

## **DISABILITY STATEMENT**

### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: POLICY**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

##### **1.1**

The Glasgow School of Art is committed to the implementation of a policy to achieve equality of opportunity for all its students.

##### **1.2**

The School endorses good practice with regards to the access and progress of students

##### **1.3**

School is working towards ensuring that students with disabilities realise their potential.

##### **1.4**

This policy applies to the experience of any current or potential student who has additional needs arising from a disability, for example through sensory or physical impairment, medical or mental health conditions or specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia.

#### **2. ADMISSIONS**

##### **2.1**

The School will actively encourage, and clearly publicise, that it welcomes applications from students with disabilities.

##### **2.2**

Applications from all candidates will be considered on individual merit.

##### **2.3**

Application procedures will encourage applicants to provide information concerning specific needs. This will include any relevant documentation.

##### **2.4**

Admissions procedures will provide opportunities for applicants to discuss specific support requirements in detail and assess the suitability of the School's provision.

## 2.5

Any discussion of support requirements will be separate from consideration of an applicant's suitability for the course.

## 2.6

In the arrangement of interviews due regard will be given to the particular requirements of the applicant.

## 2.7

Clear information will be available regarding support facilities and physical access to buildings.

## 2.8

If for any reason the School is unable to meet an applicant's requirements, the applicant will be given essential feedback to facilitate an alternative choice of course or institution. In such a case a record will be kept by the School of any reasons and this record will be used to inform future policy and development.

# 3. TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT

## 3.1

Care will be taken to monitor course organisation and teaching to enable the best possible opportunities for participation by students with disabilities.

## 3.2

Heads of Departments will be responsible except where they have designated another member of staff:

- a) Discussing the course with individual applicants. This would include the teaching and learning activities entailed to ensure that the applicant's learning support and other needs are identified and provision made.
- b) Ensuring that in each year of study essential information about a student's requirements is communicated to all staff involved in their education: including, for example, cross over projects and visiting staff. The nature of this information will be negotiated with the student and passed on with the student's permission.
- c) Ensuring that there is a clear mechanism in place for each student with a disability to discuss any emerging needs and agree appropriate actions to address those needs.

## 3.3

The purpose of any additional support or special arrangements shall be to compensate for any restriction imposed by the disability. It will not otherwise advantage the student or affect the validity of work or its assessment. Particular arrangements may need to be approved by the Academic Standards Committee.

## **4. STUDENT SUPPORT**

### **4.1**

The School will endeavour to enable participation by students with disabilities in all aspects of School life on equal terms with other students.

### **4.2**

Subject to the level of resources at the School's disposal, a continuing programme of improvement to the physical environment, equipment provision, administrative and learning support services will be implemented to support the full and effective involvement of students with disabilities.

## **5. STAFF SUPPORT**

### **5.1**

The School will support through its staff development programme, initiatives which increase the confidence and develop the skills of all staff working with students with disabilities.

### **5.2**

The School will actively encourage the sharing of good practise and expertise.

## **6. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING**

### **6.1**

The School will seek to involve students with disabilities in the development of services and policy at all times.

### **6.2**

This policy will be achieved through the development of more detailed priorities, policies and procedures as a result of school wide consultation and the establishment of a steering group on disability issues.

### 6.3

All policy and procedures will be monitored at every level of the committee structure of the School and through annual plans/reports.