

## UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE STUDY GUIDE

### INTERIOR DESIGN (BA)

Interior Design is about the revitalisation and enrichment of buildings, the creation of exciting, enjoyable - and practical - environments. Old buildings and new functions must be made compatible. Existing qualities must be respected and future identities defined.

Designing an interior, like every other creative act, involves making a personal statement but a shared understanding of social and architectural conventions gives designers and those who use their buildings a common language. The designer must enrich the vocabulary of that language.

Interior Design is a vibrant profession with a proven record for improving quality of life and generating business success. It has a well-established professional structure which allows graduates the opportunity to gain invaluable experience at various levels of responsibility before choosing to set up in independent practice or take leading roles in established studios.

Patrick Macklin  
Head of Department

### ETHOS

We offer committed students a well tested structure within which to prepare for the increasingly specialised and competitive world of professional interior design where subjective creativity must be supported by objective practicality.

We do not presume to teach you to be creative. You bring your individual creativity to the course and we help you to express it through the cultivation of appropriate intellectual and practical skills.

We encourage bold, clear, conceptual thinking but believe that ideas must be tempered by an informed response to function and fabrication.

We believe you will best learn to design through intense, sustained, involvement with the design process and we therefore demand a heavy workload of diverse projects which together offer comprehensive experience of the discipline. You are guided throughout by supportive and collaborative tutorial discussion.

The department is, deliberately, small, with between ten and twelve students in each year. We believe that small cohesive and dynamic groups work better and regular success in national competitions confirms this. Small groups also allow staff to form a clear perception of individual abilities and aspirations.

All full and part-time tutors are actively engaged in practice and together offer a complimentary range of specialist experience, which includes furniture design, computer draughting, and professional management techniques. Visiting tutors bring supplementary experience of major specialist activities, such as retail, leisure, exhibition and theatre design. The work of staff members is regularly published and exhibited in Britain and abroad.

## **EACH YEAR OF STUDY**

Learning and teaching in the Department of Interior Design encourages self-motivation and sustained independent learning. We employ a variety of learning and teaching methods including lectures, seminars, talks, presentations and group discussions, individual or group tutorials, projects, practical workshops and critical reviews.

Students share responsibility for their learning within the programme structure and private study is essential.

In addition to applications for first year level entry, the School also welcomes applications for second and, exceptionally, third year level entry from suitably qualified applicants. All students undertake a programme of study in Historical and Critical Studies. The programmes aim 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

### **YEAR 1**

Awaiting content. Please refer directly to Department [design@gsa.ac.uk](mailto:design@gsa.ac.uk)

### **YEAR 2**

In second year you will experience all the specialist areas of interior design activity. Projects demonstrate theory in practical contexts and stress the importance of a coherent conceptual foundation for all proposals. You learn appropriate methods of investigation and presentation and began to develop critical and verbal communication skills.

The first term examines fundamental specialist theory and helps establish a shared theoretical and critical vocabulary for the group. The second and third terms provide an introduction to the range of specialisms within Interior Design and, through a series of short projects, present opportunities to develop appropriate skills.

All projects are assessed and you must show evidence of creative ambition, self critical development and commitment.

### **YEAR 3**

Third year encourages a holistic understanding of design. You are encouraged to identify and clarify your personal perceptions and attitudes.

Complex projects offer substantial creative challenges, concentrating on the creative integration of conceptual ideas and practical obligations. Particular importance is attached to the acquisition of constructional detailing skills.

Competitions and exhibitions are used to give experience of working to deadlines and the production of communicative and comprehensive drawings. Consultancy projects offer experience of designing in a professional context.

All projects are assessed. You must show evidence of an increasingly self-critical creativity, an increasing awareness of practical requirements and continuing evidence of commitment. You will make a study trip to a significant centre of design excellence, such as Barcelona, New York and Paris.

## YEAR 4

In fourth year, and in consultation with staff, you define your own programme of work. This typically consists of two new projects, often competition briefs which offer further experience of working to deadlines and making effective presentations. You will also refine selected projects from earlier years, which should be brought to a standard appropriate for degree assessment. You will create the brief for a substantial final project which will be a vehicle for the demonstration of a comprehensive range of your acquired skills.

Degree assessment is made solely on your own selection of your best work. You are assessed only on the quality of your final performance. No marks are carried forward from earlier years. This allows you the freedom to experiment in earlier years and to produce a strong, mature, portfolio of work which is the essential mechanism for finding a first job.

UCAS Information:

Institution Name: GSA

Institution Code: G43

UCAS Code: W250

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