

**THE GLASGOW
SCHOOL OF ART**

**POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT DEGREES
IN DESIGN INNOVATION**

Applicant Guidelines for Entry in September 2026

PROGRAMMES OF STUDY

This document includes guidelines for making an application to postgraduate Design Innovation taught programmes within the School of Innovation & Technology at the Glasgow School of Art.

Our one-year programmes are:

MDes Design Innovation and Citizenship

MDes Design Innovation and Environmental Design

MDes Design Innovation and Interaction Design

MDes Design Innovation and Service Design

MDes Design Innovation and Transformation Design

MDes Design Innovation and Future Heritage

MDes Design Innovation and Circular Economy

These programmes focus on several fields within the broader context of design innovation. The courses are structured to allow you to receive the same preliminary teaching before diversifying into a chosen specialism. Our student-led approach is designed to provide a rich and personal experience, which is supported by a network of staff, researchers and industry experts. At our campuses in Glasgow and the Highlands, we aim to create unique environments for learning and cross-disciplinary collaboration that help to nurture design projects and research that engage with complex issues.

GLASGOW CAMPUS

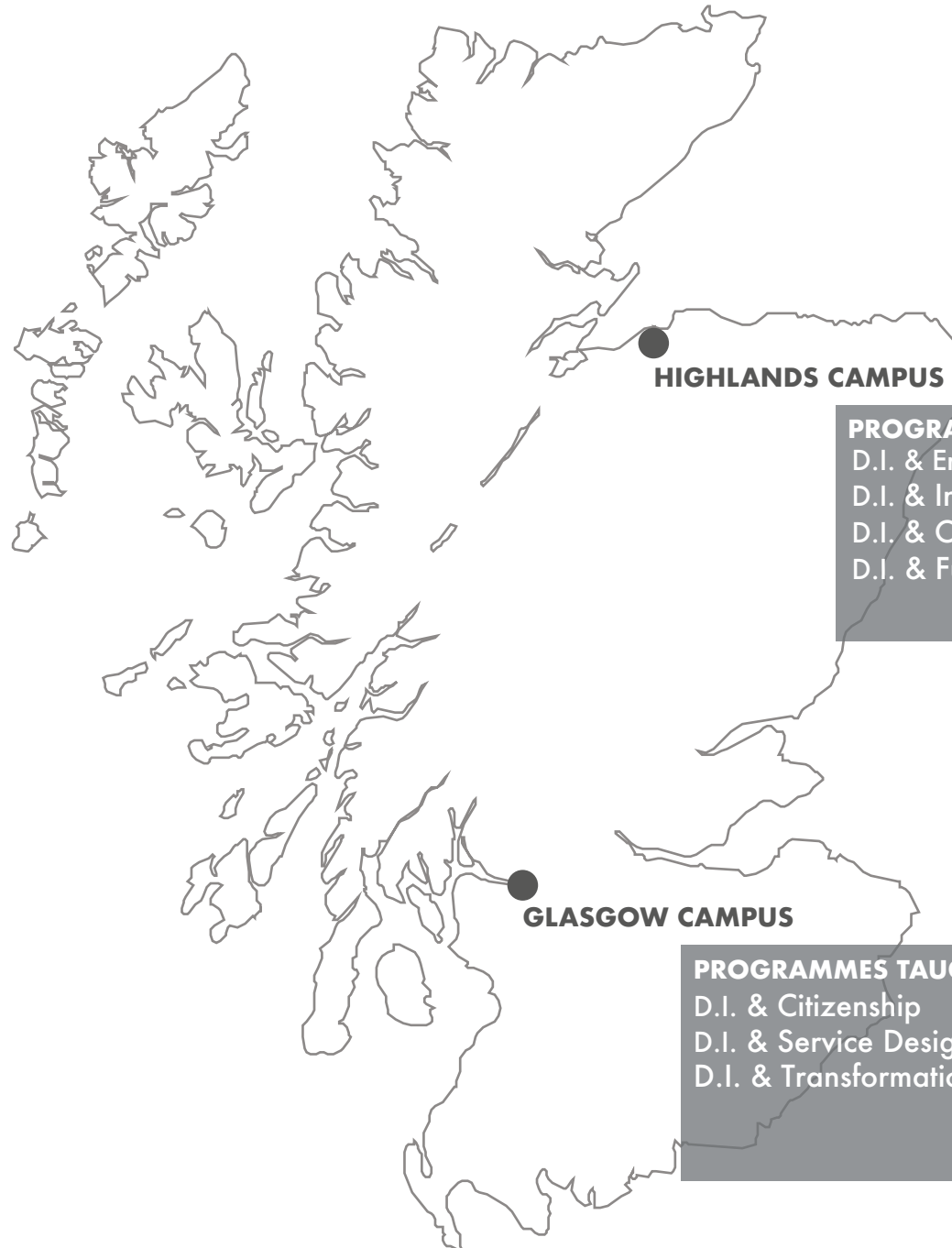
The Haldane Building is a recently refurbished facility containing open-plan studio spaces, staff rooms and meeting areas. The building is located within the Garnethill Campus in Glasgow city centre, close to amenities including The Glasgow School of Art's Reid Building and library. The Haldane Building is also used for teaching the BDes and MEdes undergraduate programmes in Product Design, as well as The Design Innovation postgraduate suite.



PROGRAMMES & LOCATIONS

You can find out more about
about each of the Design
Innovation programmes at
gsainnovationschool.co.uk

Alternatively, questions can
be directed to
innovation@gsa.ac.uk



HIGHLANDS CAMPUS

PROGRAMMES TAUGHT

- D.I. & Environmental Design
- D.I. & Interaction Design
- D.I. & Circular Economy
- D.I. & Future Heriatge

GLASGOW CAMPUS

PROGRAMMES TAUGHT

- D.I. & Citizenship
- D.I. & Service Design
- D.I. & Transformation Design

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Normally, a UK Bachelors honours degree, or its international equivalent, in the subject you are applying to, or a related subject that gives appropriate grounding for postgraduate study. The MDes programmes in Design Innovation welcome applicants from non-design disciplines, but you should demonstrate knowledge of the subject and its contemporary practice. If you do not meet the academic entry requirements, we may still consider your application on the basis of your portfolio and / or relevant professional experience.

GSA expects applicants to demonstrate proficiency in the English language. International applicants will normally be expected to provide evidence of attainment equivalent to IELTS for UKVI (Academic) from a UKVI approved test centre. These programmes require a score of 6.5 overall, with a minimum of 6.0 in each component.

We seek to enroll students who are self-motivated, determined critical thinkers, passionate about their subject, curious, independent, professionally orientated, and understand that their commitment to the programme is a significant investment in their future.

APPLICATIONS

Your application to study for a postgraduate taught degree at GSA is in two parts:

PART 1: A short video about you and your interest in the programme.

PART 2: Digital folio of your work (optional).

Innovation School believes that our post-graduate programmes in design need not only be for designers. Therefore a design portfolio is not a mandatory element of your application. However, it is always advised that if you have such a body of work that it is better to include it. You can start an application by visiting:

<https://www.gsa.ac.uk/study-at-the-gsa/postgraduate-degrees/how-to-apply>

Once you have completed part 1 of the application process, GSA will acknowledge your application via email, and if you are uploading a digital folio you will be directed to do so. You are advised to upload your folio prior to the next deadline date to ensure it is assessed as early as possible. Although there are no application deadlines, early application is encouraged.

APPLICATIONS PROCESS

Your completed application will be assessed at the next review round. There are 4 stages to your application.

1. Apply through GSA website with your video, evidence of qualifications, references and digital portfolio (if applicable).

2. GSA academic staff will assess your application.

3. If successful, you will either be invited to an interview or offered a place on the basis of the strength of your application.

4. The outcome of your application will be communicated to you through GSA Registry.

The assessment will consider: creativity, intellectual curiosity, ability to demonstrate an advanced understanding of the subject and sufficient skillset to realise intentions, the ability to articulate the intentions (context) for the work, evidence of commitment to the subject, the ability to engage in sustained and consistent study.

APPLICATIONS COMPONENTS

Please provide a link to a short video showing you, in the frame, talking about your work, your reasons for applying to this programme and why you think you are suitable for this area of study at the Glasgow School of Art.

Your video must:

- Show you in the frame, speaking directly and clearly to camera in English, in your normal speaking voice.
- Be a maximum of 4 minutes in length if you have submitted a portfolio, and a maximum of 8 minutes if you have not.
- Discuss work that you have included in your portfolio submission (if you have made one) – remember that the assessor will have access to your portfolio when reviewing your application, so you don't need to show it in the video.
- Clearly indicate why you are applying for this specific area of study, and what you hope to achieve by completing this course. Tell us how your creative journey, previous education and or experience have prepared you, and make you suitable for studying this programme at GSA.

Alternatively, if you haven't submitted a portfolio, please describe how your previous academic or work experience has prepared you for this path of study.

Your video must not:

- Be generated by Artificial Intelligence (AI) or similar techniques.
- Use AI or any other technique to change your voice.
- Be sped up to make it seem like you are speaking more quickly.

Please note that if you do not supply a link to a video then we will be unable to assess your application.

DIGITAL PORTFOLIO

If you are able to submit a digital folio there are certain elements that are worth including. Your portfolio will be assessed by academic staff and should contain examples of work that show an understanding and skills appropriate to the postgraduate programme you are applying to. It is important for the portfolio to reflect your individual abilities, experiences and interests. Make sure that you curate and pace the pages so the reader will be able to assess your work in the way you wish to present yourself. We would also like to see evidence of participation in some collaborative projects, either within a course or extra-curricula. Community-based projects are also helpful to show an interest in Design Innovation.

Overall, it should demonstrate your interests, practice, approach and creativity. You should clearly present your research methods and key findings. It should communicate the links between your research and the development of proposals in response to these findings. It should include evidence of your working process, from project inception to resolution, demonstrating experiments and explorations as well as demonstrate technical knowledge and skills used to realise your project intentions. Finally, it should show an awareness and understanding of the professional context for the work and the value that could have therein.

We strongly discourage the use of external companies to help prepare portfolios as the outcome can often be generic (they all look the same). Instead we would recommend you to use the guidance within this document to produce an individual, digital portfolio representing your specific interests, skills, experiences and knowledge.

We accept two formats for uploading a digital folio: a single PDF file, consisting of approximately 15 pages (portfolios that are longer may not be fully read) or 15 individual images. Your digital folio should consist of a minimum of 3 projects.

If you are including moving image or sound work, these can viewed via a hyperlink (included in your PDF document) to Vimeo or YouTube. Access to these websites should not be password protected. These can also be viewed by inputting a URL link into the designated field. Please make sure the link will remain live and accessible. The clips must be limited to a maximum of five minutes.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Initial Review:

1. Understanding of / interest in design innovation (e.g. via examples of own work or discussion of other people's)
2. Awareness of the potential impact of design innovation on people's lives (based on part B of personal statement)
3. Potential demonstrated through academic achievement, employment/voluntary work or other personal interest.

Group Interview:

1. Understanding of / interest in design innovation (e.g. via discussion of own work or other people's)
2. Awareness of the potential impact of design innovation on people's lives
3. Ability to work collaboratively with others as well as independently.
4. Ability to verbally communicate your motivation for the discipline and study at GSA.

At the first review, academic staff will view your application video, references and digital folio (if applicable). The criteria listed below will be used to assess your suitability for the programme and whether you should be invited to interview. You should include evidence of meeting these criteria within your video, references and digital portfolio (if applicable).

If successful at the first review, you will have either secured an offer or be invited to an interview for further understanding via video call. The interview will take no longer than 30 mins.

The criteria listed will be used to assess your suitability for the programme and whether you should be offered a place on the programme. During the interview you will get the opportunity to demonstrate your communication skills, your suitability for the programme and have the chance to share your relevant experience with the group enabling you to evidence your ability to meet the criteria.

Scoring System for Assessment of Applications

- 1 Unsatisfactory evidence of required ability
- 2 Very limited evidence of required ability
- 3 Limited evidence of the required ability
- 4 Satisfactory evidence of required ability
- 5 Good evidence of required ability
- 6 Very good evidence of required ability
- 7 Excellent evidence of required ability

INTERVIEW

GSA Registry will contact you if you have been selected for an interview. This will likely be done by video call. If you are able to travel to our Glasgow or Highlands campus we may be able to do this in person.

- Be ready to contribute your views on topics related to the programme to which you have applied.
- There are no wrong answers! Interviewers want you to hear you communicate your experiences and opinions about the subject area.
- Please don't read from a script, interviewers want to know you can talk freely about your work.
- Review the information provided with your invite to interview and be ready to ask any questions you have about the programme, GSA or life at the Glasgow or Highlands campus that have not been covered.

INTERVIEW

In advance of a telephone or video interview please ensure we can get in touch with you at the agreed day and time.

- Ensure you have confirmed the interview and provided a telephone number and email address to be contacted with.
- Ensure that you have a strong internet connection which will support video calling.
- If something goes wrong (for example the Zoom link does not work) please check your email for instructions.
- Please make sure that the name displayed on Zoom is your full name as per your application, to allow interviewers to correctly identify you on screen.
- Make sure you are in a quiet space where you will not be disturbed.
- If you have been provided with staff contact details, add these to your account in advance. Please note, that following the interview staff will not communicate with applicants through video calling software (e.g. Zoom). Instead queries should be directed to innovation@gsa.ac.uk or registry@gsa.ac.uk
- Please note, that all interviews will be conducted within the working hours of GSA, Monday-Friday 9am-5pm (UK Time).

FURTHER INFORMATION

[School of Innovation and Technology website](#)

[How to apply GSA webpage](#)

[List of Graduate degrees at GSA](#)

[List of GSA Open Events \(if you would like to find out more information in person\)](#)

[UKVI Requirements - Tier 4 Student Visa requirements](#)

[English for Creative Disciplines \(GSA pre-sessional English\)](#)

[GSA Scholarships and alternative sources of funding](#)

[GSA Accommodation and private rented accommodation](#)

[If you need further information about applying to Graduate level study,
email \[admissions@gsa.ac.uk\]\(mailto:admissions@gsa.ac.uk\)](#)

[If you have a question about an existing application, email \[registry@gsa.ac.uk\]\(mailto:registry@gsa.ac.uk\)](#)

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