

POSTGRADUATE DEGREE STUDY GUIDE

Master of Letters (MLitt) Art Writing

A one-year taught postgraduate programme based in the School of Fine Art. The programme offers full or part-time study, with a Master of Letters gained after 12 months/24 months of study.

The MLitt Art Writing is based on two principal elements: a unique understanding of art writing as an interdisciplinary studio practice and the opportunity to bring new work to a public audience or readership through project-based placements with external cultural organisations. With emphasis on reflexive and critical practice-based enquiry, the programme reflects the increasing interest in the development of alternative forms of critical and theoretical writing and the reconfiguring of the relationship between writing and artistic practice.

Programme Information

The programme runs September to September and students undertake a combination of core courses and an elective course over two semesters. The final stage of the programme is a major masters project in the final semester.

The practice and study of art writing involves creative, philosophical, critical and theoretical approaches to writing *about* art, writing *with* art and writing *as* art. Drawing from disciplines including visual art, art criticism, art history and literature, this interdisciplinary field is as much about creative production as it is concerned with critical discourse. Students will be encouraged to consider art writing as an emergent field and to examine its cultural and literary forms, histories, content and contexts. Encouraging self-directed exploration and practice, and supported by peers and access to the wider community of Glasgow, students will focus on the development and dissemination of their own expansive, innovative and impactful modes of creative critical writing, reading, editorial and research practices and to write effectively from a position of curiosity, knowledge and purpose, publishing and presenting within the expanded field of art criticism and experimental writing.

Key to the programme is the studio-based nature of approaches to writing. The MLitt Art Writing cohort will be accommodated alongside other SoFA postgraduate students, allowing for discourse between students and fostering critical reflection and experimentation.

Questioning the 'studio' as both a physical and pedagogical space and as it pertains to writing and practice-led methodologies, the writing studio will be a flexible space that accommodates a number of core writing practices: writing; reading; editing; dialogue between writers, presentation/performance/readings and peer reviewing. The writing studio also accommodates a learning and teaching model that is distinctive to studio-based teaching, namely one rooted in experimentation, where students are encouraged to take risks and to reflect upon failure, and supported by group critiques/workshops, individual tutorials and seminars, all taking place within the making/writing space.

The programme offers a series of research and practice visits, professional practice workshops and masterclasses, and a series of visiting lectures from leading experts in the field. Project placements with local industry specialists and organisations will allow students to test and develop their practice in an external environment and to bring new work to a public audience or readership. Students are expected to present final project work in the Postgraduate Degree Show and also as part of a satellite MLitt Art Writing event at the Centre for Contemporary Arts, Glasgow. Engagement and participation in local cultural activity is seen as crucial to both individual student development and the culture of the Art Writing programme and the city at large.

In Stage 2, each student is matched to a local cultural organisation for a project-based placement with the support of a personal mentor. The placement will also be supported by one-to-one guidance tutorials with the Programme Leader. Affiliate organisations include Centre for Contemporary Arts, Glasgow; LUX Scotland; The Scottish Poetry Library; MAP Magazine; The List; Tramway; Glasgow Women's Library; Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art; Good Press

Programme Structure – full time (12 months)

STAGE 1 (SEMESTER 1):

- Writing Practice I (20 credits)
- Art Writing: Histories, Theories and Methodologies (20 credits)
- Core Research Methods (20 credits)

STAGE 2 (SEMESTER 2):

- Writing Practice II (20 credits) including project placement with external organisation
- The Genre-Bending Art of Essaying (20 credits) delivered by the School of Critical Studies, University of Glasgow
- Postgraduate Elective Course (20 credits)

STAGE 3 (SEMESTER 3):

- Writing Practice III: Masters Project (60 credits) including:
 1. Full dissertation
 2. Portfolio of practice accompanied by a shorter dissertation and contextual overview
 3. Presentation of work for Graduate Degree Show and satellite event at Centre for Contemporary Arts, Glasgow

Programme Structure – part time (24 months)

YEAR 1, STAGE 1 (SEMESTER 1):

- Writing Practice I (10 credits)
- Art Writing: Histories, Theories and Methodologies (20 credits)

YEAR 1, STAGE 2 (SEMESTER 2):

- Writing Practice I (10 credits)
- The Genre-Bending Art of Essaying (20 credits) delivered by the School of Critical Studies, University of Glasgow

YEAR 1, STAGE 3 (SEMESTER 3):

- No teaching

YEAR 2, STAGE 1 (SEMESTER 1):

- Writing Practice II (20 credits)
- Core Research Methods (20 credits)

YEAR 2, STAGE 2 (SEMESTER 2):

- Writing Practice II (10 credits) including project placement with external organisation
- Postgraduate Elective Course (20 credits)

YEAR 2, STAGE 3 (SEMESTER 3):

- Writing Practice III: Masters Project (60 credits) including:
 1. Full dissertation
 2. Portfolio of practice accompanied by a shorter dissertation and contextual overview
 3. Presentation of work for Graduate Degree Show and satellite event at Centre for Contemporary Arts, Glasgow