

**Glasgow School of Art Course Specification
Course Title: Orientation: Studio 1A**

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 |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------------|
| UPAP101A / UFAP101A / USEA101A | | 2026-27 |

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| Course Title | Orientation: Studio 1A |
| Course Contact | Dr Zoë Mendelson/Lesley Punton/Sara Barker |

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| Credits | 40 |
| SCQF Level | 7 |
| When Taught | Stage 1, Semester 1 |

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| Associated Programmes | BA (Hons) Fine Art |
| Lead School | School of Fine Art |
| Other Schools | N/A |
| Date of Approval | PACAAG August 2025 |

Course Introduction

This course supports your transition into the programme and orients you to the School of Fine Art. You will be introduced to the skills, knowledge and application for Fine Art study and develop an understanding of fine art processes and approaches.

In this cross Fine Art course, you will work alongside peers from other BA Fine Art departments. Tutor led projects will introduce approaches to making and support you to build self-directed methods of study. The course focusses on experimental processes and material investigation through studio making and workshops, providing stimulus for you to test and experiment with ways of working.

Through the course you will build a body of work which evidences your engagement with fine art processes as well as related critical and contextual material. You will utilise your own research alongside practical experimentation to start to develop your own individual approaches to developing art practice.

Course Aims

The aims of this course are to:

- Introduce the function of the studio as an expanded site of making work, community building and sharing ideas
- Enable a range of relevant fine art skills to be developed that apply to material knowledge and processes
- Introduce fundamental primary and secondary research methods in fine art
- Encourage a critical and reflective approach to learning and making artwork
- Build communication, presentation and organisation skills

Course Intended Learning Outcomes

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

- Demonstrate understanding of the studio as an expanded site through making and exchanging ideas

- Develop material enquiries and processes as a basis for making artwork, through responding to project briefs
- Locate and organise thematic and contextual resources as research within your fine art practice
- Explore critical discussion and reflection as a route into making art
- Build communication and organisational skills and share your ideas with others in a safe and responsible way

Indicative Content

The course will introduce you to:

- Fundamental research methods and processes
- Developing ideas and skills related to fine art processes
- Skills to manage a studio practice and project requirements
- Experimental practical skills or processes
- Peer learning and collaboration
- Written, verbal and visual methods to document, organise and communicate
- SoFA's learning environments and communities

Description of Learning and Teaching Methods

This course is taught through tutor led fine art projects that introduce fine art processes, making and critical and contextual awareness.

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

- Briefings and talks
- Studio activities
- Individual and group tutorials
- Group critiques and collaborative activities
- Study visits
- Reflection and self-evaluation

You will be guided in developing an independent and self-directed approach to study and to utilise the collaborative learning environment of the studio as a place of ethical, sustainable and inclusive practice.

Peer learning is a key component of the course and students are embedded within a subject specific community of practice. There are opportunities to engage with a wider context including Glasgow's cultural spaces.

Digital and material skills and technical resources are introduced through inductions and engaging with technical workspaces. Independent learning skills are developed and supported through guided activities and digital online learning resources available on Canvas.

| Indicative Contact Hours | Notional Learning Hours |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 40 | 400 |

Description of Formative Assessment and Feedback Methods

You will engage with meaningful and authentic assessment to support your learning and undertake self-evaluation to help build a reflective and evaluative approach to their learning.

Formative feedback supports you in developing and refining your project work towards submission for summative assessment. Learning is supported through a range of formative activities with staff and peers, such as crits and tutorials offering ongoing formative feedback as they progress through the course.

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

Description of Summative Assessment arrangements

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

The summative assessment for this course is based on your submissions of two components: an in-studio presentation of a selection of your artwork, works-in-progress and physical supporting material made so far in Year 1; a digital portfolio of work which will include evidence of research, professional practice and self-evaluation.

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 |
|--|-----------------|------------------------|
| You will be assessed via your submission of two components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Studio presentation of a selection of your artwork. - A digital portfolio – uploaded to canvas These components will be assessed holistically. | 100% | 13 |

Exchange/Study Abroad

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| 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.