SCHOOL OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY
THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART

UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATION GUIDELINES



Kyle Martin, Sound for the Moving Image, 2024

SOUND

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ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

STANDARD ACADEMIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS TO YEAR 2

Higher National Certificate (HNC) in Sound Production, in Sound Production, or related field

– A-Levels – ABB

– Pearson BTEC Extended Diploma - DDM

– Scottish Advanced Highers – BCC

– Level 4 Diploma – Merit and above

STANDARD ACADEMIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS TO YEAR 3

– Higher National Diploma (HND) in Sound Production, or related field, with a B or above in the final Graded Unit

We may also consider applicants for advanced entry based on credits successfully completed through previous study at another higher education institution, or through Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL). Entry to Year 2 or Year 3 will depend on the level, volume and relevance of prior learning to the programme and will be assessed on an individual basis.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

We expect all students to demonstrate proficiency in the English language, which for UK students is normally evidenced by a pass in Higher or GCSE English or other literate subject*.

Applicants who require a Student Visa, and who are not a national of, nor have obtained a degree in one of the countries on the approved UKVI exemption list, will need to provide evidence of their English language ability through the use of a standardised test.

The GSA's preferred test is the IELTS for UKVI (Academic) test. A full list of English Language tests that may be presented can be **found here.**

Applicants who successfully enrol and complete GSA's Pre-Sessional English for Creative Disciplines programme can also use those test results to satisfy English language conditions.

Our current requirement for School of Innovation and Technology programmes is IELTS for UKVI (Academic) with 6.0 overall and no less than 5.5 in each component.

For guidance, please email admissions@gsa.ac.uk

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The Reid Building

COST OF STUDY

FEES, FINANCE & HELP

The annual cost of your study will depend on a range of factors including your tuition fee status, programme of study, accommodation arrangements and lifestyle. We understand, however, that for your effective planning it is really important that you have a good idea of how much studying at art school is likely to cost, and what kinds of costs you are likely to incur over and above tuition fees.

You'll find information on costs associated with your chosen programme (called 'Indicative Programme Costs') on each programme page on the website.

TUITION FEES

Your annual tuition fee will depend on whether you are a Scottish student, Rest of the UK student or international student, as well as the subject (programme) and level (undergraduate/postgraduate) of study.

You can find current information on Fees and Finance pages on the GSA website **here.**

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APPLICATION TIMELINE

In order for your application to be considered complete, you must complete the two steps outlined by the relevant deadlines:

STEP 1

UCAS APPLICATION FORM
DEADLINE - 18:00 (UK Time) January 13, 2027

The first step is ensuring you complete your UCAS application via **www.ucas.com**

We suggest that you begin the UCAS application form as soon as possible and give yourself plenty of time to complete it as there's a lot of information required to complete the form. You don't need to complete the UCAS application form in one sitting. You can save your progress and return to the form as often as you need to. However, please ensure you submit this before the deadline.

Read the advice from UCAS to help you through their application process, step by step, **here.**

STEP 2

DIGITAL PORTFOLIO & PORTFOLIO STATEMENT
DEADLINE - 13:00 (UK Time) 20 January, 2027

After the GSA receives your completed application form from UCAS, you will receive an email from the Admissions team at the GSA with an acknowledgement of your application and instructions on how to upload your Digital Portfolio and Portfolio Statement to the GSA Digital Portfolio Site. You can find a link to Digital Portfolio examples at the end of this guide.

You are welcome to upload your Digital Portfolio as soon as you receive your invitation email from Admissions, but no later than the deadline given to you.

The Digital Portfolio site will open to new submissions from the end of October each year.

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APPLICATION TIMELINE



DIGITAL PORTFOLIO

You should provide 5 examples of your work across a range of audio and video formats.

You should submit work by providing URLs to your work hosted on external sites such as YouTube, SoundCloud or via DropBox or GoogleDrive links.

The Digital Portfolio site will open to new submissions from the end of October each year.



PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

The Portfolio Statement is an opportunity to expand on your Digital Portfolio, highlight a specific project, further detail your interests or inspiration and tailor your application to your chosen GSA programme.

It must not exceed 3000 characters (approx. 500 words) and should not be the same as your UCAS Personal Statement. You will be asked to submit this alongside your Digital Portfolio.

A guide to writing your portfolio statement can be **found here.**

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APPLICATION KEY DATES

01 02 03 04 05

1
SUBMIT APPLICATION FORM TO UCAS

13 JANUARY 2027
18:00 (UK Time)

Apply via UCAS at www.ucas.com

UCAS Code **G43**

2
UPLOAD DIGITAL PORTFOLIO

20 JANUARY 2027
13:00 (UK Time)

GSA Portfolio Deadline

You will receive instructions on how to upload your digital portfolio and accompanying portfolio statement after you have submitted your UCAS application. You are welcome to upload your digital portfolio as soon as you receive your invitation email from admissions, but **no later** than the deadline given to you.

3
INTERVIEWS

FROM EARLY FEB TO MID APRIL 2027

GSA Staff will assess your application. If you are shortlisted, you may be invited to Interview.
See **Interviews**.

4
FINAL DECISIONS

12 MAY 2027

The outcome of your application will be communicated through UCAS.

5
REPLY TO OFFER

When you have received decisions from all of your UCAS choices, UCAS will send you an email to let you know all your decisions have been received and you can now reply to any offers you've been given.

If you receive your last decision on or before 12 May 2027, your reply date is 2nd June 2027.

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HOW WE ASSESS YOUR APPLICATION

ASSESSMENT

Admissions staff access your UCAS Application Form, Digital Portfolio, and Portfolio Statement all together.

Your application will be numerically scored against your chosen programme's specific assessment criteria (see OUR CRITERIA). The scoring is between 1-7 (7 being 'excellent evidence of' and 1 being 'unsatisfactory evidence of').

On the basis of your application score, you will either be:

Unsuccessful – This decision will be processed as a '**Rejection**' via UCAS

or

Offered an Interview
– You may be invited to an interview by email (see **Interview**)

or

Offered a Place (without an interview)

– The offer may be 'Conditional' or 'Unconditional'

OUR CRITERIA

It is important to know what the assessment criteria are for your programme.

You should try to respond to these criteria when creating your **Digital Portfolio**, writing your **Portfolio Statement**, and preparing for **Interview**.

SEE FOLLOWING PAGES FOR CRITERIA.

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STAGE ONE: CRITERIA DIGITAL PORTFOLIO & PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

1 Ability to apply practical skills

– We want to see your practical skills and how you explore and use different time-based media such as sound, music, video and games. This should be evidenced by submitting examples of your work in the form of 5 web links to audio or audio-visual work. These links should be placed in your GSA Portfolio website statement. Examples of work appropriate for your portfolio include sound and music recordings you have made, the music you have produced or composed, films you have shot and edited, films by third parties for which you have created sound and/or music, sound design for games, interactive audio-visual work (such as MaxMSP patches or Pure Data patches), music scores, field sound recordings, documentation of exhibitions or live events.

2 Ability to apply analytical and conceptual skills

– We are interested in the concepts and ideas behind your work and how they progress and develop; from the initial starting point / source of inspiration through to a finished piece of work. This should be evidenced by submitting short supporting statements of a few sentences for each example of your work. In the supporting statement, you should outline your concept for each piece of work and you should describe what creative decisions you made in order to realise this concept.

3 Ability to demonstrate an interest in (sound production, music production, music composition, sound design for film, sound for games, interactive audio-visual work, sound art)

– We are interested in finding out more about you and the sound designers, filmmakers, music producers, musicians, and sound artists that you are inspired by. We are also interested in finding out what films, games, TV programmes and art installations you have been particularly impressed by in terms of how they use music and sound. We want to know what or who has motivated or inspired you to apply for this course. You should include your reasons for applying to The Glasgow School of Art and information on what you hope to gain by studying the programme. You should use the Portfolio Statement and your UCAS personal statement to address the areas above.

4 Ability to communicate your work and put it into context

– We are interested in how you communicate about your work and the ideas and sources of inspiration behind it. Use your Portfolio Statement to tell us about the pieces of work and what inspired you, how your ideas develop throughout the



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STAGE TWO: INTERVIEW

INTERVIEW

If shortlisted, you may receive an e-mail inviting you to attend an interview. Interviews are held online via Teams. They usually last 20-30 minutes.

This is a chance for staff from the programme to meet you, hear you talk about the work in your portfolio and find out more about your readiness for the programme. It is also a chance for you to get a clearer sense of the programme, find out about the facilities available and ask any questions that you may have.

Staff will score your interview using our interview assessment criteria below. The outcome of your interview will be communicated to you via UCAS.

If you are invited to interview (see Interview) the following criteria apply:

1 Ability to apply practical skills
- Practical skills are important for creative subjects. We will use the Stage 1 evaluation for this as part of the Stage 2 assessment.

2 Ability to apply analytical and conceptual skills
- We want to find out more about the ideas and development of the work in your portfolio. We are interested to know about initial inspiration and starting points, how your ideas evolved and how you explored and developed your work.

3 Ability to communicate about your work and put it into context
- At interview, we will discuss the journey of your work. What did you learn and what areas did you find to be the most successful or challenging and what you might do next? For work-in-progress you could describe what you hope to achieve, what sources you will be looking at, and how you hope to explore these.

4 Dedication to Art School
- We want you to demonstrate your interest and knowledge in your chosen subject area. Who or what inspires and motivates you as well as your personal and individual interests. This might include artists, designers, architects, mentors, exhibitions, online events, documentaries, books, journals, archives, podcasts etc. You should demonstrate that you have researched your chosen programme, discuss why you have chosen to apply to this programme, communicate why you consider the programme is the appropriate one for you and why specifically at The Glasgow School of Art.

5 Ability to demonstrate an interest in one or more of the following skills
- Sound Production
- Music Production and Composition
- Sound for Film & Broadcast
- Game Sound
- Sonic Arts

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MORE INFORMATION

Start Early
Give yourself plenty of time to prepare your UCAS application, your **Digital Portfolio**, and refine your **Portfolio Statement**.

The Digital Portfolio site will open to new submissions from the end of October each year.

Reach Out
Don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions. If you need help with your application:

- For any queries about the application process or issues with our application site, contact admissions@gsa.ac.uk
- Remember if you're in education currently, you can speak to your teachers or lecturers for support with your application.
- If you are interested in applying to the **GSA as a Study Abroad** student (single semester or one year study) you can contact international@gsa.ac.uk for information.
- Join us for on campus and online events throughout the year through our GSA Open programme. You can find more information about Open Days and events here.

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DIGITAL PORTFOLIO EXAMPLES

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The following pages are sample portfolios by our current students, taken from their original application to study at the GSA. You shouldn't use these as examples to follow in terms of style but do look at how they've presented their work and their making process.

You may choose to submit any of the following:

- Songs (you have written, produced or recorded)

- Music (that you have produced or recorded -either with live or synthesisedinstruments)

- Narrative or abstract films or animations that you have produced yourself with/without accompanying sound design or musical score

- Narrative or abstract films or animations produced by another artist (please make this clear in the title) for which you have produced the sound design or musical score

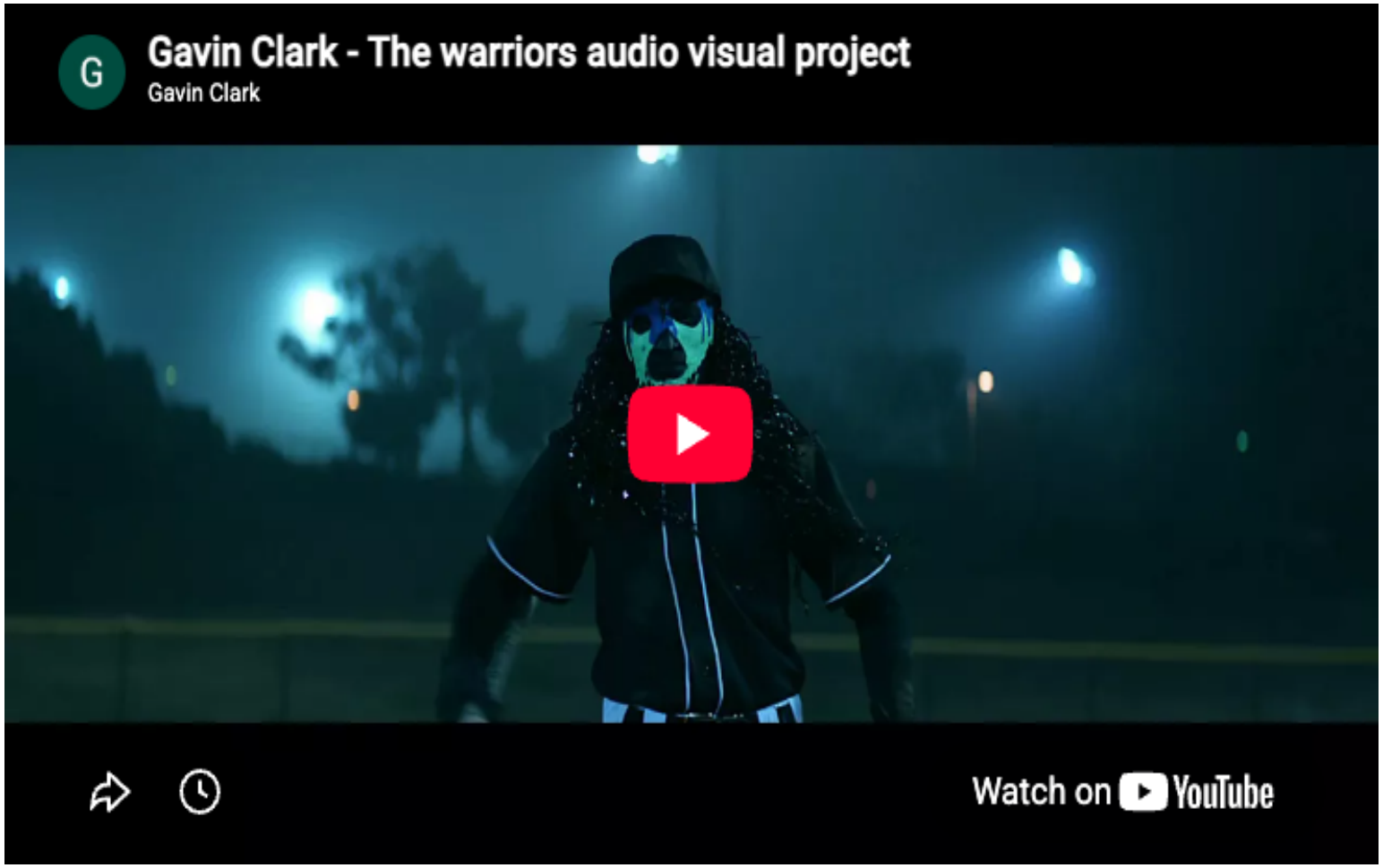
- Soundscapes (that you have recorded and edited) experimental sound/music pieces

- Field recordings (that you have taken yourself)

- Graphic scores (produced by yourself or another artist) with the accompanying music or sound

DIGITAL PORTFOLIOS

Gavin Clark - https://gavinclarkportfolio.wordpress.com/audio-visual-work/

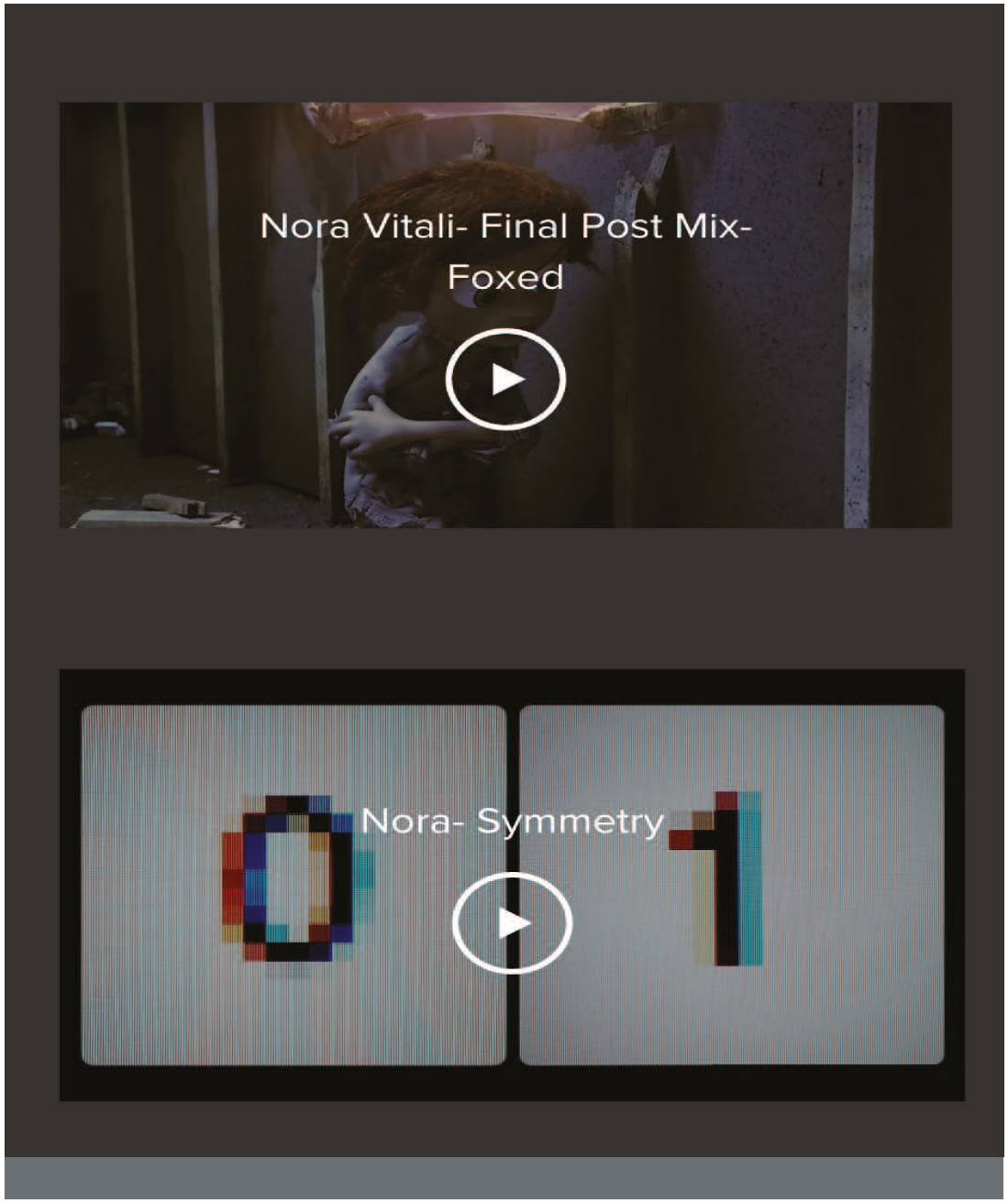


Links to Portfolio Works:

- Girl missing (Graded Unit)
- The Warriors Audio Visual Project
- Apple Mac advert audio video project

DIGITAL PORTFOLIOS

Nora Vitali - https://nvitali81.wixsite.com/profile



Links to Portfolio Works:

- Final post mix - Foxed
- \
- Audio post production Greek mythology - "The Myth Of Sisyphus."
- Soundscape
- Multi track recording - The Highway Five