

BA (Hons) Silversmithing & Jewellery Design

STUDY GUIDE

The Silversmithing and Jewellery course aims to provide a broad, balanced programme covering aspects of body adornment and fine metalworking from the development of original design concepts through to the finely crafted finished work. The course embraces as broad an approach to silversmithing and jewellery as possible, from designing for the mainstream jewellery or silverware industries to the pursuit of very personal works intended for gallery exposure.

A strong emphasis is placed on the development of individual craft and design skills that increasingly allow each student the freedom to pursue and realise ideas in appropriate media. Consequently, we actively encourage exploration of a wide range of materials through project work. The course centres its basic technical studies, however, in the area of fine metalworking, providing students with the experience of working in gold and silver as well as other metals.

The staff of the department, as practising designer/makers/researchers, continually review new developments in the field, evaluate the place of silversmithing and jewellery in changing international cultural environments, and respond to technological advances in design and manufacture. The course is supported by guest lectures, field trips, professional practice workshops, live projects, themed department exhibitions, and seminar/study groups.

OUR ETHOS

Learning and teaching on the programme encourages self-motivation and sustained independent learning. The programme employs a variety of learning and teaching methods including lectures, seminars, talks, presentations, group discussions, individual or group tutorials, project work, practical workshop activities and critical reviews. Students share responsibility for their learning within the programme structure and self-directed study is an essential element.

In addition to applications for first year level entry, the school also welcomes applications into years 2 and 3 from suitable qualified applicants.

The programme aims to:

- Enable students to develop their intellectual and imaginative abilities
- Encourage critical and creative thinking
- Develop students as self-critical, socially aware individuals
- Develop to a high level students' abilities to communicate both visually and verbally
- Develop in students a high level of technical skill and an integrated understanding of process
- Encourage team work and collaboration
- Develop in students a keen understanding of the broad spectrum of career opportunities in design

Programme Structure & Course/Credits
BA(hons) Silversmithing and Jewellery Design

During your time studying the BA(hons) Silversmithing and Jewellery Design Programme you will participate in a number of different course. Each course has a number of credits attached to it and each course may also consist of a number of projects. Each course is separately assessed and students are required to pass each course in order to progress to the next year of study on the programme

CREDIT STRUCTURE

YEAR 1	credits	YEAR 2	credits	YEAR 3	credits	YEAR 4A	credits	YEAR 4B	credits
Studio 1	80	Studio 2	80	Studio 3	80	Studio 4A	100	Studio 4B	80
First year experience	20	Design Domain 2	20	Design Domain 3	20	Design History & Theory (Essay, Curatorial Rationale, Critical Journal) 4A	20	Design History & Theory (Dissertation /Extended Critical Journal) 4B	40
Co-LAB 1									
First year experience	20	Design History & Theory 2	20	Design History & Theory 3	20				
Co-LAB 2									
Total	120		120		120		120		120

Exit Points

Students may exit the programme after the successful completion of each year with the following qualifications. Please speak to academic staff or Registry if you require more details.

- Year 1 - Certificate of Higher Education
- Year 2 - Diploma of Higher Education
- Year 3 - Ordinary degree
- Year 4 - Honours degree

COURSES

Studio, First year Experience, Design Domain & Design History & Theory

STUDIO

Studio is the main course of the programme and consists of lots of projects across all areas of design and making in the specialism of Silversmithing and Jewellery. These projects can vary in length from 1 day to several weeks and in your fourth year, for a whole year. The projects are designed to inform and challenge you and will more often than not have a tangeable outcome of an object/ artifact and relevant back up source material, sketchbook work, sampling and technical development work. We brief these projects as a group and there is also interim and final crits that give students the opportunity to share their process and learn from the others in their peer group. All projects completed in the year are submitted for assessment at the two main assessment points. the first is a formative assessment and happens just before Christmas. The second is at the end of semester 2 in May. It is important that all work completed in the year is kept until the end of Semester 2 as it will be assessed as a complete year's work at that point.

YEAR 1

Year 1 of the Silversmithing and Jewellery studio course is delivered in the Haldane Building with access to the Silversmithing & Jewellery workshops in semester 2.

The course is delivered through a range of set studio and workshop projects exploring the fundamental characteristics, creative and technical processes associated with the specialist discipline.

The aim of the first year is to provide a sound foundation in the specialism. Students will undertake a range of set projects exploring aspects of research in order to demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental creative processes and methods associated with Silversmithing and Jewellery Design. Students will also learn develop the fundamental practical skills and processes associated with the subject including source gathering, research drawing, design development, model making and technical skills.

A degree of independent learning and critical thinking is also required and students will be expected to learn to manage their project work and meet set deadlines as well as communicate their ideas in a well-structured and coherent form.

YEAR 2

Year 2 of the studio course is delivered in the Silversmithing and Jewellery workshops in the Reid building

In year 2, students are introduced to a range of techniques and processes in the workshop. The studio course in year 2 focuses on delivering projects that cover core technical skills and learning how to use these skills to develop their own designs. There are a number of dedicated technical days where students learn very specific techniques and then there are longer projects where the students are challenged to develop ideas around a theme or technical process.

Each student has a dedicated workspace in the studio, and is expected to obtain a standard personal tool-kit to undertake practical work. Toolkits are available to purchase through our technical services department

The students are involved in a number of collaborative projects this year, including a Christmas Sale (years 2,3 & 4) and a themed Exhibition project (years 1,2 and 3)

YEAR 3

In year 3, students now have a solid foundation in technical making and design skills. Students are looking to refine these skills and build on their research. There is a greater emphasis on personal design work and we encourage students to enter national student competitions this year. There are advanced technical days as well as longer projects where students can develop their own approach to themes and techniques. Throughout the year, weekly seminar discussions introduce students to the background of the subject, its history and contemporary activity across the world. This is an opportunity to present your thoughts and ideas to your peers and debate the subject.

Students have the opportunity to take part in a study visit to Munich Jewellery Week. During year 3 students also work with our Careers service looking at professional practice.

YEAR 4

The fourth and final year of study is a self-directed project, designed by the student with on-going tutorial and technical support. During this project, the students have the opportunity to develop a collection of work around their chosen theme that expresses their personal area of interest. This collection is presented at the undergraduate degree show at the end of the academic year and is also taken to London to be exhibited at the graduate show, New Designers. As this project spans 2 semesters, the students have the opportunity to rigorously interrogate their chosen theme and thoroughly research materials and processes in order to realise their final outcomes.

Students are also given professional practice sessions with the GSA careers guidance service and studio staff.

THE FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

The First Year Experience is a new course for all first years at Glasgow School of Art, across the Schools of Architecture, Fine Art, Design, Innovation and Simulation & Visualisation, commencing in the academic session 2019/2020.

The FYE seeks to ensure creative collaboration is at the heart of learning, simultaneously strengthening disciplinary practices and inspiring radical forms of interdisciplinarity. New students to GSA 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 transitions into disciplinary expertise through exposure to the wider creative context in which their chosen department and school belongs. The FYE takes place throughout First Year, with two collaborative 4-week projects taking place in Semester 1 and Semester 2: CO-LAB 1 & CO-LAB 2

CO-LAB 1 & CO-LAB 2

Co-Lab 1 will enable students to explore the disciplinary domain in which they will study, work and practice. Students will explore the breadth of their school's domain, and its relationship to their chosen specialism. The course is delivered through a thematic studio-based project, which explores the deep-rooted history of their subject, 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. Students will work in their specialisms, exploring a thematic project collectively, and share their experiences across all five domains at GSA. They will encounter alternate ways of being, seeing, thinking and making to support them in the development of their creative practice.

Co-Lab 2 will engage students through collaboration across the five schools at GSA. Through reflective practice students will consider and explore their identity as emergent creative practitioners, within a community in which they think, make, and do. 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, which will change 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. Students will gain new knowledge, skills and understanding, through collaboration with others, in response to the shared thematic brief. They 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 their work to the local community at The Glasgow School of Art.

DESIGN DOMAIN

Design Domain is a 20-credit course (10 credits for Study Abroad/Exchange In or Exchange Out students). It's for all Year 2 and Year 3 students in Fashion, Textiles, Communication Design, Interior Design, Interaction Design, and Silversmithing & Jewellery.

During Design Domain, you explore your design process by relating it to ideas and practice *within* your own design subject discipline and to ideas and practice *beyond* your own discipline in the wider 'domain' of design, including the cross-disciplinary cultural ideas and critical thinking that inform it.

Above all, Design Domain asks you to think about **what you do, how you do it, and why**. It means connecting your work to its broader context, to what's happening in the design world now, and to what might happen in the future. In fact, these ideas might not fit neatly into a 'discipline' – they link to bigger concepts, to real world thinking, and to the methods and ideas that inform design practice, which often pushes beyond discipline boundaries. It's about developing the confidence to push yourself, too.

Each year, Design Domain is given an overall **theme**, and there are four related sub-themes, with useful key words. These themes are designed to be thought provoking and open.

DESIGN HISTORY & THEORY

A course of the programme is delivered by the department of Design History and Theory.

In year 2, 3 and 4 of the undergraduate programmes in design, one day per week of the student timetable is allocated to Design History and Theory. It is an externally linked critical mass of diverse research expertise in broad-based critical studies for contemporary creative practices in design.

The range of teaching styles varies from traditional keynote lectures to interactive discussion groups and experiential learning. Courses are constructed in order to both underpin studio practice and to open out and extend the range of student research.

All students are required to attend lectures and discussion groups, to make oral presentations, to write essays and in the final year, to present a piece of personal research in the form of an Extended Essay (20 credits) or a Dissertation (40 credits).

Students requiring learning support are provided with additional teaching tailored to individual needs. Each student also has a departmental contact tutor who acts in an advisory and pastoral capacity in relation to progress in Design History and Theory.

UCAS Information:

Institution Name:

GSA Institution

Code: G43 UCAS

Code: W721