

THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART

POSTGRADUATE DEGREE STUDY GUIDE

MLitt FINE ART PRACTICE

The MLitt in Fine Art practice is a one year taught programme, with the following six specialist pathways:

- Photography and the Moving Image
- Painting
- Drawing
- Print Media
- Sculpture
- Performance

Students applying to the programme identify in advance which pathway they would like to study. Students will be based within, and supported by staff from, the appropriate department of the School of Fine Art. The programme is studio-based and centred on practice and is intended to provide opportunities for students to pursue in-depth subject-specific study in fine art practice at postgraduate level.

Students on the MLitt in Fine Art Practice oscillate between operating within their pathways (in the studio, in tutorials and crits, and specifically focused lectures and seminars), and across them - especially in lectures and talks that deal with more generic conceptual and philosophical issues. Efforts are made to ensure that students on the programme are enabled to fully devote themselves to their chosen field of practice, whilst facilitating their learning through the provision of a range of interdisciplinary opportunities for critical reflection and personal development.

MLitt Fine Art Practice Specialist Pathways

Painting Pathway

This specialist pathway is primarily focused on the study and practice of painting. The course aims to provide a stimulating environment that both fosters discourse between students and encourages critical reflection and experimentation. A series of lectures and seminars, reflecting a variety of theoretical and historical perspectives on both painting and the other pathway specialisms, are designed to inform debate. Other issues the course will engage with include the significant realignment of painting in response to the proliferation of fine art media that has occurred in recent decades.

Students are provided with dedicated, shared studios and will have access to the School's technical workshops. An introduction to research concepts and skills will enable students to approach their studio projects with assurance, founded on a coherent, personal methodology. On completion of the course students are expected to have achieved a high level of maturity, confidence and professionalism that will sustain them in their future careers.

Print Media Pathway

For students on the Print Media pathway, the emphasis throughout the programme will be the development of ideas related to the techniques and applications available through print media, grounded in a firm knowledge of the history and traditions of print and connected media. Students will undertake advanced, self-directed study based on the ability to critically engage with ideas through exploitation of print media. A lecture series and seminar programme will enhance and challenge the theoretical methodologies of print media in a fine art context and foster dialogue around the importance and relevance of the use of print in our everyday surroundings and culture.

By the end of the programme, students will be expected to demonstrate their learning through innovative and original means, with an emphasis on research and contextual investigation via thorough interrogation of the subject. It is anticipated that students will exploit the range of media offered within the department.

Sculpture Pathway

This specialist pathway offers students the opportunity to engage with the expanded field of theory and practice of Sculpture, specifically with emphasis on place and context. Through a combination of studio practice, access to specialist workshop facilities, critical discourse, as well as potential links with Sculpture and Environmental Art's external partners, it offers a challenging and motivating environment through which to experiment, reflect and develop new individual directions.

The Sculpture pathway will culminate in a self-directed enquiry, which, through practice, will test and investigate theoretical approaches to making, collaboration and social engagement. The Sculpture pathway provides unrivalled studio and workshop facilities in the centre of the city, with access to high end workshops and exhibition spaces, offering ambitious working opportunities in terms of scale, space and install.

As such, it offers the opportunity for students to hone and develop professional skills in relation to the specific challenges presented by each particular context, offering a unique catalyst for learning, dialogue, development and production.

Drawing Pathway

This specialist pathway is aimed at Students from a wide range of academic and creative backgrounds who have in common a desire to further develop drawing as a core activity. The course is founded on the individual exploration of drawing as a means of discovery, expression and analysis conducted in a supportive and challenging educational

environment. Through practice, criticism and exposure to contemporary and historical contexts, students are encouraged to identify the most appropriate methodologies for articulating their ideas.

Whilst the studio will be the base from where most individual and collective approaches to drawing will take place, opportunities to take part in residencies, field trips, and workshops will also be available. Through the various aspects of the course students will consider methodologies both historical and contemporary and explore the potential for experimentation afforded by specific contexts and environments.

Students will explore drawing as the armature for interrogating both process and its transformatory capacity whilst engaging with drawing as a conceptual, observational, tactile and visual activity. One of the core aspects of this pathway is the acquisition of key transferable skills fundamental to a robust and professional drawing practice. By the end of the programme the students will have consolidated a working archive that demonstrates an informed, personal, and highly developed drawing practice that will be sustainable in the graduate's professional practice.

Photography and the Moving Image Pathway

This specialist Pathway offers students the opportunity to develop their Fine Art Practice through different modes of lens-based media, including digital and analogue photography as well as the moving image. The course is structured in order to enable exploration of these areas within the broader context of Fine Art Practice. With access to excellent technical facilities, students will have the opportunity to construct and investigate different potential methodologies for practice.

The programme also approaches methods for display through print, projection, screen and other interrelated forms. Students will be able to use these media in order to interrogate the conceptual and image related aspects of their practices. The development of ideas in relation to practice and the expanded forms of practice are integral to the course, and students will be informed by wider debate around contemporary Fine Art, through the context of the specific media in order to develop, and structure, both the practical and theoretical underpinning of their work.

By the end of the programme, students will be expected to demonstrate their learning through innovative and original means, with an emphasis on research and contextual investigation via thorough interrogation of the subject areas.

Programme Structure

Throughout the year on the programme, each student passes through three stages of studio practice: Origination (in which first forays into the project's content and themes are made); Investigation (in which testing, sampling and experimentation are key); and Consolidation (the bringing to fruition of the year's work in a cohesive portfolio of output)

The programme runs from September to September. The first two Stages of the programme comprise a combination of Core courses available only to MLitt students, and additional courses available to all GSA PGT students. The final Stage of the programme comprises one single core course that is available only to MLitt students. All courses are assessed at the end of each Stage.

Stage 1:

- MLitt Core Course I: Origination (40 credits)
- GSA Mandatory course: Core Research Skills for Postgraduate Students (20 credits)

Stage 2:

- MLitt Core Course II: Investigation (40 credits)
- GSA PGT Elective course (20 credits)

Stage 3:

- MLitt Core Course III: Consolidation (60 credits) - This course comprises 2 elements:
 - Presentation of work
 - Positioning statement and report