

THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART

PERIODIC REVIEW AND REVALIDATION INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

Background

Periodic Review of academic subjects is one of the main ways in which the Glasgow School of Art (GSA) assures itself of the quality of the student experience and of the provision delivered by its Academic Schools. The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) expects institutions to ensure that all academic subjects and aspects of provision are included in institution-led review activities over a cycle of not more than 6 years.

These reviews concentrate on the quality assurance and enhancement of teaching, learning and assessment, along with aspects of the wider student experience. School management, research, and resource issues are also considered as they relate to these areas. The reviews are conducted on a six-year cycle.

School Boards of Studies, the Education Committee and the Academic Council are responsible for ensuring each stage of the Periodic Review process is conducted in accordance with the details set out in Periodic Review and Revalidation Policy. These committees receive regular updates as part of this process. Revalidation of academic programmes is incorporated within Periodic Review.

Engagement with, and participation by students are vital components of the Periodic Review process. Student engagement takes place before, during, and after the review visit. There is also indirect engagement with students' views and feedback through the documentation submitted for the review.

The Review Process

Each review is carried out by a Review Panel made up of the Deputy Director (Academic) (who is the Convener); an external subject specialist¹; a Programme Leader from another School; the Academic Registrar; the Head of Learning and Teaching; a student representative from outwith the School, normally the President of the Students' Association; an academic-related professional support departmental Head; a representative from the University of Glasgow and an officer from the Academic Quality Office (AQO) who is the secretary to the Panel and review manager.

To familiarise themselves with the School's activities in advance of the review visit, Panel members receive a Self-Evaluation Report (SER) prepared by the School, along with supporting background documentation. The School is encouraged to consult with students on the content of the SER during its production, perhaps at a Staff Student Consultative Committee (SSCC) meeting, to seek feedback on whether or not it is a fair reflection of the School under review.

The Review Panel visits the School and meets with representative groups of students on taught programmes (undergraduate and postgraduate) and, separately, with groups of School staff. The length of the visit and the number of meetings may vary, but most visits span two days.

¹ The external subject specialist will normally be from another Higher Education institution in the UK. In some cases there may be more than one external subject specialist on the Panel, this will depend upon on the size of the subject and/or on the range of its provision.

After the visit, the Review Panel produces a report which highlights the strengths and achievements of the School under review and includes conditions that must be addressed (normally within a specified timescale), and recommendations which should be made, or at least considered, aimed at strengthening provision and thereby further enhancing the teaching provision. Normally, some of these recommendations will be for action by the School, and others will be for action by other departments within GSA, such as the Library, Estates and Buildings or Human Resources. A draft of the report is sent to the School for checking for accuracy before it is finalised and considered by Academic Council.

The Academic Council then endorses the report, and requests that the School and other departments named address the recommendations. The Academic School is asked to report back one year later on the action taken, or on the reasons for not taking action. Once the report has been endorsed by Academic Council, the Head of School is asked to distribute it to all staff and students who met the Review Panel during the visit. The AQO will provide a summary report to the School, aimed specifically at students, for consideration by the School's SSCCs. The summary report will be posted on the School webpages and/or Canvas pages for the wider student body to access.

The Periodic Review process is intended to be positive and constructive, supporting Schools in the enhancement of their provision.

The views of students studying within the Schools

The views of students currently studying at the Academic School under review are central to the review process, and we hope you will participate by meeting with the Review Panel. The Panel wants to meet with groups that represent the School's student body and will seek a balanced view of the School from these meetings and other feedback channels. The Panel hopes that the students they meet will tell them about the strengths and achievements of the School and why it is a good place to work and study in, as well as areas that could be improved or enhanced.

Detailed below are some of the areas that the Review Panel is likely to explore with you:

- The effectiveness and quality of teaching, learning and assessment;
- Your opinion of the learning experience;
- How you engage with your programme and its subjects and other GSA activities;
- Your awareness of the aims and intended learning outcomes of programmes and how they match with your expectations;
- The quality and usefulness of programme and course documents;
- How you find staff in the School - friendly, approachable, supportive?
- Your opinion of the adequacy of information on assessment (criteria, methods, weightings, coursework deadlines, feedback opportunities, etc);
- The opportunities and mechanisms for providing feedback and how staff respond to the feedback you provide;
- Your views on admission and induction procedures;
- Your awareness or use of the range of student support services offered by GSA;
- Availability and quality of teaching space and learning resources (Library/IT, etc)

The Panel will also provide you with an opportunity to raise and discuss other issues.

No members of staff from the School are present during the meeting, and no comments will be attributed to an individual student who meets with the Review Panel.

The meetings with students are normally held before meetings with School staff to allow students' views to be discussed with staff.

We will shortly be looking for volunteers to meet with the Review Panel, and we hope that you will be interested in participating. Details of how to volunteer will be emailed to you separately or posted on the VLE.