THE FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE:

From September 2019 all first year students at the Mackintosh School of Architecture (MSA) will have the opportunity to collaborate with students from across all the disciplines taught within the Glasgow School of Art (GSA). The First Year Experience is a new programme for all first years at Glasgow School of Art, across the Schools of Architecture, Fine Art, Design, Innovation and Simulation & Visualisation.

The FYE seeks to ensure creative collaboration is at the heart of learning, simultaneously strengthening disciplinary practices and inspiring radical forms of interdisciplinarity. You will experience the integration of research, practice, and theory through the programme, which will encourage a sense of the unbounded nature of studio practice. The FYE will foster your transition into your disciplinary expertise through exposure to the wider creative context of GSA. The FYE consists two collaborative 4-week projects taking place in Semester 1 and Semester 2 titled CO-LAB 1 & CO-LAB 2.
CO-LAB 1 & CO-LAB 2

Co-Lab 1 will enable you to explore the disciplinary domain of architecture. The course is delivered through a thematic studio-based project, which explores the deep rooted history of architecture, how it relates across the spectrum of creative practices within the Glasgow School of Art, and its wider cultural significance.

The theme for each annual iteration of the course will change, and the specific content of the course will adapt to best fit the chosen theme. Each year the focus of the course will relate directly to the following areas; studio practice, disciplinary domain, historical and cultural theory, and exhibition making. You will explore a thematic project with your architecture peers, and share your experiences with the other four domains within GSA. You will encounter alternate ways of being, seeing, thinking and making, to support you in the development of your creative practice in architecture.

Co-Lab 2 will engage you along with students from across the five schools at GSA. Through reflective practice you will consider and explore your identity as an emergent creative practitioner. Cross-disciplinary and collaborative practice is at the heart of the four-week project. Each week takes a particular focus on creative practice through the lenses of context, criticality and collaboration, culminating in a critique and exhibition of the work produced.

The course will be framed by an overarching theme, changing each academic year to reflect current topics and issues. The course will consider the rich history and traditions of the Glasgow School of Art, and its context of Glasgow. You will gain new knowledge, skills and understanding, through collaboration with others, in response to the shared thematic brief. You will learn to locate and describe creative practice within theoretical and cultural contexts, reflect upon and evaluate their experiences of collaboration and its impact and influence on their practice, and present your work to the local community at The Glasgow School of Art.