realisation of ideas
- Engage with and create opportunities to share, exchange or collaborate with others to stimulate ideas, develop practice and promote community
- Demonstrate skills in communication and self-directed learning to develop directions for future personal and professional development
- Evidence an awareness of social integrity and ethics in the development of your practice and learning

6. Description of Learning and Teaching Approaches

A variety of teaching and learning approaches are employed to support student engagement with the curriculum and the achievement of the intended learning outcomes. These include:

- Briefings and inductions
- Material and process workshops
- Studio practice and activities
- Individual and group tutorials
- Group critiques

- Talks, lectures and seminars
- Study visits and trips
- Peer learning and collaborative activities
- Presenting and sharing work with others
- Internal/external exhibitions, events and live projects
- Reflection and self-evaluation

Digital skills, materials and technical resources are introduced through inductions, demonstrations, and workshops.

Independent learning skills will be developed and supported through guided activities and digital online learning resources available on Canvas.

A variety of teaching and learning approaches, including in person, blended and online learning and delivery, are employed to support student engagement with the curriculum and the achievement of the intended learning outcomes.

7. Description of Assessment Methods

Formative assessment offers you the opportunity to obtain tutor and peer feedback through the development of your summative submissions over the length of each course. You are supported in your learning through a range of formative activities with tutors and peers, such as workshops, critiques and tutorials offering ongoing formative feedback as you progress through each course within this programme.

Summative Assessment is designed to support you to review, collate and communicate work produced in response to project briefs and/or independent learning and teaching activities and associated with the programme and its courses.

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
Orientation: Studio 1A	40	7	1	
Co-Lab	20	7	1	
Orientation: Studio 1B	40	7	2	
Fine Art Critical Studies 1	20	7	2	
Total Stage Credits	120			

Stage 2

Course	Credits	SCQF Level	Semester	Course Code
Immersion: Studio 2A	40	8	1	
Fine Art Critical Studies 2	20	8	1	
Immersion: Studio 2B	40	8	2	
Extended Studio	20	8	2	
Total Stage Credits	120			

Stage 3				
Course	Credits	SCQF Level	Semester	Course Code
Expansion: Studio 3A	40	9	1	
Research into Studio	20	9	1	
Expansion: Studio 3B	40	9	2	
Fine Art Critical Studies 3	20	9	2	
Total Stage Credits	120			

Stage 4 Option 1				
Course	Credits	SCQF Level	Semester	Course Code
Consolidation: Studio 4	80	10	1 & 2	
Fine Art Critical Studies 4: Dissertation	40	10	1 & 2	
Total Stage Credits	120			

Stage 4 Option 2				
Course	Credits	SCQF Level	Semester	Course Code
Consolidation: Studio 4	80	10	1 & 2	
Fine Art Critical Studies 4: Critical Writing	20	10	1 & 2	
Creative Platforms	20	10	1 & 2	
Total Stage Credits	120			

9. Outgoing Exchange and Visiting Student Arrangements				
BA (Hons) Fine Art students may apply to undertake a period of exchange with one of our international partner institutions. International exchanges will normally take place in Semester 1 Stage 3 of study and be for the duration of one full semester. BA (Hons) Fine Art welcomes incoming exchange students studying at a registered exchange partner who may apply to GSA for a period of exchange, usually one full semester in Semester 1. Study Abroad is open to applications for full-year, Semester 1, and Semester 2, entry on Stage 2 and Stage 3 of the BA (Hons) Fine Art programme. Study Abroad students will be entered into the most appropriate year entry point based on their portfolio and application.				

Stage 2 Exchange and Visiting Student Courses				
Course	Credits	SCQF Level	Semester	Course Code
Immersion: Studio 2A	40	9	1	
Fine Art Critical Studies 2	20	8	1	
Immersion: Studio 2B	40	8	2	
Extended Studio	20	8	2	

Stage 3 Exchange and Visiting Student Courses				
Course	Credits	SCQF Level	Semester	Course Code
Expansion: Studio 3A	40	9	1	
Praxis	20	8	1	
Expansion: Studio 3B	40	8	2	
Fine Art Critical Studies 3	20	8	2	

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:

QAA (2019) *Subject Benchmark Statement: Art and Design*. Gloucester: QAA. Available from: 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

All GSA Degree programmes are validated by the University of Glasgow and the GSA's Programme Regulations are published in the [University of Glasgow University Regulations](#).

These regulations include the requirements in relation to:

- (a) Award of the degree
- (b) Progression requirements
- (c) Early exit awards

In referring to regulations for degree programmes, students should consult the University Regulations which were in force in the academic session in which they first registered for the degree programme in question.