

Glasgow School of Art Course Specification

Course Title:

Interior Design Studio 1: Interface: Context and Cooperation



Image: Eleni Bismpiki

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 2026-27 Academic Year.

Course Code	HECOS Code	Academic Session
		2026-27

Course Title	Interior Design Studio 1: Interface: Context and Cooperation
Course Contact	Thomai Pnevmonidou

Credits	40
SCQF Level	11
When Taught	Stage 1, Semester 1

Associated Programmes	MDes Interior Design
Lead School	School of Design
Other Schools	N/A
Date of Approval	Programme Approval February 2024

Course Introduction

This course takes a practice-based and themed approach to introduce students to the contexts and realities of the city of Glasgow, inviting them to explore Glasgow's buildings, objects, and people through historical and contextual frameworks, experimentation, and production.

The course builds a learning community that fosters discussions of process and outcomes, encouraging students to work collaboratively in teams towards shared goals and later autonomously on their ideas within a dynamic and collegiate studio environment. Students will develop research, design, and reflective skills through social interaction and cooperative dialogue.

The course supports curiosity, critical analysis, and creative explorations. During the course, students can question the constraints of physical spaces, use tools to map observations, formulate new positions, and inform ethical decision-making about the impact of their work in relation to different contexts and audiences.

Course Aims

The aims of this course are to:

1. explore the relevance of interior design in relation to historical, contemporary, socio-cultural, and political contexts and discourse utilising case-studies, including critical reflection on prior work(s)
2. support students in manifesting ideas through prototyping and experimenting to support contextual representation/proposal/project
3. support students in exchanging views, opinions, and ideas through dialogue during a range of key activities to enhance confidence in forming ideas and building opinions
4. build skills in communicating the outcomes of critical re-appraisal in a structured way identifying strategies to present them to a diverse audience

Course Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course students will be able to:

1. formulate robust concept, analysing wider historical and contextual information and comparing them with contemporary design practices to evaluate complexities and possibilities of space
2. perform research applying the outcomes of critical analysis to complete a project and employing specialist methods and techniques drawn from interior design practice and observation of practice from other fields
3. develop and explore alternative design strategies, both personal and shared, to enhance decision making and refine feedback
4. communicate individual interests, design strategies and outcomes to a variety of audiences, employing forms of visual and content methods

Indicative Content

This course will introduce students to:

- contextual readings of the built environment as pertaining to the subject and user
- research on critically appraising design and reflecting on the nature of interior design, place-making, and interiority
- specialist methods and techniques that encourage personal observations and enhance design practices
- collaboration and strategies of communicating ideas to a variety of audiences

Description of Learning and Teaching Methods

This course is designed as a project-based course. Project briefs encourage an independent, tutor-supported approach that emphasises individual and in-depth self-directed study.

A range of learning and teaching methods are used to support students to engage in an explorative and individual approach to learning. These can include:

- briefings
- inductions and demonstrations
- technical workshops
- studio activities
- tutorials
- talks, seminars, and study visits
- group critiques and reviews, peer review, peer learning, and presentations
- presentations and writing
- reflection and self-evaluation
- live projects

Skills, including digital, material 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.

Indicative Contact Hours	Notional Learning Hours
40 hours	400 hours

Description of Formative Assessment and Feedback Methods

Students are supported in their learning through a range of activities with staff and peers, such as workshops, reviews and tutorials offering ongoing formative feedback as they progress through the course.

Formative feedback supports students in developing and refining their project work towards submission for summative assessment.

Formative feedback offers students the opportunity to present the progress of their project work to staff and or peers, receiving feedback to support the development and refinement of their project work towards submission for summative assessment.

Description of Summative Assessment arrangements

Summative assessment is designed to support students to review, collate, and communicate work produced in response to project briefs and learning and teaching activities associated with the course.

Submissions will be assessed and moderated in line with the Code of Assessment, which outlines reassessment opportunities where a student has not passed the course.

Description of Summative Assessment Method	Weight %	Submission week
Students are required to submit a portfolio of project work documenting the work produced in response to the project brief/s and learning and teaching activities.	100	Semester 1 Week 13

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. Tutors and peers will provide further recommendations appropriate to student's chosen area of research and focus.