

Curriculum for Excellence

The Glasgow School of Art (GSA) strongly supports Curriculum for Excellence and its aims to provide young people with the relevant skills and knowledge to succeed in life and work. GSA recognises that applicants come from a wide variety of social, cultural and educational backgrounds and is willing to consider applications from those who do not have the published conventional qualifications for admission and/or who wish to gain recognition for formal or informal study elsewhere.

From an early age Curriculum for Excellence introduces a broader, more flexible and individual approach to learning which allows pupils to gain a broad education until the end of S3. This prepares individuals well for the Senior Phase, S4 to S6, ready to specialise in their chosen subjects and continue to grow as individuals.

Entry to undergraduate study at GSA is highly competitive. GSA however remains committed to promoting a fair admissions policy to ensure equal consideration is given to candidates who apply on time and who possess the necessary knowledge and skills, irrespective of the route travelled through the Senior Phase, S4 to S6.

GSA understands it cannot assume that there is a single model of when students are presented for Highers, or that learners necessarily all have the same opportunities to study for a full range of Highers in a single year. We note however that it is very much possible to study a subject at Higher level, even although no qualification in that subject is held at National 4 or National 5 level and that in some cases candidates may not take National 4 or National 5 qualifications at all.

This statement seeks to give guidance to applicants considering applying to GSA in the future.

General admissions requirements

- GSA will accept a wide range of Scottish qualifications. Evidence of academic attainment and progression throughout the Senior Phase will be required.
- Published entry criteria will be shown as the normal entry requirements for degree programmes. This does not mean that if you have already met these standards that you will receive an offer.
- GSA will continue to publish entry criteria in terms of the Highers required for entry to year 1 of an undergraduate degree.
- Entry requirements for individual programmes will differ and GSA will publish the required combinations of subjects and grades to ensure students are academically prepared.
- Offers are based not only on your academic record but on your evidence of potential as outlined in your personal statement, in the reference and in your suitability for the programme as indicated in your application, and demonstrated through your portfolio and interview (where required).
- The personal statement and reference should reflect the wider personal achievements of an applicant and reflect their enthusiasm, interest and motivation for the programme they have chosen.
- A reference – usually from an Art Teacher/Tutor or a Careers Counsellor should give details of any predicted grades and a statement on the applicant's suitability for the programme.
- For some programmes, attendance at a portfolio interview will be a mandatory part of the application process. This is a two part process to allow applicants to gain a better understanding of GSA and the chosen programme and for GSA to view the full portfolio, ask questions and find out about the applicant's interest in their chosen specialism.
- Please visit the GSA website for details on what is assessed in a portfolio, advice on portfolio preparation and examples of previously successful submissions.

Level of qualifications or grades achieved

- Students entering a degree programme at year 1 should refer to the GSA website for the individual programme entry requirements.
- Entry requirements are expressed predominantly with reference to Highers. Whilst GSA recognises the value of Advanced Highers and the Scottish Baccalaureate with regard to the skills gained and preparedness for entry to GSA, they will not form part of our standard year 1 entry requirements but may be considered instead of or in addition to Highers in one or more subjects.
- GSA currently does not stipulate a minimum number of Standard Grade and/or Intermediate 2 qualifications. This will be extended to include National 5 subjects.
- GSA recognises applicants will follow variable pathways in the Senior Phase and they may present with Highers achieved in S4, S5 and S6. We will consider that all Highers achieved by the end of S5 are classed as one sitting and further Highers achieved by the end of S6 are classed as a second sitting.
- Those applying at the end of S5 that have not already met the academic entry profile, but have the potential to achieve, will be asked for additional qualifications which will have to be met by the end of S6.
- If any subject is a repeat sitting, a higher grade than has been previously attained may be required.

This statement is for general information only and we would strongly recommend that this is considered in conjunction with the published entry requirements for each individual programme and the GSA Admissions Policy. Applicants who require specific guidance should contact Registry Admissions to discuss their individual circumstances.

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