Glasgow School of Art Course Specification
S.I.T. Elective 2A



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Please note that this specification is correct on the date of publication but may be subject to amendment prior to the start of the academic year.

Course Code	HECOS Code	Academic Session
		2027-28

Course Title	S.I.T. Elective 2A
Course Contact	Kirsty Ross / Jessica Argo / Rachael Sleight

Credits	20
SCQF Level	8
When Taught	Stage 2, Semester 1

Associated Programmes	BDes/MEDes Product Design BSc Immersive Systems Design BDes Sound
Lead School	School of Innovation and Technology
Other Schools	N/A
Date of Approval	Programme Approval October 2026

Course Introduction

This 20 credit course allows students to explore and deepen their personal study interests, beyond their core curriculum developing the students into creative learners, practitioners and thinkers. This course is one of three courses offering a variety of study options available in Years 2 (semesters 1 and 2), and Year 3 (semester 1*).* Students will have the opportunity to select one of a number of study options that looks at a range of related practices around the broader field of Innovation and Technology practice, allowing the exploration of new knowledge pathways or opportunities to deepen previously acquired knowledge.

The various study options will encourage students to focus on a particular mode of practice by exploring particular methods, approaches, and resources, opening up a discourse around related practices, within an interdisciplinary cohort open to all SIT undergraduate students. This course will enable students to build a unique perspective and application to core design practice and skills, supporting each student to build a unique graduate profile with a more distinct set of competences.

Students will be supported in their choice with an induction session, as well as information on the selection process. Online materials further detailing the available study options will support students in the selection of their preferred option through an online form.

A cohort of tutors will teach each study option, co-ordinated by a dedicated member of staff, supported by a SIT study options co-ordinator. Study options are project based with individual deliverables, ensuring that the same learning outcomes are equally achievable in the variety of study options. Each project has its own balance of practical and theoretical elements, as specified in the briefs.

Course Aims

The course aims to:

- Build confidence and skills across the cohort as students work towards evolving their understanding of design practice and contexts (e.g. product, immersive systems, sound).
- Augment their core studies through a range of focussed personal study options that build on their core understandings.
- Enhance skills in communicating creative practice or critical reflections through visual oral and/or written means.
- Critically reflect, synthesise and communicate relevant research within their domain of specialism.
- Equip students with an awareness of personal practice.
- Increase the range of skills and methods associated with the study of design (e.g., product, immersive systems and interactions).

Course Intended Learning Outcomes

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

- Demonstrate an awareness of principles, concepts and terminology of a chosen study option.
- Identify and demonstrate the use of appropriate research and ideation tools and methods to reveal relevant design opportunities specific to the chosen study option.
- Demonstrate critical reflection to creative and/or analysis of processes specific to the chosen study option.
- Critically reflect on the experience and learning generated by their chosen personal study option
- Communicate project process and outcomes in a visual and/or text-based format, aligned with the requirements of project briefs and personal study options.

Indicative Content

This course covers the following content:

- Thematic introductions to each of the personal study options, structures and methodologies
- Access to topic-specific resources (synchronous and asynchronous materials/lectures)
- Making and/or prototyping and/or reflecting
- Presentation and communication methods specific to the study option.

Description of Learning and Teaching Methods

In this course, students will be expected to increasingly take significant responsibility for the management of their learning. Emphasis will be placed on the gradual encouraging of self-reliance and personal academic development.

This course is designed as a practice-based experience which supports students in their introduction to studio-based learning and practice. This is further supported by TSD (Technical Services Department), who provide workshop and material-based learning.

The principal teaching strategies employed on this course are:

Briefs specific to study options

Tutorial (group and individual) - designed to provide academic support through individual or group meetings with staff to discuss the different directions and aspects of projects or course-based activities as well as progress on the programme/course overall.

Review (group and individual) - enables the development of key presentation skills and encourages students to receive and give constructive feedback regarding each other's work, and an opportunity to debate project input. These may be tutor-led, tutor-facilitated, or peer-led allowing students to fully explore all aspects of practical submissions within a reflective discursive framework.

Presentation (visual and verbal) - an important learning device used to generate peer debate regarding the generation, development or overall success of concepts, and their practical realisation within the context of a project brief or proposal. Students present work to their peers, tutors and stakeholders when relevant through appropriate visual and verbal means (including models or mock-ups, portfolios, videos, slideshows, etc.).

Workshops - are practice-based sessions aimed at supporting students to develop key skills for project development.

Self-Directed Learning - self-directed study emphasises the importance of autonomy, reflection upon personal learning and project work within an individual and/or a collaborative environment.

Guest Speaker sessions (when relevant) – include input from visiting lecturers/guests from industry and academic staff enabling students access to, and understanding of, relevant contemporary practice, research and commercial context. Talks arranged at the School of Innovation and Technology are often open to all students regardless of year group or programme.

Lectures and seminars - often used to introduce key knowledge to support practical work project development. used to disseminate theoretical, methodological, contextual and historical knowledge and address specific issues related to each course which can be used to underpin practical studio work. Lectures also have the broad aim of generating further debate in seminars, tutorials, studio sessions or further enquiry in self- directed learning or research.

This course is supported by a virtual learning environment tool (Canvas) for the dissemination, discussion and access to relevant course information, and signpost to other relevant teaching and learning platforms used by GSA.

Indicative Contact Hours	Notional Learning Hours
20	200

Description of Formative Assessment and Feedback Methods
Students are supported in their learning through a range of formative assessment activities as they progress through the course. These include: • Regular feedback from tutors through engagement in individual and group tutorials, reviews and presentations • Class discussion and peer input

Description of Summative Assessment arrangements
Summative assessment is designed to support students to reflect upon their learning on completion of a course. It provides an evaluation of progress made and the level of achievement identifiable in the work submitted. Following an assessment briefing, students will submit a body of work for assessment. Grades will be awarded using the GSA marking scheme following the assessment regulations in the Code of Assessment.

Description of Summative Assessment Method	Weight %	Submission week
Annotated portfolio of work: Students are required to submit an annotated portfolio of practical work that reflects on– and responds to a given project and that includes the prescribed deliverables	100 **%**	Week 12
OR:		
1800 words Essay	100 **%**	Week 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	N/A

Reading and On-line Resources
An on-line resource list will be provided to students at the start of the course. Personal Study option specific resources and reading are provided with each brief. This will be reviewed annually to remain relevant and current for the course and subject specialism.