Guidance for applicants to Architecture

B.Arch (Hons)

BA – Architecture –G43 K100
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 to confirm they have received it and are processing it.

Once your application has been processed, 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 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.
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 and for 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 however we do provide you with a series of events on the **interview day** and ask you to be present for all of these, the day will start at 10.00am.

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
- Tour of the world renowned Mackintosh Building
- Individual interviews
INTERVIEW

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

- Information contained within your UCAS application form
- Statement of Intent and Portfolio
- Performance at the interview

(The portfolio will only be viewed as part of the interview and will not be retained.)
STATEMENT OF INTENT
The Statement of Intent is designed to allow you to explain in greater detail the following:

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

The Statement should be typed and be between 500- 700 words and submitted prior to your interview and will form the basis of discussion at your interview.
PORTFOLIO

All applicants attending interview will also be expected to present a portfolio of their current work and you should include around ten pieces of work which you are prepared to discuss with the interview team.

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

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.

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 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 5 Leader.
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 Statement of Intent 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 have a discussion with you about your work and to understand your thought surrounding it including your sources of inspiration. You may be asked 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 and 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.
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.
Jewellery Design

INVESTIGATION & RESEARCH

MARKET RESEARCH