

Glasgow School of Art Course Specification
Course Title: Research into Studio

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
UPRAX101	100059	2026-27

Course Title	Research into Studio
Course Contact	Dr Zoë Mendelson/Lesley Punton/Sara Barker

Credits	20
SCQF Level	9
When Taught	Stage 3, Semester 1

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

Course Introduction

This course supports you to develop models of practice-based research and gain insight into the ways theory and practice can be integrated. The course fosters collaboration, with students and staff from the BA Fine Art departments exploring ideas and building communities of practice.

The course focusses on fine art research methods and methodologies, drawing together making and criticality. It is responsive to contemporary interests and practices within the field of Fine Art and builds on staff research-teaching linkages.

You will participate in a strand, led by Fine Art staff. Each strand introduces a range of creative research methods to inform your understanding of methods appropriate to your own research practice. You will be asked to critically reflect on the method(s) explored during the course to gain understanding and build confidence in your own approaches to research methods and speculate how your learning might feed into your practice.

Course Aims

The course aims to:

- Equip students with an understanding of creative research methods within the field of contemporary fine art practice.
- Facilitate students to reflect on the different ways in which practice and theory are integrated in the creative process.
- Enable students to gain experience and understanding of how artists draw on a range of material in the making of their work.
- Allow students to reflect on their own processes of making and thinking as research.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes

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

- Demonstrate a developed understanding of research methods relative to contemporary fine art practice.
- Critically evaluate ways that practice and theory integrate in creative processes.

- Identify and test research methods to further your own creative processes.
- Reflect and evaluate the processes and methods within your own practice.

Indicative Content

This course will be delivered in Fine Art groups led by SoFA staff which will offer content around particular research interests or staff research and teaching linkages.

- Strands will cover a range of creative research methods, subjects and methodologies employed within Fine Art practice-based research. Narrative/Storytelling (Fictioning)
- Biography (Auto theory)
- Site (Walking)

The course will introduce students to:

- Interdisciplinary creative research methods and methodologies
- Critical frameworks in Fine Art
- Experimental approaches to Fine Art
- Peer learning and collaboration
- Presentation and communication skills

Description of Learning and Teaching Methods

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
- Tutor-led studio activities
- Seminars and talks
- Group crits
- Reflection and self-evaluation

Students are guided in developing an independent and self-directed approach to study and to utilising 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.

Independent learning skills are developed and supported through guided activities and digital online learning resources available on Canvas.

Indicative Contact Hours	Notional Learning Hours
20	200

Description of Formative Assessment and Feedback Methods

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

Formative feedback supports students in developing and refining their 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.

Description of Summative Assessment arrangements

Summative assessment is designed to support students to review, collate, and communicate work produced through their self-directed learning and the 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 deliver a presentation (approximately 8 minutes) that reflects on the development of their work during the course.	100%	12

Exchange/Study Abroad

Can this course be taken by Exchange/Study Abroad students?	Yes
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.