

Information
for **PARENTS:**
CANADA

THE GLASGOW
SCHOOL OF ART
GSA.AC.UK/INTERNATIONAL

Metamorphic - Alessia Toti, Textile Design 2018

Introduction to The Glasgow School of Art

With a proven history of producing some of the world's most influential and successful artists, designers, and architects, The Glasgow School of Art's studio-based specialist, practice-led education draws talented individuals with a shared passion and concern for visual culture from all over the world.

Founded in 1845, the GSA is one of the few remaining independent art schools in the UK and has occupied the main site in the centre of Glasgow since 1899. Over 2,400 students make up the diverse student community at the GSA, with 35% of our student population coming from outside the UK.

Students at GSA have access to advanced and unique facilities for learning and creative production both across the School and within individual departments. Collaboration across our programmes and multi-disciplinary approaches to work is actively encouraged at GSA.

You may have seen on the news, a major fire started in the GSA's Mackintosh Building on Friday 15 June 2018. You may already know that the Mackintosh Building has been undergoing a period of extensive restoration and was not a current part of the GSA campus. Please be assured that the welfare of our students is our utmost priority - current and incoming students' study from September 2018 will not be affected.

School rankings

The Glasgow School of Art is ranked 4th in the UK, 5th in Europe and 16th in the world in the QS world rankings for Art & Design subjects. The Mackintosh School of Architecture is consistently ranked as the best architecture school in Scotland by the Architect's Journal. Our Architecture students also fare well in the prestigious RIBA President's Bronze Medal and won the RIBA President's Silver Medal (the highest honour) in 2015. Our Fine Art graduates have won the Turner Prize (the UK's most prestigious visual art award) five times, and make up 25% of nominees since 2005.

Student accommodation

GSA managed accommodation

New students at GSA have the opportunity to stay in one of our purpose-built halls of residence; Blythswood House or Margaret Macdonald House. Located on West Regent Street and Buccleuch Street respectively, both sites are located within 5 minutes walking distance of the main Garnethill campus.

We own all of our accommodation so students do not deal with any third parties, and a member of our accommodation team is available 24 hours a day to assist with queries.

Our halls of residence also have valuable links with the rest of the school including departments such as Student Welfare, GSA Sports and Sustainability.

Private rented accommodation

This is usually housing rented out by independent landlords. This could mean living alone, sharing with a number of other students, or living in the landlord's own home. Glasgow also has a choice of commercially-run student accommodation that students may wish to consider. Our Student Welfare department can provide general information about Glasgow and some of the areas that students might consider living in.

Getting to the School and getting around the city

Glasgow has two airports: the main airport, Glasgow International, and a smaller airport, Glasgow Prestwick. There is a dedicated bus service from Glasgow International airport to the centre of Glasgow, although students arriving with large luggage should take a metered taxi from the taxi rank at the airport. All taxis at the taxi rank will be licenced. It should cost around £20 into the centre of Glasgow, which takes around 20 minutes.

The Garnethill Campus is approximately 15 minutes' walk from Glasgow's Central and Queen Street mainline railway stations. The School is easily accessed from all major approach roads, including the M8 motorway.

The nearest local railway station is Charing Cross and the nearest subway station is Cowcaddens. Glasgow is also well served by buses with the city's main bus station (Buchanan Bus Station) being a five-minute walk along Renfrew Street from the School's campus. Long distance buses also leave from this bus station.

Life in Glasgow

Glasgow has music traditions going back centuries and boasts one of the best live music scenes in Western Europe. There are plenty of different musical and theatre experiences to suit all tastes, from classical and opera to indie and pop. Add to that a large number of restaurants, galleries and museums and you will never be short of something to do - even outside of the many festivals that take place in the city.

Students of the art school will find it easy to become involved in Glasgow's wider creative community, and will have plenty of opportunities to see the work of and meet with artists, designers and architects practising in the city.

Safety in Glasgow

Glasgow, and the UK in general, have low levels of crime and Glasgow is consistently ranked as one of the top cities in the UK to live in Mercer's Quality of Living Index. However, like all cities there are sensible precautions students should take, especially at night or whilst carrying large amounts of money or other valuables. The induction week at the beginning of term will include tips for students on how to keep safe, and all the School's buildings are monitored by CCTV cameras.

Before using equipment in our workshops, all students are provided with a safety induction by our experienced technicians to ensure they know the safety features and how to correctly operate them. The workshops are always staffed by a technician.

Costs

In addition to the tuition fees published on our website, students will need to budget for food, accommodation, social activities, etc. and also the materials they need for their particular programme. These vary substantially according to discipline, year of study - they are normally higher in the final year - and the type of work a student is producing. Each department usually produces a guide to average material costs, and the School operates a number of schemes to bulk buy commonly used materials that students may buy at cost making these more economical than individual purchases.

In some years there are also optional field trips, and if students decide to participate in our international exchange programme this may increase the cost of attendance for that particular year depending on the destination.

International student support

The School has extensive student support provision which includes welfare and visa advice, counselling, English language support, study support, and careers and employability advice.

Working after study

Our graduates have a good record of entering further study or employment within six months of graduation, going on to a variety of different careers including practice as artists, designers and architects, as well as arts administration or teaching.

Since the removal of Post Study Work in 2012, graduating students will need to switch to either a Tier 1 or 2 visa to enable them to work in the UK after graduation.

More information is available here:

[gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas](https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas)

Any international students considering working in the UK during their time at GSA should visit the Careers Officer to make sure they are aware of employment regulations and cultural norms around working in the UK, and advice on the optimal times and places to look for work.