Guidance for applicants to applying to Master of Architectural Studies

M ARCH (1 year course)

APPLICATION FORM
SUPPORTING VISUAL MATERIAL
STATEMENT
INTERVIEW
PORTFOLIO FOR INTERVIEW
OUTCOME
When applying for a Master in Architectural Studies you have the option to choose a specific pathway.

The current pathways on offer are as follows:

- Urban Design
- Creative Urban Practices
- Urban Building
- Digital Creativity
- Energy and Environmental Studies
- History and Theory of the City
- Zero-Energy Mass Customised Housing

There is also the opportunity to apply to our Masters in Environmental Architecture course which awards you with an MSc in Environmental Architecture. Details of how to apply to this course can be found on the website under Environmental Architecture.

When you apply to study an M Arch of MSc here at the Mackintosh School of Architecture via an online application, the Registry Department at Glasgow School of Art (GSA) will notify you via email as soon as they receive your application and ask you to upload your Supporting Visual Materials (Portfolio).

Information on how to do this is issued by GSA and can be found on the web page.
Once your portfolio has been uploaded, the Mackintosh School of Architecture (MSA) will be issued with your application form at which point we will assess your application on the following:

- Your completed postgraduate application form
- Your Statement of Purpose
- Your References – preferably one academic and one from employment
- Your Portfolio (except for History and Theory of the City pathway)

- When applying for the History and Theory of the City Pathway you will be asked for two examples of academic writing and an outline research proposal should be submitted

**Additional Information**
In addition, you will also need to submit the following:

- Evidence of your academic qualifications
- If English is not your first language evidence English Language Proficiency (IELTS Certificate)

We would prefer if you sent all of this information with the application form, Statement of Purpose, references and portfolio.
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE
We are interested to know about you and your interests in Architecture and as such will assess your
Statement of Purpose, which forms part of your application form, on the following criteria:

- Your motivation
- Your awareness of the course you are applying to here at MSA and the city of Glasgow
- Reasons for choosing MSA

Your motivation:
We are interested to know what your specific interests within the field of architecture are and more specifically why you
would like to study on your chosen pathway. We would also like to know how your studies and work in practice to date
have influenced this. You may want to talk about any extra-curricular activities that are relevant.

Your awareness of the course and the city:
We would like to know what research you have undertaken about the course and specific pathway and why you think
studying here in Glasgow and as part of Glasgow School of Art would suit you.

Reasons for choosing MSA:
We want to know why you think the Mackintosh School of Architecture pathway would be a suitable course for the next
stage of your studies.
SUPPORTING VISUAL MATERIAL
All applicants are asked to upload supporting visual material to accompany their application.

Both work from your previous studies, from your time in practice and any extra-curricular interests can be included and you should aim to achieve a balance within your portfolio which accurately describes your existing skills and interests. Evidence of awareness of the specialist pathway you have chosen should be reflected in your portfolio.

The following types of work may feature in your portfolio:

- Completed projects from your previous studies
- Projects from your time in practice
- Extra-curricular work
- Sketch books/ Design journals
- Observational Drawings
- 3D visualisation
- 3D work
- Technical drawings
The portfolio will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Format
- Skills level/ range
- Observational Skills
- Design Work
- 3D Work
- Potential

INVITATION TO INTERVIEW
After your application has been assessed you may be invited to attend an interview. Interviews take place regularly between February and May and we offer both live interviews and skype interviews. If you are able to attend an interview in person you will have the opportunity to speak to staff and have a tour of the Architecture building, see the studios, dedicate workshops and can visit the Reid Building by Architect Steven Holl.

The interview is a two-way process allowing you to gain an understanding of the MSA and for us to get to know you. It will also allow us to view your portfolio and ask you questions about it and find out more about you as a person.
The interview itself should last approximately 20 minutes and we will liaise with you directly to arrange a suitable time for either a skype interview or a live interview and visit to the school.

**INTERVIEW**

During the interview you will be evaluated in each of the following areas:

- Information contained with your application form
- Statement of Purpose and Portfolio
- Performance at the interview

(The portfolio will only be viewed as part of the interview and will not be retained.)
PORTFOLIO FOR INTERVIEW

If you are taking part in a live interview, we ask that you bring your portfolio, in a format that suits you, with you. If you are taking part in a skype interview, we will be able to access your uploaded portfolio but we would ask you have a copy to hand so that you can talk more easily about your work.

Your interview will be evaluated against the criteria highlighted:

Portfolio
- Format
- Skills level/ Range
- Observational Skills
- Design Work
- 3D Work
- Potential

Personal
- Motivation
- Course Awareness
- Choice of MSA
- Preparation for interview
- Responsiveness to questions
After your interview the MSA will evaluate all your application, process this and return it to the Registry Department who will liaise directly with you.

You will receive a formal offer (conditional or unconditional) or rejection from us directly and you should receive this no later than two weeks after your interview date.

If you have any queries the architecture admissions team will be happy to help you and you can email architectureadmissions@gsa.ac.uk

The following images are some examples of work undertaken by students on the various Masters Pathways.
PERMEABILITY OF URBAN BLOCK

G Floor
An idea to provide a way for people to get to the front area of the building.

Building in the Gaps

01F
First exhibition space

02F
Exhibition and performance space

03F
Reading space and open outdoor space

04F
Aerial garden and storage space

Roof

Anji Liu - Urban Building Pathway
"The finer the grain of development provided for in the masterplan, the greater the range and diversity of developers that can participate and, in turn, the greater the degree of diversity in terms of uses, types and tenures that can be generated."

THE ART OF SUBDIVISION
Narendran Archana: Energy and Environment Studies Pathway
Nirun Xin: Urban Building Pathway
Naprach Rattananit: Digital Creativity Pathway