

POSTGRADUATE DEGREE STUDY GUIDE: MASTER OF FINE ART

The Master of Fine Art (MFA) is a two-year, multidisciplinary programme: both of these fundamental facts are significant. A two-year programme of study offers students an opportunity to analyse their creative practice in depth, and to modify, develop and secure it accordingly. The multidisciplinary context also ensures that such developments in creative practice are explored and consolidated through critical analysis in a more productive way.

MFA students learn from, and contribute to, the delivery of the programme curriculum, the experiences of their peers, and the wider art community based within the city of Glasgow. Within this situation a premium is placed upon independent learning, self-reliance, originality, initiative and enterprise. The MFA aims to produce graduates who are equipped for a career in the professional art world: informed, confident, independent and ambitious.

Applicants for the MFA are strongly advised to submit their applications before the beginning of February.

Programme Information

The MFA programme is divided into 3 stages:

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| Stage 1: Postgraduate Certificate | (15 weeks) |
| Stage 2: Postgraduate Diploma | (15 weeks) |
| Stage 3: MFA | (30 weeks) |

Each stage is assessed, and the following credit points are accrued upon successful completion:

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| Stage 1: | 60 credits |
| Stage 2: | 60 credits |
| Stage 3: | 120 credits |

The main focus at each stage of the programme is upon self-directed creative practice.

Creative practice is supplemented by additional academic study, as follows:

Stage 1

Core Course I: Critical Review of Studio Practice (40 credits)

PGT Common Core Course: Research Methods and Methodologies in Practice (20 credits)

Stage 2

Core Course II: Exploring Studio practice (40 credits)

GSA Postgraduate Elective Course (20 credits)

Stage 3

Core Course III: Consolidating Studio Practice (80 credits)

Core Course IV: Theorising Studio Practice (20 credits)

Plus, three elective options of which students must choose one:

MFA Extended Studio (20 credits)

MFA Extended Theory (20 credits)

GSA Postgraduate Elective Course (20 credits)

As far as creative practice is concerned, students develop their own working practices in order to explore and advance their own specific interests and academic agendas. Such interests usually take the form of a combination of formal, technical, thematic and theoretical concerns. Students are also encouraged to explore their practices in relation to wider cultural, theoretical and historical contexts by means of individual research activity.

Regular tutorial support from the MFA core teaching team and on occasion a range of visiting lecturers allows students the opportunity to discuss their work with experts. Critical feedback is also available by means of regular group critiques. Towards the end of each Stage the Student Progress Review (formative assessment) is yet another means whereby students receive feedback and guidance.

Students operating at postgraduate level are expected to demonstrate increasing levels of independence, self-reliance and 'ownership' in relation to their learning experience. All MFA students are allocated studio space, and this space serves as the focal point of their studies. It is not only the place where work is produced, but it is also the place where professional working practices and operational discipline are learned. In the environment of the studio, each MFA student learns how to organize and structure their own working patterns in order to prepare themselves – both intellectually and practically - for the life of a practicing artist.

During their course of study, students are expected to participate in two major public exhibitions of their work: Interim exhibition (towards the end of Stage 2); MFA degree show (towards the end of Stage 3). Both exhibitions allow the opportunity to present work to a high professional standard for the purposes of public display and assessment.

THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART

The MFA degree show is normally mounted in one of the city's arts venues, for example, in recent years, students have shown work at the Glue Factory. This show is regarded as an important event in the city's annual exhibition calendar and sometimes coincides with GI: Glasgow International Festival.

Many MFA students are also engaged in other initiatives throughout the city, such as gallery exhibitions, public art projects, curatorial initiatives, performances, independent publishing, and various collaborative ventures with other artists, musicians, writers, performers and institutions. Such extracurricular activity (which is viewed very positively as an aspect of professional practice) contributes significantly to the learning experiences of the students involved, and makes an invaluable contribution to the ongoing cultural life of the MFA programme and the city at large.

MFA students are drawn from all corners of the world, and the international dimension of the programme is seen as one of its particular strengths.