

Programme Specification

Master of Architectural Studies in Urban Buildings

Please note that the full programme specification for this new programme for 2026 is currently undergoing validation and approvals and may be subject to amendment prior to the start of the 2026-27 Academic Year. The full programme specification is due to be published Autumn/Winter 2025.

The GSA's Master of Architectural Studies programmes are aimed at graduates of architecture and allied disciplines who, following the completion of their professional education, wish to extend knowledge and skills in undertaking further specialised study, either to develop existing professional and research interests or to move into new areas of practice.

Uniquely positioned within a wider community of artists and designers at The Glasgow School of Art, the Programmes offer students the opportunity to develop their creative practice in architecture while building their academic and professional networks.

This one-year (three semester) series of taught programmes combine individual specialist study, through an independent research project, with the opportunity to share knowledge and experience and to collaborate with fellow students in a cross-disciplinary context.

Students studying Urban Buildings are involved in the study and exploration of the reciprocal relationships which exist – as well as those which might yet be established – between the landscape, architecture and morphology of the city with Glasgow as the context. A framework for discussion is the over-arching themes of type, technique and topography. Type in architecture suggests that history offers us related forms which can be grouped and might undergo a process of transformation by the designer for a contemporary situation. Technique is concerned with construction and the specific expression given to structural and environmental conditions of the architecture. Consideration of topography literally grounds a design and is a vital fact connecting a building with its unique location. Students are provided with the opportunity to explore through design using Glasgow as its

laboratory.