

CONGRATULATIONS & WELCOME

Congratulations on being offered a place to study at The Glasgow School of Art (GSA). As a new student in Glasgow you will find yourself part of a vibrant city, packed with some of the best galleries, parks, cultural venues and nightlife in Europe. Glasgow is frequently listed amongst the best places in the world to live, partly due to its vibrant international community, and partly due to the renowned friendly and welcoming attitude of native Glaswegians.

We hope the information on this poster will help you in your preparations to come to Glasgow, and give you an idea of what to expect when you arrive. Once again, congratulations on being accepted to the GSA, and we look forward to welcoming you in person soon.



VIDEO: THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART PRESENTS: THE CITY OF GLASGOW

An introduction to Glasgow life and culture, by GSA alumni Martin Clark and Cara Connolly (Fine Art Photography 2003, 2000).

vimeo.com/55051394

YOUR OFFER OF A PLACE

Please have a look over the offer of a place you've been made to check if it is conditional or unconditional. If you have been made a conditional offer, this means that we are extremely interested in your application and would like to accept you but there are one or two small things that you still need to do in order for us to confirm your acceptance, and make your offer of a place unconditional. These things will be outlined in your acceptance letter, but may include confirmation of graduation from college or high school or obtaining an appropriate level of English. Send us copies of these certificates when you have them and we will confirm your acceptance. If your offer of a place is unconditional then your next step is to prepare to arrive in Glasgow.

THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART

#SCOTLAND IS NOW



IMMIGRATION

EEA or Swiss Nationals do not currently need to apply for a visa to enter the UK. Students from outside the EEA can only apply for a visa up to 3 months prior to their programme start date. For detailed information on visa application please visit the website of the UK Visa and Immigration department of the Home Office at gov.uk/visas-immigration

COMING FOR 6 MONTHS OR MORE

Students coming for more than 6 months will need to apply for a **Tier 4 General Student Visa** before travelling to the UK. Please leave at least 6-8 weeks to do this.

GENERAL STUDENT VISA

1. OBTAIN NECESSARY DOCUMENTS

- Obtain valid passport & photograph
- Pay acceptance deposit
- Unconditional offer of a place
- Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) - this will be a document with a unique number issued through GSA by the UKVI
- Original Certificates for qualifications used to gain admission
- Original financial documents as recommended by UKVI.

2. CONSIDER YOUR TRAVEL DATE

Your intended travel date cannot be more than 30 days before the start date of your programme, as listed on your CAS.

3. SUBMIT AN ONLINE VISA APPLICATION FORM

at visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/apply-visa-type/tier4 and pay special attention to the process and documents required. Keep calm, review your documents. When submitting the online form you will be asked to pay the visa application fee (£348) and the immigration health surcharge (£300 per year of stay).

4. MAKE ARRANGEMENTS

To enrol your biometric information and attend visa interview, if requested to do so by UKVI. Most visa applicants are interviewed when submitting their biometric information. A Home Office member of staff will ask you about your programme, place of study and reasons for choosing to study in the UK.

5. SEND ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS

application form and passport to visa processing centre. Those travelling from certain countries will also be required to send a medical certificate: gov.uk/tb-test-visa

6. RECEIVE 30 DAY VIGNETTE

When your leave is granted you will be issued with a vignette in your passport. You must travel to the UK in the 30-day period shown in the vignette. If you plan to arrive at a later date you will have to apply for another 30-day vignette.

7. AFTER ARRIVAL - COLLECT BIOMETRIC RESIDENCE PERMIT

Your vignette letter will tell you when your Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) will be available, and which local Post Office branch you can collect it from. You must bring your vignette, passport or travel document, and decision letter when you collect your BRP. Your BRP will contain your full leave conditions.

COMING FOR LESS THAN 6 MONTHS

Students coming for less than 6 months will need to apply for a **Short-term Study Visa** (e.g Study Abroad or Exchange students).

SHORT-TERM STUDY VISA

1. OBTAIN NECESSARY DOCUMENTS

- Valid passport & photo
- Unconditional Short-term Study Visa letter
- Evidence to show you have enough money to complete your programme

2. CHECK WITH

gov.uk/check-uk-visa if you are a "Visa National".

3. APPLY FOR SHORT-TERM STUDY VISA

Visa Nationals do this at the British Consulate or High Commission at home (fee £97). Non-Visa Nationals may do this at the point of entry (e.g. airport) to the UK for which there is no charge.

PLEASE NOTE Short-term Study visa holders are not permitted to work whilst in the UK and may not switch into another visa category from within the UK.

PLEASE NOTE Your Tier 4 General Student visa will need to name The Glasgow School of Art as your sponsor in order for you to enrol on your programme. You must use our CAS to apply for your visa.

GETTING IMMIGRATION ADVICE

Guides to making a Tier 4 or Short-term Study visa application can be found on the UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) website:

www.ukcisa.org.uk

The UK Visas and Immigration website also provides detailed information on the visa application process, both for Tier 4 General Student Visa and the Short-term Study Visa gov.uk/visas-immigration

If you need help with your visa application or advice about the UK's immigration law and requirements please contact our Student Welfare Service. Please do not rely on unprofessional immigration advice from friends or tutors who may not be properly informed.

welfare@gsa.ac.uk
+44(0) 141 353 4485

BREXIT AND EU CITIZENS

If the UK leaves the EU with a withdrawal agreement there will be a transition period. EU students travelling to the UK in September 2019 will therefore not be required to apply for a visa. If the UK leaves the EU without a withdrawal agreement, EU students will be required to apply for a European Temporary Leave to Remain Visa upon arrival in the UK.

The GSA along with the Scottish Government is committed to minimising the impact on students following the UK's decision to leave the European Union. For the latest information please consult our website: www.gsa.ac.uk/EUupdate



VIDEO: UK VISA APPLICATIONS FROM INDIA OR CHINA

Applying for a visa from India or China? Watch these videos courtesy of the University of Sheffield for an idea of the application process.

India: vimeo.com/79790412

China: vimeo.com/87173522

ARRIVING IN GLASGOW

TRAVELLING TO GLASGOW

Nearest Airports

Glasgow International Airport 20 mins from city centre
Glasgow Prestwick Airport 40 mins by train
Edinburgh Airport 60 mins by bus

Glasgow International

Bus into centre of Glasgow £8
Taxi into centre of Glasgow £30

Glasgow Prestwick

Train into Central Station £8.60
Taxi into centre of Glasgow £85

Edinburgh Airport

Bus to Buchanan Bus Station £12.50

Nearest Train Stations

Glasgow Queen Street; Glasgow Central

Check the Traveline Scotland website or download the Traveline app for updated timetable information for planes, trains and buses in Scotland.

www.traveline.info

TRAVELLING VIA THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

As the UK and Republic of Ireland (ROI) are part of a common travel area you will not receive the correct stamp in your passport if you enter the UK via ROI. Should you do so you will be required to leave the UK and re-enter directly.

SEMESTER DATES

Updated semester dates are available on our website:

www.gsa.ac.uk/semesterdates

ENROLMENT

For detailed information about enrolment, see our website www.gsa.ac.uk/enrolment

OUR CAMPUS

Download a map of the GSA's campus, located in the heart of Glasgow:

www.gsa.ac.uk/campusmap



VIDEO: LIVING IN GLASGOW

Glasgow boasts a wealth of great nightlife, shopping and green spaces, along with one of the best collections of metropolitan galleries and museums in Europe. There's always something to do or see in the city.

Interior Design student Omaira Abdulla talks about her experiences living and studying in Glasgow.



vimeo.com/265731003

ACCOMMODATION

As Scotland's largest city and with five higher education institutions, Glasgow has an excellent supply of student accommodation, whether you choose to apply for a room in one of the GSA's two Halls of Residence, or rent a private flat or room sharing with others. Students can expect to pay £300 - £400 per month for a room in Glasgow's private accommodation sector.

Our Student Welfare Service can support you in your search for appropriate private accommodation. Please contact welfare@gsa.ac.uk



VIDEO: ACCOMMODATION

Chinese Interaction Design student Zexuan Qiao talks through his experience finding a flat in Glasgow.

vimeo.com/265731624

OUR HALLS OF RESIDENCE

The GSA offers two halls of residence, both within 5 minutes' walk of the main GSA campus.

Blythswood House

Students can rent a deluxe room with en-suite bathroom within a flat with shared lounge/kitchen, or rent a 1 or 2 bedroom apartment with private living area within the halls of residence. From £139 per week.

Margaret Macdonald House

Flats based on 4, 6 or 8 residents sharing, with single bedrooms – some en-suite – and a spacious shared lounge/kitchen area in each flat. From £111 per week.

More information and an application form is available at www.gsa.ac.uk/accommodation

The List

Listings of Glasgow events, covering music, theatre, art, clubs and more.

www.thelist.co.uk

Visual Arts Glasgow

A comprehensive guide to what's on at Glasgow's galleries, featuring events and exhibitions across the city.

www.visualartsglasgow.co.uk

The GSA website contains details of all aspects of student life in Glasgow, including information on accommodation, finance, work, student services, GSA Sport and the GSA Students' Association.

www.gsa.ac.uk/life

KEEP IN TOUCH

The Glasgow School of Art
167 Renfrew Street, Glasgow, G3 6RQ

T: +44 (0) 141 353 4500 E: info@gsa.ac.uk

@GSofA

/GlasgowSchoolofArt

/GlasgowSchoolArt

HEALTH

Full Degree Programmes (over 6 months)

All non-EEA migrants coming to the UK for more than 6 months are now required to pay a health surcharge to ensure access to the National Health Service (NHS) on the same terms as a permanent UK resident. The surcharge for students is £300 per year, and is payable in full at the time of your visa application.

Visiting Students (less than 6 months)

Erasmus/EEA & Swiss students should obtain a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), which allows use of the NHS. Other visiting students should obtain private health insurance. All visiting students should also register with a GP.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

For details on our wide range of student support services – welfare, learning support, counselling and more – see our website: www.gsa.ac.uk/support



VIDEO: HEALTH

Advice on registering with a doctor and accessing the NHS from Sudanese masters student Omaima Abdulla.



vimeo.com/265731851

PAYING TUITION FEES

Discounts

2.5% discount is available on full international tuition fees if paid in full before or at enrolment. 10% discount is available to all GSA honours graduates or study abroad and exchange alumni enrolling in a masters programme. Please make sure the finance officer at enrolment knows you are eligible for this discount, or you will be sent the full bill.

This discount is also given to International BArch GSA graduates enrolling on the DipArch programme and masters graduates enrolling on a PhD.

Scholarships and sponsorship

If you are receiving a scholarship from a non-GSA source or you are being sponsored by a company, you will need to bring a letter evidencing this with you to enrolment.

Erasmus and other Exchange students

You should continue to pay tuition fees as normal to your home institution. A workshop fee or studio fee is payable in some departments to cover bulk purchasing of consumables you will use. Sometimes field trips may be organised for your programme, for which there will also be a fee.



VIDEO: OPENING A UK BANK ACCOUNT

You may need to open a UK bank account to manage your money whilst studying at the GSA. Basic bank accounts are usually free and will not offer any credit. Some banks offer International Student accounts, which usually make a monthly charge but offer more services. Documents that the bank may ask for are your original acceptance letter from GSA, your passport, proof of your address in the UK, a letter from your financial sponsor and a reference from your bank at home. GSA Student Support Services offer help and support to International students opening a bank account.

Interior Design student Omaima Abdulla, originally from Sudan, talks through her experience opening a UK bank account.

vimeo.com/265732445

NUS WEBSITE

Advice on opening a UK bank account on the National Union of Students (NUS) website: tinyurl.com/NUSbank

LEGAL INFORMATION

- Scotland is largely smoke free - you may not smoke in any public building or other places where people work.
- The emergency telephone number for police, fire service and ambulance is 999 - you do not need cash or credit to make an emergency call.
- It is illegal to carry a weapon in the UK.
- When driving in the UK it is compulsory to hold a valid driving licence, to have car insurance specific to you and to wear a seatbelt. Driving whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or whilst using a hand-held phone is illegal.
- If you want to watch television in the UK, you must first obtain a TV Licence, available online at www.tvlicensing.co.uk. This includes watching television via the internet/tablet/phone, or on catch-up services.



VIDEO: FINANCE

Detailed information on programme fees, scholarships, living costs and budgeting are available online.

You will need to show evidence of £1,015 per month for immigration purposes for a single student, and we recommend budgeting £950 per month for a couple, with an extra £1,800/year per child.

www.gsa.ac.uk/finance

Advice on budgeting and working part-time in the UK from Chinese student Zexuan Qiao.



vimeo.com/265732602

NATIONAL INSURANCE

In order to work in the UK you will need a National Insurance Number. You will pay National Insurance contributions (12% of your pay) if you earn more than £166 a week.

GSA CAREERS SERVICE

Our careers service can give you advice on looking for part time work: www.gsa.ac.uk/careers

THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 2019/20 ENTRY

