Guidance for applicants to Architecture

B.Arch (Hons)

BA – Architecture –G43 K100

UCAS FORM
SUPPORTING VISUAL MATERIAL
STATEMENT
INTERVIEW
PORTFOLIO FOR INTERVIEW
OUTCOME
When you apply to study Architecture here at the Mackintosh School of Architecture via UCAS the Registry Department at The Glasgow School of Art (GSA) will notify you via email as soon as they receive your application and ask you to upload your Digital Portfolio and Portfolio Statement (max 500 words). Information on how to do this is issued by GSA Registry.

Once your portfolio has been uploaded, the Mackintosh School of Architecture (MSA) will be issued with your UCAS form at which point we will assess your application on the following:

- Your Academic Status – grades predicted/ achieved
- Your UCAS Personal Statement
- Your Reference
We are interested to know about you and your interests in Architecture and as such will assess your application and in particular the personal statement on the following criteria:

- Your motivation
- Your knowledge of the discipline
- Evidence of extra-curricular activity

**Your motivation:**
We are interested to know why you want to study architecture. We also want to know what or who has motivated or inspired you to apply the study architecture at university.

**Your knowledge of the discipline:**
We don’t expect you to have carried out any architectural design but we would like you to expand on your interest in the subject and for you to demonstrate your creative thinking and spatial awareness.

**Evidence of extra-curricular activity:**
We want to know if you have managed to do any work experience with an architect or if you have done any evening or weekend classes relating to architecture or been to visit any particular buildings, exhibitions or read any books that have inspired you.

At this stage your Digital Portfolio and Portfolio Statement will be viewed, however will not be evaluated until such time as you are invited to interview.
GUIDANCE ON UPLOADING:
DIGITAL PORTFOLIO
All applicants are asked to upload a Digital Portfolio and a Portfolio Statement to accompany their UCAS application.

You will be asked to upload 15 files. Both finished pieces and work in progress can be included and you should aim to achieve a balance within your portfolio which accurately describes your existing skills and interests.

The following types of work may feature in your files:

- Sketch books/ Design journals
- Observational Drawings
- 3D visualisation
- 3D work
- Technical drawings
- Photographic studies
- Printmaking
- Textiles

Drawing and your ability to represent 3-dimensional form is important, particularly as much of your time in first year will be spent in the investigation and exploration of ideas communicated in drawn and 3
-dimensional form. However, we do also look for other forms of expression and a variety of mediums is acceptable and to be encouraged.

GUIDANCE ON UPLOADING: PORTFOLIO STATEMENT
Your uploaded statement (maximum 500 words) will allow you to explain in greater detail the following:

- Your motivation for studying Architecture, particularly with regards to studying at the Mackintosh School.
- Elaborate on your knowledge and interest in Architecture
- Any relevant experience you have gained

The Portfolio Statement should be no more than 500 words.
INVITATION TO INTERVIEW

After your application has been assessed you may be invited to attend an interview. Interviews usually take place on Fridays between January and March and we would ideally like to meet you in person.

The interview is a two way process allowing you to gain an understanding of the MSA and to see round the school. 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 also provide you with a series of events on the interview day, which start either at 10.00am or at 2.00pm (you can choose a morning of afternoon session when you book your slot).

They are as follows:

- Introductory talk regarding the School of Architecture and the B.Arch programme
- Tour of the Architecture Building with an opportunity to meet some of our students
- Individual Interviews
INTERVIEW

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

- Information contained with your UCAS application form
- Portfolio Statement 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
All applicants will also be expected to present a portfolio of their current work and you should include around 15 to 20 pieces of work which you are prepared to discuss with the interview team. This work can be the same as your uploaded images but you can also include different work if you feel appropriate.

The following types of work may feature in your portfolio:

- Sketch books/ Design journals
- Observational Drawings
- 3D visualisation
- 3D work
- Technical drawings
- Photographic studies
- Printmaking
- Textiles

Both finished pieces and work in progress can be included and you should aim to achieve a balance within your portfolio which accurately describes your existing skills and interests.
Your interview will be evaluated against the following criteria:

- Ability to discuss architecture/ B.Arch programme
- Ability to apply practical skills
- Ability to analyse/ explore ideas
- Ability to discuss work and put it in context

“What I look for in a portfolio is a combination of an individual expression of ideas, a base line standard of skills and a sense of commitment. I’d like to see that they can make models and draw but also that they can communicate their ideas and that they care about it.” Robert Mantho, Stage 4 Leader.

If you are unable to attend the interview in person you will be offered a Skype interview at which point your Digital Portfolio and Portfolio Statement will be evaluated using the criteria above.
Ability to discuss architecture/ B.Arch programme:
We are interested in finding out more about your interest in Architecture and who inspires you and motivates you. You should also be able to demonstrate that you have researched the BArch Programme and are able to discuss why you have chosen to apply to GSA/MSA. You can use your Portfolio Statement to help explain this.

Ability to apply practical skills:
We want to see your practical skills: You can demonstrate this in a variety of ways including drawing/painting, 2D/ 3D work, photography, computer work etc. This could be evidenced through not only your final pieces of work but also through your sketch books and extra-curricular work.

Ability to analyse/ explore ideas:
We are interested in the ideas behind your work and how they progress and develop; from the initial starting point through to a finished piece of work. The organisation and presentation of your idea and your work will be taken into consideration. This could be evidenced through your developmental work, design journals and sketch books and your final pieces of work.

Ability to discuss your work and put it in context:
We are keen to understand your work and to understand including your sources of inspiration. You may want to explain how a project developed and what areas of the project you found to be most successful/unsuccessful.
After your interview the MSA will evaluate all the applications again, process these and return them to the Registry Department who will liaise with UCAS.

You will receive a formal offer (conditional or unconditional) or rejection from UCAS directly and you should receive this no later than the 31\textsuperscript{st} March.

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 brought to the interview. These are given as guidelines only, we understand that an applicant’s work is personal to them and this will influence what work you choose to present at the interview.
CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT
PART 1 - IRREGULAR LINKS

Based on the first impressions on sign boards on the buildings, I exposed that signs on the buildings from narrow street into 3-dimensional face. I put the thin sheets of paper with letters.

On the 2-dimensional face, elements were attached at both sides were to take roles in linking both sides with diverse curved lines.

A Link B

CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT
PART 1 - IRREGULAR LINKS

By fusing the links on rectangular shaped torus, I observed the changes through the number of blocks and the arrangement of them.

Through this process, I recognised that the mass is formed with large curves when the links have the spherical ball shape.
The right place where birds can hang out without getting wet or burn from the heat of the sun. This shelter is made to suit every bird's needs with environment-friendly materials.

The features include:
- A good roof
- A landing spot
- Floor with holes so waste can be cleaned easily.
- String technology
Translation of 2D cellular-based imagery into a cellular-inspired 3D necklace - January 2017
Personally, when it comes to making pavilion, the easiest way was using geometric figures.

Model Making - Geometric Body

Firstly, I made the basic shape of body with thick iron wire. The main purpose of this model making was attaching geometric figures on the virtual body.
Exploration of linear forms, layered and repeated forms of 3D printing and pierced aluminium - November 2017
Development sheet for Buckminster Fuller inspired body adornment - August 2017
Movement painting

We got the task to make a piece of art that shows movement, and I decided to paint a trapeze artist in action. I painted with acrylic on a 1x1m size canvas. I placed her diagonally to create action and movement in the painting; and the background is painted to make it not look flat.