

Applying to MDes Sound for the Moving Image

Guidelines for Applicants



Image: Donald Barr, MDes
Sound for the Moving Image

Application Form

- Your application will be forwarded to assessors when you have submitted:
 - A completed postgraduate application form
 - A written personal statement
 - A portfolio (using the GSA online portfolio submission system as part of the application process)

Additional Information

- In addition you will also need to submit
 - Two references (ideally academic but one professional reference is also acceptable)
 - Evidence of academic qualifications
 - If English is not your first language evidence of English Language proficiency (IELTS certificate or equivalent)
 - A copy of your passport (if applicable)

 - Where possible submit all this information with the application form and personal statement

More information on accepted English language qualifications is available on GSA website:

<https://www.gsa.ac.uk/study/graduate-degrees/how-to-apply/>

Personal Statement Guide

Your personal statement (approx 300 - 500 words) should provide a concise, critical self-evaluation of your work and the reasons for wishing to join the programme at GSA, and how any professional experience you may have relates to the programme.

Portfolio (format)

- The uploaded files should contain a url to any sound or video files you may want to submit (please ensure this link does not expire before the assessment date).
- Links may be to a portfolio website, YouTube channel, Vimeo, DropBox folder, SoundCloud, or other host.
- Downloadable audio format should be WAV, AIFF or high-quality MP3.
- Downloadable video format should be quicktime MOV or MP4 encoded. All video submissions should be playable on the VLC video player or similar.

Portfolio (Content)

- Five examples of audio or audio-visual work you have produced, recorded, composed or been involved creatively in realising
- These examples can be recorded music, composed music, soundscapes or sound design, short films, video art, MaxMSP/PD patches, documentation of audio-visual installations or written music scores.
- If you require further clarification please contact the programme leader Ronan Breslin at r.breslin@gsa.ac.uk

Application

- Academic Qualifications/ Relevant experience meet our entry criteria
 - A first degree in a related subject – audio technology, film and video technology, music technology, music, sound production, film studies, composition, any audio or video based course, fine art with significant AV content .
 - OR A first degree in any subject with additional evidence of experience in audio, music or film/video - the portfolio is crucial here.
 - OR Extensive professional experience in audio, music, film/video
- Interest and motivation to study Sound for Moving Image
- Evidence of knowledge and interest in the programme
- If your application is reliant on extensive professional experience your personal statement should demonstrate how you believe this will enable you to complete the programme successfully

We aim to interview all applicants who meet (or are likely to meet) academic criteria of good first degree or equivalent professional experience

Assessment Criteria

Portfolio Criteria

Portfolio & Interview criteria scored from 1 (Very Poor) to 7 (Excellent)

- Technical quality: absence of distortion, clicks and pops; well-balanced audio mixes; consistent levels
- Aesthetics and originality: innovative sound design; inventive use of music; strong synergy between audio and images, considered use of narrative
- Range of work: diversity and scope of creative approaches; flexibility in working practice
- Potential: aptitude and capacity to further develop as a creative practitioner within sound and/or music for the moving image.

Interview Criteria

- All applications with successful portfolio are interviewed
- Interviews will be held on Zoom by default, but in-person interviews can be requested
 - Students who can't attend via zoom should get in touch to request an alternative (telephone/ in-person)
- Criteria are your ability to:
 - apply practical skills
 - apply analytical and conceptual skills
 - communicate about your work & put it into context
 - demonstrate an interest in the programme and specialist area applied for

Interview Criteria

- For candidates with a strong portfolio & statement, an offer may be made *without* interview;
- Anyone receiving an offer without interview is welcome to arrange a short 1-1 online meeting to meet the programme leader and discuss the programme