THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART

Glasgow School of Art Programme Specification
Programme Title: Bachelor of Architecture with Honours

Please note that this programme specification is correct on the date of publication but may be subject to amendment prior to the start of the 2025-26 Academic Year.

1. Programme Details	
Programme Title	Bachelor of Architecture with Honours
School	Mackintosh School of Architecture
Programme Leader	Alan Hooper
Award to be Conferred	Bachelor of Architecture with Honours
Exit Awards	Stage 3 Bachelor of Architecture Stage 4 Bachelor of Architecture with Honours
SCQF Level	Level 7 - 10
Credits	480
Mode of Study	Full-time and part-time
HECOS Code	

Academic Session	2025-26
Date of Approval	Programme Approval March 2024

Awarding Institution	University of Glasgow
Teaching Institutions	The Glasgow School of Art
Campus	Glasgow
Lead School/Board of Studies	Mackintosh School of Architecture
Other Schools/Board of Studies	N/A
Programme Accredited By (PSRBs)	Programme validated by Royal Institute of British Architects. Programme prescribed by Architects Registration Board.

2. Entry Qualifications	
Highers	Standard: ABBB, including a literate subject and Maths or Physics Minimum: BBCC, including a literate subject and Maths or Physics
A Levels	Standard: ABB, including Maths or Physics and GCSE English at A/7 Grade or above Minimum: BBCC, including Maths or Physics and GCSE English at A/7 Grade or above
Other	International Baccalaureate: 30 points overall in the Diploma, including 18 at Higher Level, normally including English and Maths. Irish Leaving Certificate: Four Highers at H2 or above - subjects required as per Scottish Highers. Other eligible qualifications for entry include Foundation Diplomas in Art & Design, Higher National Certificates (HNC), Higher National Diplomas (HND), Foundation Degrees, Level 3 Diplomas, and other Further Education and Higher Education qualifications in related subjects. Entrants may begin their studies in Stage 2 or Stage 3 depending on the level of prior qualifications and other

	entry criteria. Detailed information about the required grades for individuals holding or studying these qualifications can be access on the website. Applicants from outside the UK and Ireland should also consult our International student pages for details of accepted qualifications from specific countries. Applicants who do not meet entry requirements through formal qualifications but can demonstrate experience, skills and abilities at the appropriate level can also be considered. Additional entry requirements: Applicants are normally required to submit a portfolio or work and may be required to attend an Interview as part of their admissions assessment.
English Language Requirements	Applicants who are not a national of, nor have obtained a degree in one of the countries on the approved UKVI exemption list or those who require a Student Visa, will need to provide evidence of their English language ability. GSA's preferred test is the IELTS for UKVI (Academic) test taken at a UKVI approved test centre. GSA require all students, who require a student visa, to meet the following requirements to gain entry: • IELTS for UKVI Academic with an overall score of 6.5 with a minimum of 5.5 in all components; • An alternative Accepted English Language Test which can be found on the Postgraduate 'How to Apply' page of the GSA website.

3. Programme Introduction
The Bachelor of Architecture (Hons) Programme is Part 1 ARB/RIBA accredited providing Exemption from the Part 1 ARB/ RIBA Examination in Architecture. As such the Programme establishes the foundational knowledge and skills to develop the required professional competencies in relation to ethical practices in the design of safe, healthy and sustainable buildings. The social purpose of architecture is at the core of the curriculum, informed by professional values including user-focussed design, climate literacy, and the responsible use of materials and resources. The Programme duration is four years full time study or five years part-time mode of study. Uniquely positioned within a wider community of artists and designers at the Glasgow School of Art the Programme offers students the opportunity to develop their creative practice while building their academic and social networks. In Stage 1 students collaborate with students from other creative disciplines within GSA, exploring common themes and outputs. In Stage 2 students undertake interdisciplinary collaboration with students from a selected design discipline within

GSA. In Stage 3 students collaborate with students from the allied construction disciplines of engineering and quantity surveying.

The Programme ethos is delivered through a curriculum founded on tackling social challenges and the Climate Emergency, in the belief that architecture is a means to create positive change for people, places and our planet. Graduates will be both climate literate and climate numerate, able to make informed design decisions, supported by research and data, which address both the qualitative and quantitative aspects of climate change. Over the course of the Programme students are introduced to and develop a range of regenerative design strategies, including adaptive re-use, material provenance, circular economies, bioregionalism, climate adaptation and biophilic design. This is pursued through students' critical engagement with the environmental, social, cultural, political, economic and ethical issues shaping the built environment both presently and in the future.

The Programme is studio based, with studio activities informed by taught courses in Architectural Technology, History of Architecture and Urban Studies and Professional Studio, delivered holistically through a framework of six learning domains: Professionalism, Design/Create, Research, Communication, Skills, and Knowledge.

The curriculum is delivered primarily through studio-based design projects, enabling students to develop the core skills of architectural production through iterative design processes deploying the associated visual and verbal skills. The studio environment provides a forum for critical discussion, peer learning and support, where inclusivity is fostered through a mutually respectful, supportive and collaborative studio culture. Diverse teaching and learning methods encourage students to be curious, confident and above all independent in developing their personal responses to architecture and the environment.

The first three years of the Programme utilises Scotland’s landscapes, villages and towns as a design laboratory, focussing on the interplay of resourceful landscapes and human settlements, ranging in scale from island communities to town-scale urban environments with rural backdrops. Through study and design interventions in response to Scotland’s villages and towns, students learn how to analyse, evaluate and respond to a range of architectural contexts, in preparation for engagement with the city-scale urbanism of Glasgow in Stage 4.

On completion of the Programme, the primary aim is that graduates, as emergent designers, are highly competent and creative practitioners, and as graduates of the Glasgow School of Art, are engaged citizens, critical thinkers, skilled communicators, ethical practitioners and life-long learners.

4. Programme Aims

The aims of the Programme are to enable students to:

- Undertake study which satisfies the requirements of the exemption from the ARB and RIBA Examination in Architecture, whilst developing the ability to critically engage with current and alternative architectural practices.
- Develop as emergent creative and self-reflective designers whose architectural practice is centred on inclusive, ethical, collaborative, and iterative design processes that are evidenced through technologically informed design outputs.
- Develop emergent research skills evidenced through a range of visual and verbal architectural outputs.

- Communicate architectural ideas and propositions utilising a range of media to diverse audiences in a variety of settings.
- Develop the fundamental skills of architectural design, representation and communication using digital and analogue tools.
- Develop foundational knowledge of the discipline of architectural design, technology and professional practice in relation to people, places and the planet.

5. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes

After full participation in and successful completion of the programme, students will be able to apply and demonstrate:

Professionalism:
knowledge of professional behaviours and ethics in terms of collaborative, inclusive, sustainable and safe design principles in their professional/academic practice

Design/Create:
a creative and iterative design process in the production of coherent, comprehensive and technologically informed design proposals in relation to the discipline of architecture

Research:
research skills in the production of a range of directed and self-directed outputs including design projects

Communication:
the developed use of analogue and digital media to visually and verbally communicate ideas and design proposals to a range of audiences

Skills:
the productive use of digital and analogue tools to explore, develop, test, and present architectural proposals

Knowledge:
experimentation with fundamental architectural theories, concepts, and techniques in a range of outputs including design proposals

6. Description of Learning and Teaching Approaches

MSA offers a comprehensive and innovative learning experience that combines the richness of traditional studio-based architectural education supported by digital tools and online delivery methods. The programme content and delivery provide students with a solid foundation in architectural principles, design theories, and practical skills founded on hands-on learning and immersive studio experiences, where students use hand-drawing, and physical and digital modelling to explore design projects, supported by lectures in technology, history and theory, and professional studies.

While curriculum delivery is predominantly in-person, online delivery methods supplement in-person delivery to offer students flexibility and accessibility. Online lectures, virtual workshops, and interactive design sessions allow students to participate in learning activities, providing them with the opportunity to manage their studies effectively while meeting their personal commitments.

Students have access to digital software and tools commonly used in contemporary architecture, including 3D modelling, Building Information Modelling (BIM), visualization software, and other digital platforms that facilitate innovative design processes and foster creativity.

Collaborative courses and projects with peers and students from other disciplines, both in-person and virtually, foster strong teamwork and communication skills essential for successful architectural practice in today's interconnected world.

Design tutorials are offered in a range of groups sizes including one-to-one tutorials between students and studio tutor. Group tutorials encourage peer-to-peer learning through the exchange of ideas and critical engagement with the work of others. Design Forums are generally arranged at the mid and endpoint of studio projects to encourage discussions around the design issues raised by the studio project.

Lectures and seminars are delivered through the Specialist Subject courses in technology, history and theory, and professional studies, offering students the opportunity to broaden their architectural knowledge and understanding coupled with analytical and critical thinking skills.

Project field trips are an essential aspect of the student experience connecting their projects with real world situations and grounding their design propositions in places and communities with specific societal and environmental issues.

7. Description of Assessment Methods

Work is assessed and feedback given against the particular aims and learning outcomes for each course.

Assessment is both Formative and Summative. Formative assessment, where marking is advisory, enabling students to make improvements before the final submission. Summative assessment, where the mark is final, applies to all courses.

In each course, students are required to complete a coursework assignment. Coursework may be in the form of an essay, presentation or technical study or design work.

All submissions will be assessment and moderated in line with the GSA Code of Assessment, which outlines reassessment opportunities where a student has not passed courses.

Students undertaking a period of exchange abroad in Semester 2 of Stage 3 will have a summative assessment at the end of Semester 1 on the basis that, in normal circumstances, students failing at this point will be advised not to proceed to exchange, but to re-join the main student cohort.

8.Programme Structure

Stage 1

Course	Credits	SCQF Level	Semester	Course Code
Studio Work 1A	20	7	1	
FYE Shared Course	20	7	1	
HAUS 1	20	7	1	
Studio Work 1B	30	7	2	
Architectural Technology 1	30	7	2	
Total Stage Credits	**120**			

Stage 2				
Course	**Credits**	**SCQF Level**	**Semester**	**Course Code**
Studio Work 2A	30	8	1	
Architectural Technology 2	30	8	1	
Studio Work 2B	20	8	2	
Professional Studio 2	20	8	2	
HAUS 2	20	8	2	
Total Stage Credits	**120**			

Stage 3				
Course	**Credits**	**SCQF Level**	**Semester**	**Course Code**
Studio Work 3A	30	9	1	
Architectural Technology 3	30	9	1	
Studio Work 3B	20	9	2	
Professional Studio 3	20	9	2	
HAUS 3	20	9	2	
Total Stage Credits	**120**			

Stage 4				
Course	**Credits**	**SCQF Level**	**Semester**	**Course Code**
Studio Work 4	60	10	1 and 2	
Architectural Technology 4	30	10	1 and 2	
Research Project 4	20	10	1 and 2	
Professional Studio 4	10	10	1	
Total Stage Credits	**120**			

In Stage 1 and Stage 2 Part-Time Mode and Full-Time Mode students share the same curriculum. In Stage 3 Part-Time Mode curriculum is delivered over two academic sessions. In the Part-time Mode the courses are taken as follows:				
PT 1 (Stage 1)				
Course	**Credits**	**SCQF Level**	**Semester**	**Course Code**
Studio Work 1A	20	7	1	
FYE Shared Course	20	7	1	
HAUS 1	20	7	1	
Studio Work 1B	30	7	2	
Architectural Technology 1	30	7	2	
PT Mode – Stage 1 Total Credits	**120**			

PT 2 (Stage 2)				
Course	**Credits**	**SCQF Level**	**Semester**	**Course Code**
Studio Work 2A	30	8	1	
Architectural Technology 2	30	8	1	
Studio Work 2B	20	8	2	
Professional Studio 2	20	8	2	
HAUS 2	20	8	2	
PT Mode – Stage 2 Total Credits	**120**			

PT 3 (Stage 3)				
Course	**Credits**	**SCQF Level**	**Semester**	**Course Code**
Studio Work 3A	30	9	1	
Studio Work 3B	20	9	2	
PT Mode – Stage 3 Total Credits	**50**			

PT 4 (Stage 3)				
Course	**Credits**	**SCQF Level**	**Semester**	**Course Code**
Architectural Technology 3	30	9	1	
Professional Studio 3	20	9	2	
HAUS 3	20	9	2	
PT Mode – Stage 4 Total Credits	**70**			

9. Outgoing Exchange and Visiting Student Arrangements

Outgoing Exchange students undertake the second Semester of Stage 3 with one of our host partners with the requirement to achieve minimum 60 SCQF/30 ECTS academic credits.

Visiting Exchange and Study Abroad is open to applications for full-year, Semester 1 and Semester 2 entry. Visiting Exchange students normally enter Stage 3, completing 1 semester and 60 SCQF/30 ECTS academic credits, or Semester 1 and Semester 2 courses and 120 SCQF/30 ECTS academic credits. Study Abroad students will be entered into the most appropriate year entry point of Stage 2 or 3 based on their portfolio and application.

Stage 2 Exchange and Visiting Student Courses:				
Course	**Credits**	**SCQF Level**	**Semester**	**Course Code**
Studio Work 2A	30	8	1	
Architectural Technology 2	30	8	1	
Studio Work 2B	20	8	2	
Professional Studio 2	20	8	2	
HAUS 2	20	8	2	

Stage 3 Exchange and Visiting Student Courses:				
Course	**Credits**	**SCQF Level**	**Semester**	**Course Code**
Studio Work 3A	30	9	1	
Architectural Technology 3	30	9	1	
Studio Work 3B	20	9	2	
Professional Studio 3	20	9	2	
HAUS 3	20	9	2	

10. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements and Other External Reference Points

Subject Benchmark Statements describe the nature of study and the academic standards expected of graduates in specific subject areas. For further information relevant to this programme see:
Academic:
https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statementarchitecture.pdf?sfvrsn=3cecf781_14
Professional:
http://www.arb.org.uk/information-for-schools-of-architecture/arb-criteria/
https://www.architecture.com/education-cpd-and-careers/how-to-become-an-architect

https://www.architecture.com/knowledge-and-resources/resources-landing-page/validationprocedures-and-criteria
https://www.architecture.com/knowledge-and-resources/resources-landing-page/the-way-ahead

11. Programme Regulations and Requirements for Progression

All GSA Degree programmes are validated by the University of Glasgow and the GSA's Programme Regulations are published in the University of Glasgow Regulations.

These regulations include the requirements in relation to:

(a) Award of the degree

(b) Progression requirements

(c) Early exit awards

In referring to regulations for degree programmes, students should consult the University Regulations which were in force in the academic session in which they first registered for the degree programme in question.