Indicative Programme Costs

MDes

Communication Design

2027/
2028

THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART

MDes Communication Design

Additional Information to support you in planning your learning

Studio Access

Students can access dedicated studios and work spaces during GSA campus opening hours.

Workshop Access

Bookable workshop access is available Monday to Friday, 10.00am-9.00pm, and Saturday, 9.00am-5.00pm, on the Garnethill campus. For students studying on the Forres campus, bookable workshop access is available Monday to Wednesday, 9.30am-4.30pm. Access to the Bio Lab and Garden varies Monday to Friday.

Note: Opening hours are subject to change. All campus locations are closed on bank holidays, GSA rest days, and mid-term holidays.

Additional Study Costs

In undertaking your studies you may incur additional costs over and above your tuition fees. Additional costs will vary depending on your programme of study. Examples of additional costs include:

- → Ongoing—materials to develop work in response to coursework
- → Incidental—attending project site visits and field trips
- → One-off—graduation gown hire and photography
- → Personal choice—attending optional study trips, participating in study abroad exchange and purchasing personal equipment

The following costs are provided to help you budget for your studies, though it is possible to work on a budget lower than this. The costs are indicative only and do not take into account decisions you might make related to selecting materials, production of work, or purchase of personal and specialist equipment for exclusive use. You will be provided with support through tutorials to consider costs, methods, materials and sustainable approaches to develop work and achieve intended learning outcomes.

Your Programme Leader will be happy to advise you if you require further information and advice about these estimated costs.

Typical costs incurred associated with your programme. (Indicative Only)	**Year 1**	**Year 2**
Costs of materials to develop work in response to project briefs, coursework and producing work for exhibition, e.g. making materials, printcosts, photocopying etc.	£175–£580	£165–£610
Costs of optional study trips and other enhancement activities	£110–£550	£165–£550

Optional Study Trips

Optional study trips are not mandatory. Your programme will make cost-neutral alternative arrangements to ensure your studies are not impacted if you elect not to attend a trip or study visit.

Student Exchange

Student Exchange where available on your course may incur costs. Costs will be dependent on the location of the activity and the experience provided by the host institution which will be negotiated prior to undertaking any overseas experience.

Post-Study National Graduate Shows

We support a range of events across our programmes that are open to our graduating students. These typically involve voluntary participation in post-study national graduate shows to showcase their work connecting with industry and recruitment opportunities. Participation is optional and may incur additional costs such as entry fees, travel, accommodation, etc. We endeavour to reduce associated costs wherever possible and make these clear as far in advance as possible to our students.

Sustainable Making

We are committed to fostering creativity while promoting environmentally conscious practices. We encourage students to consider the ecological impact of their material choices and processes. This includes reusing materials whenever possible and being mindful of the origin and provenance of your supplies.

Our campus features several re-use hubs where you can source and donate pre-used materials. We also urge you to remember to switch off machinery and equipment when not in use.

Technical Services Department

GSA's Technical Services Department (TSD) provides access to equipment, materials, workshops and services to enable projects to be completed in safe, sustainable and alternative ways.

TSD staff also support students through consultations where scale, materials and cost are discussed in detail. A wide range of materials are available to support various approaches to making work. Where materials are supplied, they are at cost price (+ wastage). Materials used during workshop inductions will be supplied at no cost. We may refer you to an external provider if a process isn't available at GSA. You will have to meet the costs of this service. You can read more about TSD here.

Borrowing Equipment

A range of handtools and making equipment is available to borrow from the TSD Bureau, as well as a wide range of AV production and presentation equipment from the Media Studio, the AV Equipment Library and Photography Store, making it possible to successfully develop your work without making an additional significant personal investment in equipment.

Library Services

Library Services provide a physical and virtual library and a learning technology service for GSA students. We have rich and diverse physical and online collections, focusing on contemporary practice and making. We offer you comprehensive research and technology support and help using GSA software and digital tools. Library Services manages the GSA Learning management system CANVAS, and we provide induction, training and support with this system to ensure this is an engaging and accessible learning environment. In the library building you can access PCs & Macs, flatbed scanners, and study desks. We have a physical help desk at the Glasgow campus and online help is available at any location 7 days a week. We have multiple printers and printing is charged at cost.

Student Software and Digital Inclusion

GSA Student Software

As an enrolled student at the GSA, you will have access to an extensive range of software applications to support your study.

All GSA Apple and Windows Devices are preconfigured with the following list of software:

- → Adobe Creative Cloud Full Suite 2026 and 100GB of cloud storage
- → Microsoft Office 2024 - Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneDrive etc.
- → Teams
- → ScreenPal
- → Various additional software is also available depending on the requirements of the programme, for example, AutoCAD and Sketchup

Assistive Technology Applications available on GSA devices include:

- → Claroread
- → Grammarly
- → Mindview

The following software is available to you on your own personal device and available on request on GSA devices if not pre-installed:

- → Adobe Creative Cloud Full Suite 2026 and 100GB of cloud storage
- → Microsoft Office 365 - Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneDrive etc.
- → Rhino
- → SketchUp
- → Vectorworks
- → V-Ray
- → Teams
- → Padlet

Information Technology (IT)

The Information Technology (IT) department provides advice and support for all issues regarding the infrastructure, hardware and access to software. There is an online IT helpdesk for printing system errors, wi-fi problems and software licencing issues. We provide the printing system and wi-fi facilities located around the School and have printers spread across our entire campus, meaning a printer is never too far away and charged at cost.

Digital Inclusion Scheme

The Glasgow School of Art's Digital Inclusion Scheme offers the long-term loan of GSA laptops to students to enable them to study online/ off campus, where they may be unable to access this equipment otherwise due to financial hardship, digital exclusion, or other relevant circumstances and can evidence that requirement.

There is a limited budget for the supply of laptops, so eligibility does not guarantee that students will receive a laptop although every effort will be made to support students in some capacity. Priority is given to those on the lowest household income. You can read more about our Digital Inclusion Scheme here.

Financial Assistance During Study

Scholarships

If you are a new entrant to GSA and have been given a Conditional or Unconditional offer of study, you are eligible to apply to our scholarship programme. Some of our scholarships offer a contribution towards your tuition fees and others provide a maintenance grant to assist with your living costs while you study at the GSA. Most cover one academic year of study, unless otherwise stated. You can read more about scholarships here.

Discretionary Fund

The Discretionary Fund is a fund allocated by the Scottish Government via the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) and administered by The Glasgow School of Art (GSA). The fund is intended to help home (UK) students in financial difficulties enable them to access and/or continue in Higher Education. These funds may be awarded in addition to other forms of financial support to contribute towards essential living costs such as food, rent and utility bills and cannot be awarded to pay for tuition fees, studio fees or material costs.

Short Term Assistance Grant

Short-Term Assistance Grant (STAG) funds are administered through our Student Support Services. They are available to provide a small one-off funding grant to students in financial hardship who are not eligible to apply to the GSA Discretionary Fund. A STAG award is not intended to cover all of a student's shortfall in living costs, meet all additional costs or to pay student debt, but is there to assist students facing financial hardship during study.

Support is Available

Here at The Glasgow School of Art our programmes are designed to support the creative development of students in their chosen subject. Learning and the change this implies cannot happen without support. Student support is therefore integral to the activities of every academic department.
The School also has an excellent record of providing specialist support services that complement and underpin the core provision available through the academic departments.

At the GSA, to help you navigate your way through the various services, student welfare can offer a single point of contact to support you from before you arrive, until after you graduate. Practical support and advice about finding accommodation, funding and finances, childcare and the practicalities of being a student are available from Student Welfare: welfare@gsa.ac.uk