

## **Master of Fine Art Programme Leader (1.0FTE)**

### The Glasgow School of Art

The Glasgow School of Art is one of Europe's leading independent university-level institutions for the visual creative disciplines. Our studio-based, specialist, practice-led learning and research draws talented individuals with a shared passion for visual culture and creative production from all over the world.

Originally founded in 1845, today we have 2150 students studying across architecture, design, digital, fine art and history and theory. As we develop new academic programmes and enhance our areas of expertise and inter-disciplinarity, our ambition towards 2018 is to grow our student community in Glasgow by 25%, and continue to grow our research profile and campuses in Singapore and the Scottish Highlands and Islands. Our internationalisation strategy is embedded across our academic programmes and research, connecting the GSA with some of the world's leading universities and specialist higher education institutions.

Recognised by the Scottish Funding Council as an independent, specialist institution the GSA is an important and integral part of Scotland's higher education provision. Working in partnership with universities across Scotland and the UK, our degree programmes are validated by the University of Glasgow. The University of Glasgow has validated our programmes since 1992 and whilst the Senate of the University has ultimate responsibility for the awards, there is maximum delegation to the GSA for its own quality assurance procedures. The School, through its Academic Council, is also responsible for the development, monitoring, evaluation and updating of its academic framework.

Our 185 academic staff, 80% of which are research active, form a strong creative community united in the ambition to see GSA positioned as a global leader in studio based research and teaching, transforming thinking by developing creative approaches with new audiences, locally, nationally and internationally. As one of the UK's largest and most intensive research communities for the visual creative disciplines, GSA's research activity is clustered into the following interdisciplinary themes:

- Contemporary art and curating
- Architecture, urbanism and the public sphere
- Design innovation
- Digital visualisation
- Education in art, design and architecture
- Health and wellbeing
- Material culture
- Sustainability

Moving forward GSA has ambitious plans to develop its research profile further through internal collaboration and new partnerships with National and International Organisations. We recognise the distinctive contribution made by visual creative disciplines within the rapidly growing interdisciplinary research agenda and seek to position GSA as a global leader in this field. This will involve development and mentoring of GSA's own research talent, recruitment of the best new staff, the securing of higher levels of external research funding to support research projects and

further growth in the scale and activity of GSA's PhD community.

While we are firmly rooted in Glasgow, one of Europe's leading creative cities, we are international in outlook with one of the UK's highest percentages of international students and one of Scotland's largest percentages of students from the rest of the UK. Over the last five years over £65 million has been invested in our estates including the recently opened Reid Building. Further investment is currently being planned which will create a cohesive creative campus with the iconic Mackintosh Building at its core.

We have a total income of over £30m, and our aim is to cultivate conditions in which the GSA can continue to achieve great things through what we do, with whom we do it and through creative approaches, build on our existing strengths and distinctive assets, in order to:

- Achieve excellence and leadership in student-centred studio-based learning
- Engage with new audiences through inter-disciplinary research
- Extend our global reach and creative engagement
- Be a robust and efficient institution – maximising our resources and our potential

### The School of Fine Art

The School of Fine Art is a primary source of energy and creativity for the City of Glasgow and its contemporary art communities. The city's international reputation as a centre for art and artists has been developed, built on and is sustained by our graduates and staff who continue to reflect art's most innovative practices along with Glasgow's histories and traditions.

Our educational aim is to establish a practice-led enquiry through which students come to generate their own independent artistic practice and appreciate the various means of artistic production, whilst gaining insights through historical, critical and theoretical study.

Whilst the School holds the responsibility for the effective operation of its programmes of study and deployment of its resources, it is also responsible, collectively, for the maintenance of debate, scholarship and activities that ensure its continuing relevance to its students and its place within local, national and international contexts.

The School comprises four postgraduate programmes and one undergraduate programme, which is made up of four departments; Fine Art Photography, Painting and Printmaking, Sculpture and Environmental Art and Art, Context and Theory. The combination of highly experienced and qualified academic, technical and administrative staff constitutes an expert community with the capability and ambition to provide the best in education, research and practice.

The Master of Fine Art programme was instituted in 1987 and has an excellent international reputation having fostered numerous Turner Prize nominees and winners. Graduates of the programme are working within the creative industries across the globe. The programme has a core staff team of four, which the programme leader will line manage and a programme of visiting lecturers throughout the year. It is a two-year multi-disciplinary programme with a cohort across the two years of 54 students, with British, European as well as international students attending.

## The Role

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Job Title	Master of Fine Art Programme Leader
Location	School of Fine Art, Glasgow, Scotland
Reports to	Head of the School of Fine Art
Purpose	<p>The candidate will have an extensive knowledge of Fine Art both as a practitioner and an educationalist in the Higher Education sector.</p> <p>To provide artistic and academic leadership to ensure the Master of Fine Art programme and its curriculum remain relevant for postgraduate students aiming to contribute to the contemporary world of art.</p> <p>To be responsible for the success of the programme and to contribute to the success of the School of Fine Art and Glasgow School of Art through an outstanding knowledge and experience of current developments in academic and creative sectors.</p> <p>To seek ways of developing postgraduate provision in order to extend access locally, nationally and internationally to those with the ability to benefit from Fine Art study.</p> <p>To contribute to the research and knowledge transfer profile of the Glasgow School of Art through actively engaging in and supporting its research and knowledge transfer activity. The chosen candidate will be expected to actively contribute to the Schools research community.</p> <p>To play a full and active part in the work of the School of Fine Art Senior Management Team (SMT).</p>

### **Principal Accountabilities**

#### Academic:

The principal accountabilities of the post include the leadership of the Master of Fine Art programme. This includes attendance at the Postgraduate Team meetings, overseeing and developing the Master of Fine Art curriculum (in line with the School vision), managing the learning and teaching within the programme and the coordination of the Master of Fine Art degree show. Of integral importance will be maintaining and ensuring current standards and further developing the Health and Safety protocols within the School.

The Master of Fine Art Programme Leader will have an excellent understanding of current Fine Art practices, and be able to clearly articulate what those are. They will also be able to identify future strategies for development within artistic practice. The Master of Fine Art Programme leader will lead on all developments (in line with the strategic planning of the School) within the Master of Fine Art programme.

The Master of Fine Art Programme Leader will manage operational issues within the Master of Fine Art programme to ensure the effective development, delivery, quality assurance and enhancement of the programme and they will interface, as appropriate, with academic and regulatory bodies (e.g. QAA, University of Glasgow). This will also include the implementation of core developments within the programme

relating to The Glasgow School of Art learning and teaching, quality assurance and internationalisation as well as other School wide strategies.

As the Master of Fine Art Programme Leader the successful candidate will engage with staff, students, partners and other stakeholders to deliver the vision of the programme within the School of Fine Art. The post will also require the Master of Fine Art Programme Leader to engage fully with quality assurance mechanisms, with relevance to Enhancement Led Institutional Review, Periodic Review and engagement with enhancement themes.

The Master of Fine Art Programme Leader will also teach into the programme as defined through activity planning with the Head of School as well as teaching across other postgraduate programmes where defined. The Master of Fine Art Programme Leader will be research active will seek to work alongside a research group or cluster defined in line with The Glasgow School of Art research strategies any other duties will be designated by the Head of School as appropriate.

### **Management – Operational and Strategic:**

The Master of Fine Art Programme Leader will represent and actively promote the School of Fine Art and The Glasgow School of Art locally, nationally and internationally, including recruitment, collaborations and attendance at institutional events. This will also include the generation of external income, either through research or learning and teaching activities.

The MFA Programme Leader will work closely with the Head of the School of Fine Art and the postgraduate programme team to provide an enthusiastic, encouraging and challenging learning experience to all students of the School of Fine Art with particular reference to the Master of Fine Art, the MFA Programme Leader will also have overall responsibility for the recruitment, admission and assessment of all students on the programme. The MFA Programme leader will also undertake career reviews and ensure staff development activities where appropriate.

The Master of Fine Art Programme Leader will actively engage with the ongoing quality enhancement of the students learning experience within the programme, the School of Fine Art and the GSA. This will also include undertaking duties associated with the pastoral care of students, including referring to support services where appropriate.

Further operational duties within the School of Fine Art will include:

- Representing the School of Fine Art at committees and meetings within and out-with the school as directed by the Head of School;
- Acting as Health and Safety Champion, practising and promoting health and safety awareness and monitoring safety related functions in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and relevant School H&S policies and procedures. This includes carrying out risk assessments, providing adequate training and the appointment of Fire Marshalls within area of responsibility to ensure the health and safety of all Staff, Students and Visitors;
- Assisting in the review and update of local Health & Safety procedures and guidance;
- Ensuring all staff within your area are aware of their duties and responsibilities regarding Health and Safety and are adequately trained to carry out those duties;
- Being an active member of the School Health & Safety Committee;

- Actively promoting and encouraging equal opportunities and widening participation;
- Undertaking administrative duties commensurate with the role.

Other strategic duties include the development of the core programme in line with external research, professional developments and quality assurance/enhancement frameworks as well as contributing to maximising opportunities, where appropriate, for cross-school activity and growth, and the development of new, interdisciplinary areas of study.

The MFA Programme leader will also be committed to the development of the profile for GSA programmes, including international profile, projects and partnerships, and enhance the School's reputation as a leading centre for study in the creative disciplines. They will also support the continued development and delivery of employability and work related learning.

Alongside the key points outlined above the Master of Fine Art Programme leader will also contribute to the strategic planning of the School of Fine Art and support the income generating activities of the School of Fine Art, actively seeking and exploiting opportunities for current and future income generation within the area of expertise.

Personal:

- The post-holder will be required to maintain their artistic research profile, locally, nationally and internationally.
- In consultation with the Head of School the MFA Programme Leader will undertake appropriate personal and professional development, in support of their role.

### **Relationships:**

Internal Contacts:

- Head of School of Fine Art
- Deputy Head of the School of Fine Art
- Undergraduate Programme Team
- Postgraduate Programme Leaders
- Heads of Departments (undergraduate)
- Registry and Student Support Services
- Professional Support Staff

External Contacts:

- Applicants to the programme of study
- Higher Education Institutions
- Local, national and international peers in Fine Art practice
- Local, national and international curators and critics

Person Specification

Experience and knowledge

- Educated to postgraduate level or equivalent
- A PhD is desirable or equivalent experience
- Excellent understanding of current debates, trends and issues relating to the subject
- Demonstrable experience of practice and research in the domain of Fine Art Practice
- Excellent understanding of Learning and Teaching in relation to Fine Art in Higher Education
- Experience of working with students at postgraduate level
- Evidence of management experience in the context of Higher Art Education
- Active researcher with an established profile in the field and the ability to contribute to the School's research themes
- Experience of curriculum design and development and quality enhancement/assurance
- A record of knowledge transfer activities understood as engagement with industry or the public

Skills

- Strong team-working and collaboration skills
- Understanding of current debates, trends and issues relating to the subject
- Strong communication skills
- Passion for learning and creativity
- Personal drive and desire to develop new areas of research and educational activity
- Adaptability and multi-disciplinary outlook to work with staff and students in different departments across the School
- Awareness of, and sensitivity to, cultural diversity
- Commitment to equal opportunities and widening participation

**Terms and Conditions**

Activity Plan	Duties and pattern of working will be set out in an Activity Plan. The plan will include: jointly agreed objectives including milestones and outcomes and an appropriate balance of teaching, research, consultancy, scholarly activity, personal development and other possible activities within the duties of an academic.
Staff Development	A minimum of five days (pro rata) are guaranteed under HE2000 terms and conditions. However, the School is committed to encouraging staff development for all its employees which is to the benefit of the individual as well as the Institution as a whole.
Contract	Permanent
Probationary Period	It is recognised that there is an inevitable 'settling in' period in any post. The probationary period is therefore an opportunity for the employee to fit within the culture of the School. It should also be determined during this time whether the job is in line with expectations as expressed in pre-appointment discussions, interview and as set out in the Job Description. The probationary period for this role is one year.
Hours of Work	35 hours per week
Salary	Grade 8 £47,801 - £55,389 per annum
Holidays	35 days plus 11 statutory holidays per annum
Pension	Option to join Scottish Teachers Superannuation Scheme
Notice Period	3 months