

THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART

PhD opportunities in artistic research in the School of Fine Art at Glasgow School of Art – SoFA Research Network Partnership

We invite applications for unfunded PhD study in artistic research undertaken in partnership with one of the School of Fine Art's research networks. We are interested in receiving applications in the following areas for PhD study to begin in September 2025:

Queer Materialities

- Queer materials and materialisations within practice research
- Queer intersections with feminist, interspecies and black critical theory
- Queer materiality as voice, protest and imaginative world making
- Queer critical fictioning

Class Matters

- Social class, the Art School and beyond
- Social class and the materialities of practice research
- Social class as methodology in contemporary art practice

Exhibitions and Curating

- Intersections between institutional and infrastructural critique with materialist, feminist and decolonial approaches
- Peripheral arts ecologies and cultural policy
- Grassroots cultural production – histories and contemporary contexts

The Research Network Partnership will enable PhD researchers to be based within one of the School of Fine Art's research networks. Over three years (or six years part-time), the PhD

researcher will be supported by specialist team supervision and be a part of active and on-going collaborative research inquiry connected to their area of study.

Working within a research network to develop their proposed PhD project, the PhD researcher will also have the opportunity to share and test their research in collaboration with the research network and the School of Fine Art's Annex Gallery.

We are seeking proposals for artistic research relating to one or more of the themes outlined above or connected areas of inquiry. Applicants should identify which of the three networks they are proposing to work with as part of their proposal along with a proposed approach to testing or sharing research collaboratively in a gallery setting.

We welcome applications for full (three years) or part-time (six years) study. PhD study can be undertaken either on campus or by distance.

About the research networks

Queer Materialities works across exhibition, publishing and live event formats to critically reflect on power dynamics that promote a straightening of private and public lives. This network foregrounds artistic work and methods that resist attempts to diminish and other, instead building connectivities through collaborative and individual artistic practices. Current members are: Dr Nicky Coutts, Professor Henry Rogers, Dr Jane Topping, Michelle Hannah, Becky Sik, Owain Train McGilvary, Dr Liz Murray, Giulia Astesani (PhD Researcher).

Class Matters broadly operates through the lens of enquiry into how class informs and impacts contemporary art practices both ideologically and in terms of materiality. The research group works across exhibitions, symposia, and publications to respond to Class Matters as a theme, as a method or methodology or a set of principles that underpin art practices. Current members are: Dr Deborah Jackson, Dr Laura Haynes, Dr Elizabeth Hodson, Craig Mulholland, Dr Jane Topping, Fiona Robertson, Michelle Hannah, Laurie Figgis, Owain McGilvary, Dr Nat Raha, and Margaret Salmon.

Exhibitions and Curating works around themes of exhibition making and histories, arts and cultural institutionality and infrastructures. Current members are: Dr Rachel Adams, Dr Neil

Clements, Dr Laura Guy, Dr James Hutchinson, Professor Omar Kholeif, Dr Nat Raha, Dr Sharon Young, Francesca Zappia, Brooke Hailey-Hoffert (PhD researcher), Kelly Rappleye (PhD researcher).

About the programme

Research within the School of Fine Art is an intellectual and creative environment for innovation in contemporary fine-art practices. Drawing on a legacy of the radical imagination and on conceptual practices, it seeks to enact possibilities for art as it meets with heritage, feminist histories, remote landscapes, queer modalities, moving image research, curating, interdisciplinary and art writing and publishing initiatives. SoFA research is comprised of staff, doctoral students and non-academic researchers engaged in high quality individual and collaborative research. Researchers contribute to an inclusive, non-hierarchical approach to research environment engaging local and international partners.

The Glasgow School of Art has a distinctive specialist, practice-led research culture which is widely recognised internationally. The generation of new knowledge and understanding through creative practice, scholarship and criticism in Fine Art, Design, Craft, Architecture and related fields is central to the concept of research. Our researchers include internationally renowned artists, designers, architects, historians and critics. All GSA degree programmes are validated by the University of Glasgow.

Graduate Teaching and Fellowship opportunities

All our PhD students have the opportunity to apply for Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) roles from their second year onward. The aim of the Graduate Teaching Assistant scheme at The Glasgow School of Art is to enable PhD students to gain experience of Higher Education teaching while undertaking their research. The scheme also aims to provide undergraduate and postgraduate taught (PGT) students (and associated teaching staff) at the GSA with an insight into the research projects undertaken by PhD students.

All PhD researchers at the Glasgow School of Art also have the opportunity to work toward the Associate Fellowship of Advance HE (formerly the Higher Education Academy).

Fees

In 25/26, for Scottish home and RUK students, research degrees are £6,370 annual fee for each year of study. Fees will remain at this level in all years of study.

In 25/26, for International Students, research degrees are £21,082 for each year of study. Fees will remain the same in all years of study.

More information can be found here: <https://www.gsa.ac.uk/study-at-the-gsa/fees-finance>

How to apply

Deadline for applications: Thursday 10 July 2025

To apply for a PhD at the GSA, applicants should normally have obtained a minimum of an undergraduate degree with First or Upper Second Class Honours and (where required) an English Language IELTS score of 6.5 overall with no less than 6.5 in each component (or equivalent).

To apply to Doctoral Study at the GSA, you will need to submit the following. Failure to include the listed documents may result in a delay or application rejection:

- Online Application
- 1 x Completed Research Proposal using GSA template. NB Please indicate School of Fine Art in the School subject/Area along with which research network (Queer Materialities, Class Matters or Exhibitions & Curating) that you plan to work with:
<https://gsadocuments.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/gsa-research-degree-proposal-form.pdf>
- 2 x Academic references (on institutional headed paper, signed and dated within 6 months of your application)
- Transcripts of Previous Degrees
- English Language Qualification (please note score minimums)
- 1,000 word writing sample from all applicants (this should be a recent or new example of academic or critical writing, e.g. essay, article, review)
- Portfolio of recent work

General inquiries about the SoFA Research Network Partnerships and the PhD programme at GSA can be directed to Dr Laura Guy, PhD Coordinator for the School of Fine Art:

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