

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

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
UPAP101B / UFAP101B / USEA101B		2026-27

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

Credits	40
SCQF Level	7
When Taught	Stage 1, Semester 2

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

Course Introduction
<p>This course orients and locates you within your disciplinary area of study and peer group. You will develop your understanding of fine art skills, knowledge and disciplinary processes to enable fine art study.</p> <p>The course introduces you to developing work through exploratory and experimental engagement with disciplinary approaches, media and practice. Tutor led projects guide you in your learning and support independent and self-directed learning.</p> <p>Engaging with your own research interests alongside material making enables you to build a body of developmental studio work underpinned by critical and contextual awareness. You will build your ability to communicate your work and will be asked to present a body of work to an audience.</p>

Course Aims
<p>The aims of this course are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop studio practice as way to engage with material and ideas, and to build communities • Build knowledge and skills in materials and artistic processes specific to disciplinary ways of working with an awareness of ethics and sustainability • Develop fundamental primary and secondary research methods in fine art and disciplinary specialism • Build a critical and reflective approach to making artwork • Develop communication, presentation and organisation skills

Course Intended Learning Outcomes
<p>By the end of this course you will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build an approach to studio practice as a way to engage with materials, ideas and peers 2. Respond creatively to project briefs evidencing disciplinary and practice based material enquiries and processes

3. Identify thematic and contextual research within fine art and your disciplinary specialism
4. Develop critical discussion and reflection as a route into making art within a specialism
5. Develop and build autonomy in your communication and organisation skills, and share your art practice in a safe and responsible manner

Indicative Content

The course will introduce you to:

- Fundamental research methods and processes
- Experimental ideas and skills related to fine art disciplinary processes
- Skills to manage a studio practice and project requirements
- 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 projects that introduce fine art disciplinary 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
- Presenting and sharing work with an audience
- Study visits
- Reflection and self-evaluation

You are 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 you 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 your 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 your project work to staff and/or peers, receiving feedback to support the development of your 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 during the course; 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%	11

Exchange/Study Abroad

Can this course be taken by Exchange/Study Abroad you?

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.