

**MACKINTOSH SCHOOL
OF ARCHITECTURE**
**THE GLASGOW
SCHOOL OF ART**



Guidance for Applicants to Architecture

Master of Architectural Studies

1 year full time study

Guidance for Applicants to Architecture Diploma in Architecture

Programme

The Masters in Architectural Studies is a 1 year (3 semester) programme combining individual specialist study, through a series of pathways, with the opportunity to share knowledge and experience with fellow students in a cross disciplinary context.

We are uniquely positioned within a wider community of artists and designers at the Glasgow School of Art and this allows our students the opportunity to make connections both academically and socially.

Our physical shared studio provides a permanent workplace for all students which provides peer support and learning throughout the duration of the programme.

Please note the Masters in Architectural Studies does **not** provide exemption from Part 2 of RIBA/ARB Examination in Architecture. You should apply to the **Diploma in Architecture** if you wish to gain Part 2 exemption.

The current pathways on offer are as follows:

- Urban Design
- Creative Urban Practices
- Urban Building
- Digital Creativity
- Energy and Environmental Studies
- History and Theory of the City
- Zero-Energy Mass Customised Housing



*Image: Studio Space
Bourdon Building*

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Applications

An application to the Mackintosh School of Architecture consists of an online application and a portfolio of supporting visual material.

Applications for the Master in Architectural Studies are made directly to the school via the Registry Department at Glasgow School of Art using the online application forms available on the website.

The application form will ask for the following information:

- Personal Details
- Academic Qualifications
- Language Qualifications (as appropriate)
- References
- Personal Statement
- Choice of Pathway



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On receipt of your completed application, registry will invite you to upload your Supporting Visual Materials via the Portfolio Upload site. Information about how to access the portfolio site and set your password will be sent by email. You should receive this around 4 working days after submitting your application. If you do not receive this, please contact registry: registry@gsa.ac.uk

Once your portfolio has been uploaded, the Mackintosh School of Architecture will be issued with your completed application and will assess your statement of purpose, references and portfolio of work.

Guidance on what evidence should be demonstrated is given on the following pages.



*Image: Tutorials in progress.
Grace and Clarke Fyfe Gallery, Bourdon Building*

Personal Statement

Your personal statement (500 to 700 words approx) should support your application to the Mackintosh School of Architecture and demonstrate your knowledge and interest in your chosen pathway. It should also give details of your experience to date, together with your architectural intentions, to establish the relevance of this to your chosen pathway.

Your statement should demonstrate evidence of:

Your motivation:

We are interested to know what your specific interests within the field of architecture are and how your studies and work in practice to date have influenced this. You may want to talk about any extra-curricular activities that are relevant.

Your awareness of the course and the city:

We would like to know what research you have undertaken about the course and why you think studying here in Glasgow and as part of Glasgow School of Art would suit you.

Reasons for choosing MSA:

We want to know why you think the Mackintosh School of Architecture aligns with your aspirations for this next stage of your academic development.



*Image: Degree Show Exhibition, 2023.
Stage 4*

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References

All applicants are asked to provide **2** references on headed paper:

- An academic reference
- A reference from practice. (If this is not relevant, a second academic reference should be provided)



*Image: Group Tutorials
Review Space, Bourdon Building*

Supporting Visual Material

Applicants are asked to upload supporting visual material in the form of a portfolio to accompany their application.

If you are applying for the History and Theory of the City pathway, two examples of academic writing and an outline research proposal should be submitted in lieu of a portfolio

Your portfolio should demonstrate the following:

- Your design and communication skills, and provide evidence of a range of design research, development and resolution through a variety of media.
- Evidence of awareness of the specialist pathway should be demonstrated.
- Self-explanatory evidence of design skill, technical knowledge, process and completed work
- Knowledge and experience of Architectural Technology is a mandatory component of a portfolio supporting an application to the Energy and Environment, Zero-energy Mass Customised Housing and Urban Building pathways but may also be included for other pathways.
- Where required, examples of academic writing, should be from degree level and demonstrate a knowledge of Architectural History and Theory, clarity in writing, formation of an argument through research and appropriate referencing.



*Image: CoLab Exhibition, 2023.
Grace and Clarke Fyfe Gallery, Bourdon Building*

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Invitation to interview

If your application passes an initial assessment, you will be invited to attend an interview. Interviews take place on the dates below and depend on submitting your full application by the specific gate deadline:

Gate 1 closes: 27th October 2023

Gate 1 interviews: 6th to 10th November 2023

Gate 1 decision: 24th November 2023

Gate 2 closes: 15th December 2023

Gate 2 interviews: 4th to 12th January 2024

Gate 2 decision: 19th January 2024

Gate 3 closes: 23rd February 2024

Gate 3 interviews: 11th to 15th March 2024

Gate 3 decision: 28th March 2024

Gate 4 closes: 23rd May 2024

Gate 4 interviews: 03rd to 7th June 2024

Gate 4 decision: 17th June 2024

The interview itself should last approximately 20 minutes and we programme a series of events around interview dates to give you a better insight into the ethos, character and day-to-day operation of the school.



*Image: Public Kitchen 2021
Masters Project*

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During your interview you will be assessed on the following criteria:

- **Ability to discuss architecture + responsiveness to interview**
- **Skills Range- 3D work, technology, observational skills, portfolio format etc.**
- **Evidence of work having a theoretical position and reference to a wider architectural context**
- **Design work at an appropriate degree of complexity and resolution**

Each criteria is assessed on the following 7 point scale:

1. Unsatisfactory evidence of required ability
2. Very limited evidence of required ability
3. Limited evidence of 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



*Image: Stage 5 Thesis Drawings
Courtesy of June Goh*

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Why do we interview?

The Mackintosh School of Architecture is one of the few institutions to have maintained an interview process for its Masters applicants. Whilst this means that you will not get an automatic offer from us as quickly as many other institutions, we understand that the decision in your choice of institution is an incredibly important one.

Our interview process is therefore as much about ensuring that you feel confident in your decision, that the Mackintosh School of Architecture will provide you with the kind of educational experience you are looking for, as it is for us to have the opportunity to ask you questions about your work and get to know you a little bit better as a person.



*Image: Model Making Workshop
Bourdon Building*

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What happens next?

After your interview, the Mackintosh School of Architecture will evaluate all the applications again, process these and return them to our Registry Department who liaise directly with you.

You will receive a formal offer (conditional or unconditional) or rejection from registry and you should receive this within the advertised timeframe (gate) associated with your application date.

If you have any queries at all, the architecture admissions team will be happy to help you. We can be contacted through our designated applicant email: architectureadmissions@gsa.ac.uk

If you experience any issues uploading material, please contact registry on registry@gsa.ac.uk as soon as possible.



*Image: Stage 5 research model, 2023.
Courtesy of John Pottage*

Frequently Asked Questions

Does this course provide exemption from Part 2 of RIBA/ARB Examination in Architecture?

No - applications should be made to the Diploma in Architecture if you wish to gain Part 2 exemption.

Where can I view examples of work from previous years?

Examples of work undertaken by students from across the School of Architecture can be found on our [2023 Graduate Showcase](#).

Do Masters students get their own studio space?

MArch students get their own desk and access to desktop computers within a dedicated open plan Masters studio space and access to workshop facilities across the GSA campus.

Any additional questions about the course or portfolio content should be addressed to the architecture department: architectureadmissions@gsa.ac.uk

Thank you for your interest in our programme and we look forward to receiving your application.

Hazel Wallace - Admissions Co-ordinator
Mackintosh School of Architecture 2023

