

**Glasgow School of Art Course Specification
Course Title: Studio 2: Developing Practice**



Image: Tom Arnold

Course Code	HECOS Code	Academic Session
	100061 / 1000062 / 100063	2026-27

Course Title	Studio 2: Developing Practice
Course Contact	

Credits	40
SCQF Level	11
When Taught	Stage 2, Semester 2

Associated Programmes	<p>Master of Design in Graphic Design, Illustration, Photography</p> <p>Awards</p> <p>Master of Design in Graphic Design, Master of Design in Illustration, Master of Design in Photography</p> <p>(Individual pathways with separate awards)</p>
Lead School	School of Design
Other Schools	n/a
Date of Approval	Programme Approval February 2025

Course Introduction

This course engages students in developing their specialist creative practice whilst remaining a part of the vibrant, interdisciplinary, studio-based learning environment.

In Course 2: Developing Practice, students develop self-directed, discipline-specific, projects applying specialist, practice-led research methods and creative processes. Building on their learning from Course 1, students will develop their initiative and autonomy through speculation, iteration and critical reflection.

As part of a diverse postgraduate studio community, students will engage in relevant academic discourse regarding creative practice—within their chosen specialist pathway of Graphic Design, Illustration and Photography—and explore their interconnection with the wider field of Communication Design.

Course Aims

The aims of this course are to:

1. engage students in discipline-specific research projects through specialist methods and processes of making.
2. develop students' knowledge and understanding of discipline-specific specialist research and theory.
3. develop students' critical reflection, analysis, evaluation and synthesis of learning to inform their discipline-specific practice.

4. equip students to further develop their criticality through academic discourse on complex ethical, societal, political and environmental contexts.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes

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

1. evidence the application of practice-led research in developing creative responses to self-directed projects.
2. evidence a critical understanding of research and theory informing discipline-specific practice.
3. evidence critical reflection informing the planning and execution of their self-directed specialist projects.
4. evidence an engagement with contemporary discipline-related discourse on complex ethical, societal, political and environmental contexts.

Indicative Content

The course will develop student knowledge and understanding through:

- workshops
- a range of discipline-specific project briefs,
- presenting ideas, research and projects
- approaches to contemporary, historical, and cultural research
- methods and models of critical reflection
- self-directed, autonomous learning.
- exploration of material processes through iterative investigation

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
- Introductions, Inductions and demonstrations

Specialist technical and process workshops

- Studio activities
- Peer-led activities
- Lectures, seminars, presentations and study visits
- Individual and group tutorials
- Staff/Student/Peer reviews of student work
- Critical reflective methods, textual, dialogic and visual.

- Journal and documentation of learning activities
- Continual reflective self-evaluation of progress and learning

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	400

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 assessment offers students the opportunity to present the progress of their project work to staff and receive feedback to inform the development and refinement of their 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 work produced in response to set project briefs and other learning activities. A critically reflective document of 1000 words contextualising the students learning should accompany the submission.		Semester 1 Week 13
Portfolio of work	75%	
	25%	

Critical Reflective document		
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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
<p>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.</p>