

Portfolio Preparation Course – Creative Practices 2026/27

Application Information & Guidelines

COURSE DATES 2026/27

The course is timetabled from August 2026 to February 2027.

Students are assigned to two groups each attending 15 hours per week during term time as per the option they are allocated.

Option One Monday & Tuesday (9.30am - 4.30pm), Wednesday (9.30am -12.30pm)

Option Two Wednesday (1.30pm - 4.30pm), Thursday & Friday (9.30am - 4.30pm)

Term One

Online Induction Days: Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th August 2026

Campus visit: Friday 21st August 2026

Start Date on Campus: Monday 24th August to Friday 11th December 2026

It is **compulsory** that **ALL STUDENTS** from both Options attend the Online Induction Days

Term Two

Start Date on Campus: Monday 4th January to Friday 19th February 2027

(Note: Self Study Week – 12th to 16th October 2026) Students do not attend the studio this week GSA (Glasgow School of Art) term holidays and public holidays will be advised on Induction Days

HOW TO APPLY

The Portfolio Preparation Course - Creative Practices welcomes applications from Home, RUK and International students who wish to progress to study Art, Design or Architecture up to degree/graduate level. The course is not registered through UCAS and does not have any formal academic entry requirements. However, should an applicant wish to apply for further study after completing this Portfolio Course, then they are advised to check the entry requirements for that particular Course/Institution. Applicants should also be competent in the use of computers and online technology.

International Applicants

This course is open to Students outwith the UK who are visiting for **no longer than 6 months**. You must apply for a Standard Visitor Visa – for full details, you should refer to <https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/tourist-short-stay-visas>. Proof of English proficiency is required i.e. IELTS of 6.0 (minimum 5.5 in all components).

The online application information on how to apply can be found on our website under the Section [Portfolio Programmes](#)

Please note:

- Applicants should submit their online written application as soon as possible **from Monday 16th February 2026**.
- **Portfolio E-folio Submission: Sample** work is an essential component of your application. This should be uploaded *after* submission of your online written application. Details on how to submit your E-Folio will be emailed to you via GSA Registry once they receive your initial application – **Do NOT submit your e-folio with your online written application**. Your digital portfolio should consist of 10 slides of images. The maximum image file size is 2MB and the total PDF 50MB, resolution does not need to exceed 72dpi. Some slides might contain multiple images but not duplicate images of the same work. Please include an accompanying image list with details of your work including title, scale, material usage and your name.
- Applications are assessed on a rolling basis and places are assigned to both Options accordingly.
- The numbers of places available are limited. Academic Year 2026/27 will be **40 places**.
- If you complete your application near the **final application date of Friday 26th June 2026**, your application may not be successful as the course may be full.

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR E-FOLIO SUBMISSION

The admissions panel are interested in a candidate's most recent work including and most importantly, drawings from primary source material (i.e. NOT from photographs). Images from sketchbooks are encouraged, particularly those which demonstrate the applicant's creative process and interests.

Shortlisted applicants may be required to attend a short, online informal interview.

All applicants will be notified of their outcome after the application process.

Applications will be accepted from Monday 16th February to Friday 26th June 2026

Submit an Online Written Application

Sample of work in support of your application should be submitted via Portfolio Assessment website – log in details will be emailed to you via GSA Registry

Please check that your application is complete before submitting

COURSE FEE

The fees for the Portfolio Preparation Day Course - Creative Practices 2026/27 are:

Home/RUK students: £2999.00

International students: £5650.00

There are two options for payment of these fees:

- To be paid **in full** within 14 days of your acceptance of your offer
- Over **installments** arranged with the Glasgow School of Art's fees department at enrollment

If you are awaiting a decision on a GSA Scholarship application then no payment is due until this decision is known. Details on the GSA Scholarship are noted below.

The course fee includes Studio learning and teaching, specialist creative workshops, access to GSA facilities including, Library and Technical Support Department facilities. Students are required to supply their own materials.

FUNDING

Open Studio Portfolio Scholarships

The Portfolio Preparation Course - Creative Practices 2026/27 is not eligible for Higher Education funding, however there are a limited number of Scholarships available to students who have been formally offered a place on the course. This will cover the course fees only.

These Scholarships are intended to assist students who are studying towards their first Degree course. Eligible applicants must meet the following criteria and show evidence of commitment, motivation, and long-term ambitions together with evidence of their and/or their family's financial status.

Criteria

In receipt of the following within the past 12 months:-

- Free School meals
- Educational Maintenance Allowance
- College Bursary

You/your parent/s or guardian are in receipt of:-

- Housing Benefit through Universal Credit
- Means-tested Benefits (Universal Credit or other)

Students are required to apply through a separate application for this Scholarship and information will be made available to students once they have accepted their place on the course. There is a deadline for applications to the Scholarship; therefore, delays in acceptance may lead to ineligibility.

Students whose applications for a Scholarship are unsuccessful will be required to pay their course fees in full as detailed above.

ENQUIRIES AND QUESTIONS

If you have any questions about the course and application, please refer to the following links: - <https://www.gsa.ac.uk/undergraduate-degrees/portfolio-preparation>

<https://www.facebook.com/GSAOpenStudio>

www.facebook.com/GSAPortfolioPreparation

Instagram - @gsaportfoliopreparation

Or alternatively, contact Open Studio.

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The Glasgow School of Art

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