

Master of Letters in Art Writing

Guidelines for Applicants

Where can I find out more about the programme?

- You can meet GSA for Advice & Introductions at On Campus and Virtual Open Days and during more informal Meet your Department sessions taking place throughout the year.
- You can find useful information about the MLitt Art Writing Programme via the weblinks below. You should be aware of the focus of the programme you are applying to, its structure and content, as well as the opportunities available to you during your studies. It is important to make sure that the programme you are applying to meets your expectations.

[Programme overview on GSA website](#)

[Programme and course specifications](#)

Entry Requirements

- Normally a UK BA Hons degree (or its international equivalent) in a relevant subject area (e.g. Contemporary Art Practice/Theory, Art History, Creative Writing, Literature, Critical Studies, Museum and Curatorial Studies).
- If you do not meet these entry requirements, we may still consider your application on the basis of your portfolio and or relevant professional experience.

English Language Entry Requirements

- GSA expects applicants to demonstrate proficiency in the English language. International applicants will normally be expected to provide evidence of attainment equivalent to International English Language Test (IELT) for UKVI Academic from a UKVI approved test centre.
- The MLitt in Art Writing programme requires a score of 6.5 overall, with a minimum of 6.0 in each component.
- GSA's preferred test is the IELTS for UKVI (Academic) test taken at a UKVI approved test centre. A full list of [UKVI approved test centres](#) and [other tests](#) that may be presented are available on the GSA website.
- GSA also offer Pre-sessional English course called ['English for Creative Disciplines'](#). Entry requirements and course content can be found on our website.

Deadline dates

- The programme begins in September. Although there are no application deadlines early application is encouraged in order to ensure a place on the programme.
- **Guaranteed Review**
- All complete applications received by the Standard 1 deadline to apply of **26 January 2024** will be reviewed. Where programmes are over-subscribed, we cannot guarantee to review applications received after this date.
- Applications are reviewed on a cyclical basis from October – August as shown below. Your application will need to be complete (part 1 and 2) by the date shown to enter the next review.
- **GSA scholarships**

Students wishing to apply for a GSA scholarship should ensure their application is submitted by the Standard 2 deadline of **8 March 2024**. This ensures they have time to receive an offer of their place, this is required in advance of submitting scholarship application.

	Final date for applicants to submit application	Final date for decision to be with applicant
Early	10 th November 2023	8 th December 2023
Standard 1	26 th January 2024	8 th March 2024
Standard 2	8 th March 2024	26 th April 2024
Late	7 th June 2024	19 th July 2024
	Applications received after 19 th July 2024	Rolling basis after 19 th July 2024
	Final date for applicants requiring a visa is 26th July 2024	

Starting an Application

- Your application to study for a postgraduate programme at GSA is in two parts:
 - Part 1. Application form, references and academic certificates/transcripts
 - Part 2. [Upload Digital portfolio of work and personal statement.](#)
- You can [start an application on the GSA website](#). Once you have completed part 1 of the application process, GSA will acknowledge your application and you will be sent login information for our Digital Portfolio site the next working day.
- You are advised to upload your portfolio prior to the next [deadline date](#) to ensure it is assessed as early as possible.

Structure of Application Process

- Applicants submit application form and upload **Supporting Material** (Portfolio, Max. 1,500 words) and 500 word personal statement to **GSA website**.
- Academic staff assess all applications against a set of criteria.
- Applicants are informed of one of two things:
 - i) They have been shortlisted and invited for an online interview OR
 - ii) The application has been unsuccessful.
- If offered an interview, candidates will be asked a number of set questions applied to all candidates. Following the interview they will be informed of one of these outcomes:
 - i) An **Unconditional Offer**. ii) A **Conditional Offer** iii) An **Unsuccessful** outcome.

How is my application assessed?

All applications are assessed by Academic staff against the same criteria. A points system is used which ranges from 1 – 7 and is applied to the criteria for both the E-portfolio and the interview

If you are unsuccessful, you can request feedback from Registry on how you scored in relation to the criteria of the portfolio and/or interview.

Scoring System

- 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

Assessment Criteria

Candidates for all pathways are assessed on their existing qualities as demonstrated in their:

1. Qualifications and relevant experience.
2. Quality of personal statement.
3. Quality of portfolio, including range of work, skills and research interests.
4. Potential for development within the programme.

Digital Portfolio

- All applicants are required to submit a digital portfolio. Your portfolio will be assessed by academic staff and should contain examples of work that shows an understanding and level of skill appropriate to the programme you are applying to. The portfolio should also communicate your individual abilities, experiences and interests.
- You may include early work, but you are encouraged to focus on recent work made/published during the last 3 years.
- The word-count limit is 1,500 words, please be aware that specialist staff will look at your portfolio for approximately 15 minutes. Make sure that you curate your submission, so they will be able to assess your portfolio in the way you wish to present yourself.
- Guidelines for the [contents of your digital portfolio](#) and [how to upload](#) are included on the following slides.

Uploading your Digital Portfolio

You will be asked to submit your Digital Portfolio in the following format.

- 4 URL links
- PDF submission (optional)

Your Digital Portfolio should include a selection of your writing practice, creative critical writing [including non-published, independently accredited or self-published work], moving image work, painting, performance and sound-based work. The portfolio may provide links to external websites or blogs should this be appropriate.

If including work published on websites, or image/sound/video work please ensure access to these websites are not password protected and will not expire during the admissions cycle. Moving Image/Sound clips must be limited to a maximum of three minutes.

A link to your professional website can be included, however this should supplement the digital portfolio.

What should I include in my digital portfolio?

The digital portfolio should:

1. Demonstrate your individual interests, approach and creativity
2. Clearly present your research methods and routes
3. Show the links between your research and development of ideas
4. Where relevant, include evidence of your working process
5. Include fully resolved work
6. Show an awareness and understanding of the context for the work.

Programme of Study Proposal

Please note that this will show as a 'Personal Statement' on the GSA Application Form.

For this programme you should submit your 'Programme of Study' in place of the 'Personal Statement'.

- **Your Programme of Study Proposal should consist of no more than 500 words. Proposals that are longer may not be fully read.**
- It should be a concise, critical, self-evaluation of your work, giving a clear sense of the key areas that your work explores, how you see your work developing in the future and how that relates to your application to the MLitt Art Writing programme at GSA. The statement should demonstrate that you have researched the programme and identified areas for future development within your practice

You may also use the additional 500 word Portfolio Statement on the Digital Portfolio site to expand upon a particular project or piece of work included in your Digital Portfolio.

Interview

- If you have been shortlisted you will be invited to interview via Zoom (or telephone if required).
- The interview is a two-way process; for you to gain a better understanding of GSA and your chosen programme, and for academic staff to find out more about you and your work.
- The interview will normally take approximately 20 minutes and will be conducted by academic staff from the MLitt Art Writing programme.

How to prepare:

- Know where everything is in your portfolio. You will be expected to talk confidently about your work.
- Read any guidance documents provided with your invite to interview.
- Prepare questions to ask the interviewer about the programme, GSA or life in Glasgow.
- Prepare to talk about your interests and your experiences to date.

Interview practicalities

In advance of an interview please ensure we can contact you at the agreed day and time.

How to prepare:

- Confirm the interview with GSA and provide your contact details.
- Ensure you have an internet connection which will support video calling.
- Find a quiet space where you will not be disturbed.
- Your digital portfolio should be easily accessible as you will be asked to talk about it.
- If you have been provided contact details for a GSA staff member, add these to your account in advance of the interview.
- Interviews will be conducted within the working hours of GSA, Monday-Friday 9am-5pm (GMT).

Interview Assessment Criteria

Candidates are assessed at interview on their existing qualities as demonstrated in their:

1. Ability to discuss work and research interests.
2. Awareness of the broader field of contemporary fine art practice.
3. Critical awareness of potential for development.

Further Information

[How to apply GSA webpage](#)

[List of Postgraduate degrees at GSA](#)

[GSA Open Events](#)

[Fees, Funding and Finance](#)

[Accommodation](#)

[Individual country guides](#)

[UKVI Requirements - Student Visa requirements](#)

[English for Creative Disciplines](#)

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