

**Glasgow School of Art Course Specification**  
**Course Title: Professional Practice**



Image courtesy of Holly O'Brien

Course Code	HECOS Code	Academic Session
PMFA303	100059	2025-26

Course Title	Professional Practice
Course Contact	TBC

Credits	20
SCQF Level	11
When Taught	Stage 3, Semester 2

Associated Programmes	N/A
Lead School	School of Fine Art
Other Schools	N/A
Date of Approval	PACAAG August 2025

### Course Introduction

This course enables you to focus on your needs and aspirations regarding professional practice as you prepare to graduate from the MFA programme. Reflecting on how your professional ambitions have developed and changed during the programme, you will identify and develop skills, knowledge, and strategies through interaction with visiting practitioners, preparation for the degree show and other self-organised and peer-led opportunities engaging with broader audiences throughout Stage 3 where appropriate. You will develop a dedicated portfolio presenting your practice in response to current opportunities and audiences within or across your chosen fields of professional practice, ranging from galleries to commissioning bodies to cultural or funding bodies and institutions which will support your transition toward further graduate success.

### Course Aims

The course aims to:

- support you to identify and articulate your evolving professional ambitions within the context of contemporary fine art practice or related fields.
- provide you with opportunities to engage with professional practitioners, organisations and audiences, encouraging self-directed and peer-led initiatives as part of your professional development.
- develop practical skills and strategies for promoting your work in response to professional opportunities, including exhibitions, commissions, and funding applications.
- guide you in creating a professional portfolio reflecting your individual practice, meeting industry expectations and supporting your transition from the programme into professional practice.

### Course Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon full participation in and successful completion of the course, you will be able to:

- critically reflect on and articulate the trajectory of your professional practice, identifying how your aspirations and awareness have evolved in response to your developing practice.
- Demonstrate the ability to plan, implement and evaluate strategies for professional engagement and development

- Produce a professional portfolio that effectively and appropriately communicates your identity as a practitioner tailored to relevant opportunities within your chosen field of practice.
- Evidence an advanced understanding of the professional and institutional contexts relevant to their practice, including funding, curatorial, and commissioning structures.

### **Indicative Content**

The course is structured through a seminar series covering a range of approaches and strategies to professional practice. Topic includes securing residencies, self and collectively organised exhibitions and opportunities, navigating local, national, and international artistic and cultural infrastructure, applying for funding, and developing and interacting with networks. You will have opportunities to test and apply this knowledge in practice through your individual and collective preparation of the degree show and other independently led opportunities. You will also be encouraged to draw on your research skills to identify and respond to appropriate current real-life professional opportunities for which you develop material for your professional portfolio. This practical application is supported by workshops enabling you to develop skills in exhibiting, documenting, and writing about your practice, ensuring you are fully prepared for the professional world.

### **Description of Learning and Teaching Methods**

A range of learning and teaching methods are used to support you to engage in an explorative and individual approach to the development of your learning. These include:

- Professional Practice Seminars
- Portfolio development workshops
- Degree show planning meetings
- Online and blended learning

### **Indicative Contact Hours**

10

### **Notional Learning Hours**

200

### **Description of Formative Assessment and Feedback Methods**

Formative assessment offers you the opportunity to obtain ongoing tutor and peer feedback through developing your work for the summative submission over the length of each course. You will actively participate in assessment through regular self-reflection and critical evaluation to encourage increasing self-direction.

You are supported in your learning through a range of formative activities with staff and peers, such as seminar discussions, workshops and group tutorials offering ongoing formative feedback as you progress through the course

Formative assessment for this course takes place at the mid-point of this semester in a tutorial reviewing sharing and discussing your developing portfolio with a tutor and peers and receive feedback and suggestions on its future development,

**Description of Summative Assessment arrangements**

The single element of assessment for this course is digital portfolio capable of promoting your practice to a chosen professional audience including, for example, high quality documentation, artists' statement, CV and proposal for future work, residency or project.

Submissions will be assessed and moderated in line with the Code of Assessment, and you will receive written feedback accounting for the grade awarded and advice on how to improve. Reassessment opportunities where a student has not passed the course are outlined in the Code of Assessment.

Description of Summative Assessment Method	Weight %	Submission week
• A professional practice portfolio	100%	Week 11 (Stage 3, Semester 2)

**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**

The course indicative reading and online resource list is accessible via [Resource Lists](#). This list will be reviewed and updated annually to reflect course content and subject developments.