

Evaluating the impact of a partnership approach at the Glasgow School of Art

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September 2025

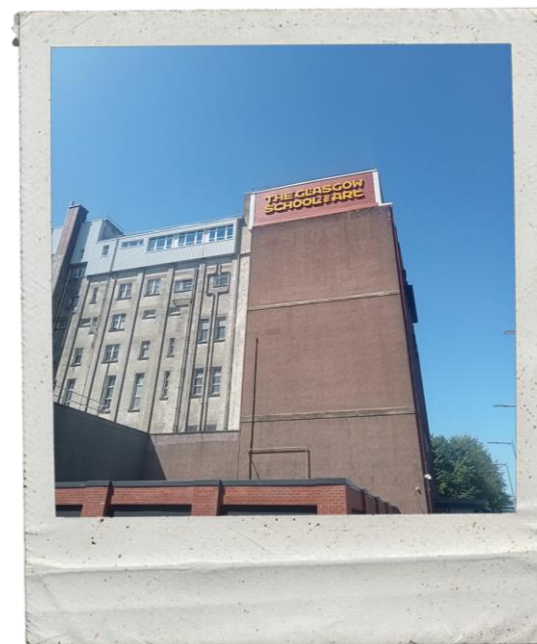
**THE GLASGOW
SCHOOL OF ART**

**GSA Students'
Association**

GSA & GSASA Student Partnership Agreement

Our SPA sets the strategic objective and vision to:

- Empower and support our diverse student body to be partners in the enhancement of L&T and the wider experience
- Grow our understanding of students' learning experiences.
- Foster a sense of trust, honesty and reciprocity between students and staff.
- Identify and deliver a range of partnership projects.
- Celebrate our successes and share our learning with students, staff and the wider art, design and higher education community



GSA & GSASA Student Partnership Agreement

Evaluating Partnerships

- Benefits to individual partners: development of leadership, communication skills, creativity, self-awareness
- Benefits to practice: more inclusive teaching practices, opportunities for creativity
- Challenges to partnership: cultures, structures, practices, and norms; inclusive engagement

(Mercer-Mapstone et al, 2017)

How to evaluate our SPA?

1. Indicators of success
2. Scotland's Ambition for Student Partnership (sparqs)
3. Championing a culture of partnership

1. Indicators of success

	All institutional committees and groups have appropriate student representation	100%
	At least 80% of student representatives participate in appropriate induction and training for their role	74%
	The diversity of our student representatives reflect the diversity of our student population	Lower representation from 40 yr+ and non-White backgrounds
	We achieve at least a 50% participation rate in our annual Student Rep survey	Withdrawn
	At least 80% of student reps feel valued, supported and listened too.	Consultation event to come
	Achieve at least 70% satisfaction with all Student Voice items within the National Student Survey and Student Experience Surveys	80% SES 69% NSS

2. Scotland's Ambition for SP

Strategically planned	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No action required
Effective students' association	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding of school's strategies and students' interests• Possibility to disagree
Diversity of student voices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partnership activities and mechanisms designed to be accessible• Specific activities for students with additional barriers• Not just removing barriers but actively enriching the wider student experience through diversity
Training and professional development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training of the student representatives• Ongoing programme for senior student reps, external and national events, support decision-making
Solutions focused	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meeting the diverse needs
Genuine dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Informal spaces and pre-committee meetings with staff and students• Regular communication channels
Recognition and reward	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multiple approaches of recognising and rewarding students• Skills acquired during partnership activities certificated and accredited• Events and activities celebrating student success (awards and social activities)• An embedded system recording and measuring the effectiveness of partnership
Communication of actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A strategic and coherent approach to communication• Student informed of changes

3. Championing a Culture of Partnership

“There are clearly important aspects of higher education which are not easily measurable or quantifiable - what we term our intangible assets.”

(Robertson et al. 2018; Smart et al, 2020)

Student Partnership case studies at the GSA

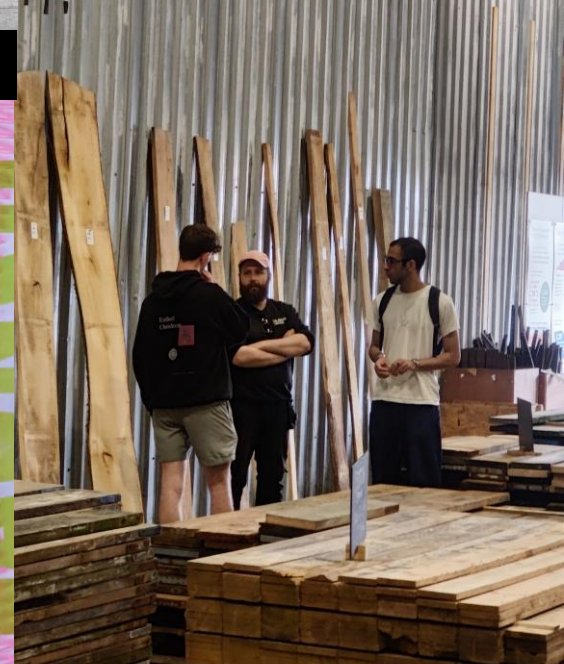
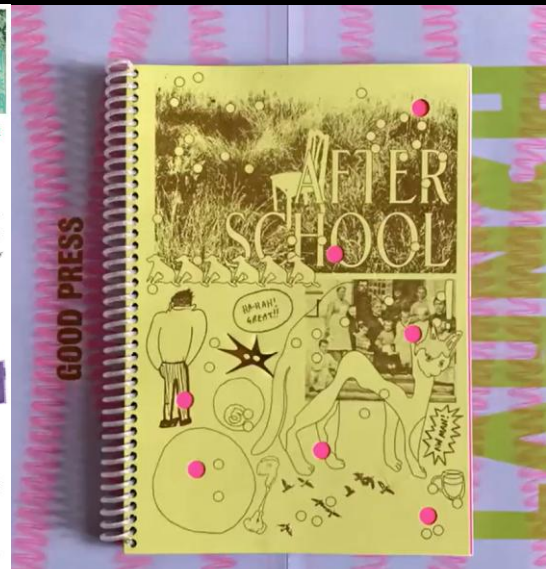
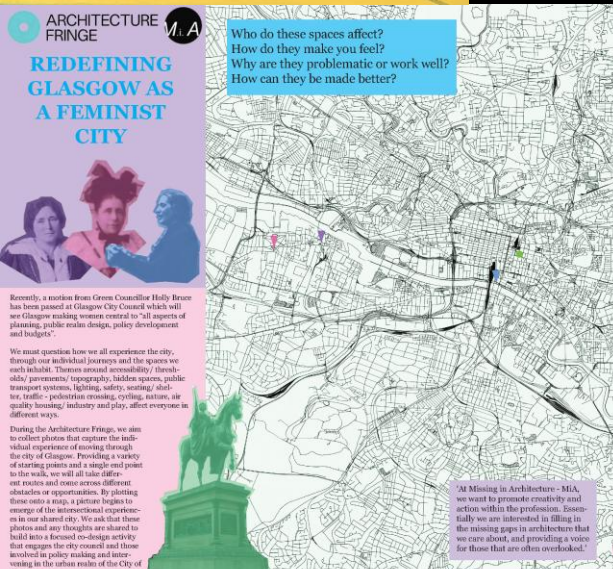
- 1. Student Partnership Project Fund**
- 2. Student Consultants / School Officers**
- 3. GSASA x GSA**



This is not a biography*

AN ANTHOLOGY OF BIOGRAPHICAL FICTIONING
Edited by Laura Haynes, Alice Hill-Woods & Kate Timney

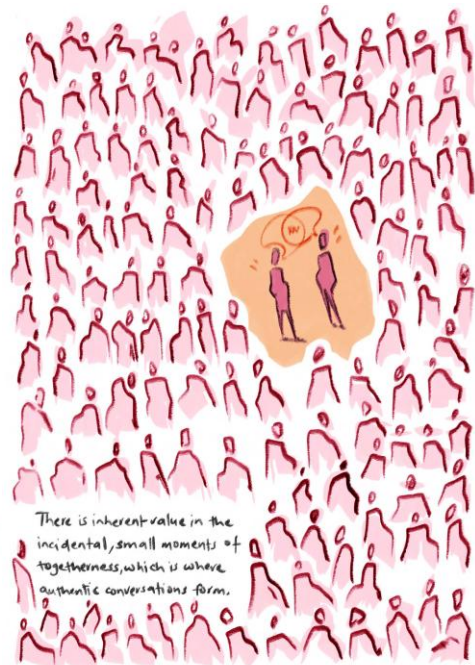
The Yellow Paper



Supported by the Student Partnership Project Fund (left to right, top to bottom):
Laura Haynes, Alice Hill-Woods & Kate Timney, *An Anthology of Biographical Fictioning* (2023); Iona Taylor & Anthony Coffield, *The Dance* (2025); Jonathan Keen & Calum Matheson, *Vinyl Nightmare* (2023); Abby Hopes and Miranda Webster, *Redefining Glasgow as a feminist city* (2023); Nikos Ho & Ruth Kirby, *Collaborative Publishing Practice* (2023); Ayopo Olatunji & Robert Mantho, *Chairs for the Mackintosh Architecture Students' Society* (2024).

A STUDENT PARTNERSHIP COLLECTION

CURRICULUM CONVERSATIONS (A model)



There is inherent value in the incidental, small moments of togetherness, which is where authentic conversations form.

"You'll find most of the things to be pretty straightforward. But if you don't, don't be afraid to ask. For example, I struggled mostly with Canvas, but asked IT and Library Services for support and they were extremely helpful."

GETTING BY THE FIRST FEW WEEKS

BALANCING LIFE AND UNIVERSITY

"One of the biggest challenges will be carving time for yourself, but you deserve it. Plan with your deadlines in mind and trust that you have all the tools to get there."

PREPARING FOR THE NEXT STAGE

"You'll feel more confident and that will make it easier. You'll have shared experiences and connections with people which will give you a sense of belonging. You'll also have more skills and knowledge for the next stages."

GETTING STARTED

"I was very happy and proud to start at USA. I worked hard to get here. I would tell everyone to ask questions. I always ask questions. I want to get the most out of this experience."

BUILDING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

"It takes time building a community when you are in a new academic experience, intertwined with personal life changes and work responsibilities. It doesn't happen automatically. It will organically build up."

ASKING FOR SUPPORT

"Everyone here wants us to succeed. It's also a success for tutors and staff to help us get through our studies."



Direct Spaces, 2nd Floor, GSASA Assembly Building, 20 Scott Street, GPE, Tuesday 14th - Thursday 23rd May 2024 @thegsasa



christmas market christmas market christmas market

**Thursday 28th November +
Friday 29th November
11am-5pm**

**support student
artists and find
the perfect gift!**

**20 Scott St
Glasgow G3 6PE**

**GSA Students'
Association**

The Glasgow School of Art Student Mental Health Agreement 2022 - 2024



THE SUN NO LONGER
SETTING AT 4PM.

I AM NOT A NATION-STATE Leanne Betasamosake Simpson

in conversation with Nat Raha

3 - 4.30pm Wednesday 13th November 2024

Bourdon Lecture Theatre (Second Floor)

GSA Bourdon Building, Scott St Glasgow G3 6RQ

Free but ticketed - Book via Eventbrite

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Arika



Memory and Preservation: Revisiting Black Women's Photo Archives

an online conversation
Pelumi Odubango & Beulah Ezeugo

6 - 7pm Thursday 11th July 2024

Online Conversation (Zoom)

Free but ticketed - Book via Eventbrite

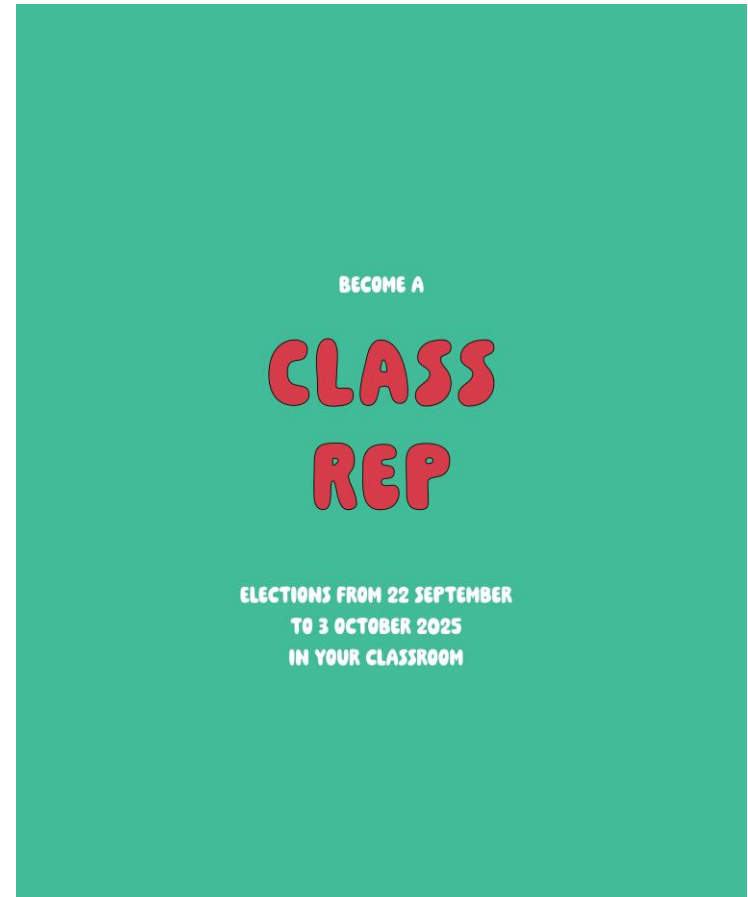
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What next?

- New Student Partnership Agreement
- Priorities:
 - Closing the feedback loop
 - Understanding Student Partnership
 - Student democracy at the GSA



Class Representatives are elected students representing the views and experiences of students on their programme. Gain experience in advocacy and professional skills through engagement with committees and representational activities. Put yourself forward as a candidate.

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More information on the
Student Voice Canvas site
[https://canvas.gsa.ac.uk/
courses/2745](https://canvas.gsa.ac.uk/courses/2745)



References

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