

POSTGRADUATE DEGREE STUDY GUIDE

Master of Letters (MLitt) Art Writing

A one-year taught postgraduate programme based in the School of Fine Art. The programme offers full or part-time study, with a Master of Letters gained after 12 months/24 months of study.

The MLitt Art Writing is based on two principal elements: a unique understanding of art writing as an interdisciplinary studio practice and the opportunity to bring new work to a public audience or readership through project-based partnerships with external organisations or bodies. With emphasis on reflexive and critical practice-based enquiry, the programme reflects the increasing interest in the development of alternative forms of critical and theoretical writing and the reconfiguring of the relationship between writing and artistic practice.

Programme Information

The programme runs September to September and students undertake a combination of core courses and an elective course over three semesters. The final stage of the programme is a major masters project in the final summer semester.

The practice and study of art writing involves creative, philosophical, critical and theoretical approaches to writing *about* art, writing *with* art and writing *as* art. Drawing from disciplines including visual art, art criticism, art history and literature, this interdisciplinary field is as much about creative production as it is concerned with critical discourse. Students are encouraged to consider art writing as emergent field and to examine its cultural and literary forms, histories, content and contexts. Encouraging self-directed exploration and practice, and supported by peers and access to the wider community of Glasgow, students focus on the development and dissemination of their own expansive, innovative and impactful modes of creative critical writing, reading, editorial and research practices and to write effectively from a position of curiosity, knowledge and purpose, publishing and presenting within the expanded field of art criticism and experimental writing.

Key to the programme is the Writing Studio. The MLitt Art Writing cohort are accommodated alongside other SoFA postgraduate students, allowing for discourse between students and fostering critical reflection and experimentation. Questioning the 'studio' as both a physical and pedagogical space and as it pertains to writing and practice-led methodologies, the writing studio is a flexible space that accommodates a number of core writing practices: writing; reading; editing; dialogue between writers, presentation/performance/readings and peer reviewing. The writing studio also accommodates a learning and teaching model that is distinctive to studio-based teaching, namely one rooted in experimentation, where students are encouraged to take risks and to reflect upon progress, and supported by group critiques/workshops, individual tutorials and seminars, all taking place within the making/writing space.

THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART

The programme offers a series of research and practice visits, professional practice workshops and masterclasses, and a series of visiting lectures from leading experts in the field. Engagement and participation in local cultural activity is seen as crucial to both individual student development, the ethos of the Art Writing programme and the city at large. Students are expected to engage in critical exchange and bring their work to a public audience or readership throughout Stages 2 and 3 of the Programme. This is facilitated by the project-based partnerships with external organisations and close links to city-wide programming and activity. In Stage 2 students are supported to work with external organisations or bodies to test and develop work in a public forum and to bring new work to a public audience or readership. In Stage 3 students publish and/or exhibit work as part of the GSA and Programme specific postgraduate showcase events.

[The Yellow Paper: Journal for Art Writing](#) is a programme-led imprint edited by Laura Haynes, publishing new writing online and annually in print.

[Soft Shell](#) is an open-mic, performance and broadcasting project ran in partnership with the Creative Writing department at University of Glasgow.

Programme Structure – full time (12 months) STAGE 1

(SEMESTER 1):

- Writing Practice I (20 credits)
- Art Writing: Histories, Theories and Methodologies (20 credits)
- Research Methods and Methodologies in Practice (20 credits)

STAGE 2 (SEMESTER 2):

- Writing Practice II (20 credits)
- The Genre-Bending Art of Essaying (20 credits) delivered by the School of Critical Studies, University of Glasgow
- Postgraduate Elective Course (20 credits)

STAGE 3 (SEMESTER 3):

- Writing Practice III: Masters Project (60 credits)

Programme Structure – part time (24 months) YEAR 1,

STAGE 1 (SEMESTER 1):

- Writing Practice I (10 credits)
- Art Writing: Histories, Theories and Methodologies (20 credits)YEAR

1, STAGE 2 (SEMESTER 2):

- Writing Practice I (10 credits)
- The Genre-Bending Art of Essaying (20 credits) delivered by the School of Critical Studies, University of Glasgow

YEAR 1, STAGE 3 (SEMESTER 3):

- No teaching

YEAR 2, STAGE 1 (SEMESTER 1):

- Writing Practice II (10 credits)
- Research Methods and Methodologies in Practice (20 credits)YEAR 2,

STAGE 2 (SEMESTER 2):

- Writing Practice II (10 credits)
- Postgraduate Elective Course (20 credits)

YEAR 2, STAGE 3 (SEMESTER 3):

- Writing Practice III: Masters Project (60 credits)