THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART

POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT DEGREES IN DESIGN INNOVATION

Applicant Guidelines for Entry in September 2027

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 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

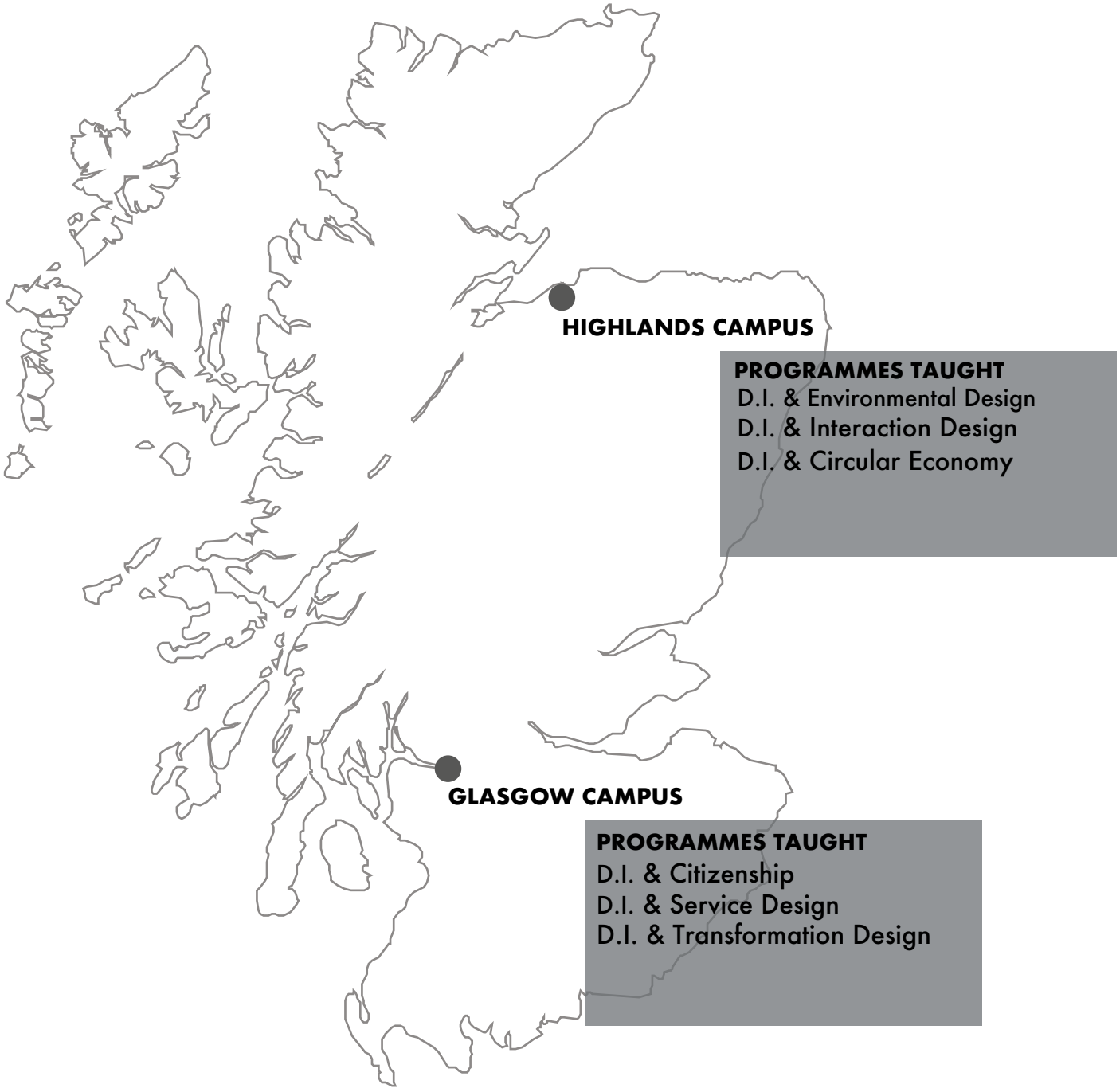
The Haldane Building is a recently refurbished facility containing open-plan studio spaces, staff rooms and meeting areas. The building is located within the Garnethill Campus in Glasgow city centre, close to amenities including The Glasgow School of Art's Reid Building and library. The Haldane Building 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 Innnovation programmes at gsainnovationschool.co.uk

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



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 IELT 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: Application form including your Personal Statement a short video about you and your interest in the programme, evidence of academic qualifications, one academic reference and photographic ID.ID.

PA T 2: A Digital portfolio of your work (optional).

The School of Innovation and Technology believes that our postgraduate 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:

Visit the How to Apply page on the GSA website.

Once you have completed part 1 of the application process, GSA will acknowledge your application via email, and if you are uploading a digital portfolio you will be directed to do so. You are advised to upload your portfolio 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.

APPLICATION PROCESS

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.**

APPLICATION COMPONENTS - VIDEO

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.

APPLICATION COMPONENTS - DIGITAL PORTFOLIO

If you are able to submit a digital portfolio 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.

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 (STAGE 1)

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

Academic staff will view your application video, references and digital portfolio (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).

1. **Understanding of/interest in design innovation**
   Your understanding of design innovation and your interest in using design to address real-world challenges and opportunities. We are looking for evidence that you can discuss your own work, experiences or ideas, alongside examples of the work of others, to demonstrate your curiosity, critical thinking and engagement with contemporary design practice. You should be able to explain what inspires you, how your interests have developed, and why you are motivated to study design innovation within your chosen specialist pathway.

2. **Awareness of the potential impact of design innovation on people's lives**
   Your understanding of how design innovation can influence and improve the lives of individuals, communities and society more broadly. We are looking for evidence that you can think critically about the social, cultural, environmental and economic impact of design, and recognise the responsibilities that come with developing innovative solutions. You should be able to discuss how your ideas or experiences demonstrate an awareness of designing with people in mind and the positive change that design can help to create..

3. **Potential demonstrated through academic achievement, employment/voluntary work or other personal interest.**
   We will consider the potential you have demonstrated through your academic achievements, professional or voluntary experience, and other personal interests or activities. We are looking for evidence of initiative, curiosity, commitment and a willingness to learn, regardless of where these experiences have been gained. Your application should demonstrate how these experiences have helped you develop relevant knowledge, skills and perspectives, and how they have prepared you to contribute to and benefit from the programme..

INTERVIEW

IIf 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 20 minutes.

The criteria listed below will be used to assess your suitability for the programme and assess whether you should be offered a place on the programme:

1. **Understanding of/interest in design innovation**
   Your understanding of design innovation and your enthusiasm for using design to address complex challenges and create meaningful change. We are looking for your ability to discuss design ideas, methods and examples with confidence, drawing on your own work, experiences or the work of others to demonstrate your curiosity and critical thinking. You should be able to explain what design innovation means to you, how it relates to your interests, and why you believe it is an important approach within your chosen specialist pathway.

2. **Awareness of the potential impact of design innovation on people's lives**
   we will consider your understanding of how design innovation can positively influence the lives of individuals, communities and society. We are looking for your ability to discuss the wider social, cultural, environmental and economic implications of design, and to demonstrate an awareness of the responsibilities involved in creating innovative solutions. You should be able to reflect on how your ideas or experiences consider the needs of people, the potential impact of design decisions, and the role of design innovation in addressing contemporary challenges.

INTERVIEW

3. Ability to work collaboratively with others as well as independently

We will consider your ability to work effectively both as part of a team and independently. We are looking for evidence that you can share ideas, listen to different perspectives and contribute positively to collaborative projects, while also demonstrating initiative, self-motivation and responsibility for your own work. You should be able to reflect on experiences of working with others, as well as examples of independent learning or creative practice, showing that you can adapt your approach to different ways of working.

4. Ability to verbally communicate your motivation for the discipline and study at the GSA

How clearly and confidently you communicate your motivation for studying your chosen discipline and your reasons for applying to The Glasgow School of Art. We are looking for evidence that you have thoughtfully considered your academic and creative goals, understand what the programme offers, and can explain how it aligns with your interests and aspirations. You should be able to discuss your motivations with enthusiasm and authenticity, demonstrating a genuine commitment to developing your practice within the GSA community.

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 Teams 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. Teams). 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 Postgraduate degrees at GSA

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 postgraduate level study, email admissions@gsa.ac.uk

If you have a question about an existing application, email registry@gsa.ac.uk

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