

Graduate Scholarship Programme

Created by [University of Salford Art Collection](#) in collaboration with our professional partners: [Castlefield Gallery](#), [Hot Bed Press](#), [Islington Mill](#), [Paradise Works](#)

Aim of the programme:

Organised by the University of Salford Art Collection with Castlefield Gallery, and in collaboration with our professional partners, the Graduate Scholarship Programme (GSP) was established in 2014 to support artists in the crucial period after graduation.

The programme runs for up to 18 months, and grants Scholars time, resources and the opportunity to develop their practice and shape their careers within a supportive framework. It aims to encourage artists to remain connected to Salford whilst developing professional practice and skills within the artist community. It is a unique opportunity to gain vital industry experience.

The core programme (including access to studio spaces where applicable, and all development sessions) runs for 12 months from August/September; the mentoring takes place towards the end of the year and can run for a further 6-8 months. Many artists choose to remain in Salford and Greater Manchester and all become part of our alumni network, with access to further opportunities such as taking part in The Manchester Contemporary Art Fair.

Previous participants

In previous years we have supported students graduating from Fine Art, Photography, Fashion Image Making and Styling, as well as Graphics, Performance and Music based courses. The programme evolves each year as we endeavour to offer bespoke opportunities to each cohort. We award scholarships to the candidates we think we can best support, generally within the broad context of contemporary art and socially engaged practices.

In 2025 we awarded five places, you can read more about them here.

<https://artcollection.salford.ac.uk/2025/08/27/announcing-our-2025-graduate-scholars/>

What we offer:

The programme evolves each year depending on the cohort. As a guide we offer:

- Professional artist coaching with a trained and highly experienced coach
- Career, practice and professional development sessions delivered by a range of specialists
- 1-2-1 advisory sessions with Castlefield Gallery staff including the gallery Director Helen Wewiora and Curator Matthew Pendergast
- Studio group crit days with the Scholarship cohort, University of Salford Art Collection, Castlefield Gallery and studio partner representatives
- Mentoring from specialists including more established artists and arts professionals
- £1000 bursary which can be used for e.g. materials, equipment, expenses

- Studio space and studio support for 12 months, including e.g. Paradise Works, Hot Bed Press, Islington Mill and Castlefield Gallery New Art Spaces (paid for as part of the programme)
- Mentoring, coaching and professional guidance
- Regional and national research trips and introductions, sometimes including overnight stays and networking
- 12-month [Castlefield Gallery Associates](#) membership with access to all benefits.
- Opportunity to work and develop links with a peer group of new graduate artists, and build new professional relationships.
- Signposting to other opportunities through Castlefield Gallery, University of Salford Art Collection and wider partners.
- Opportunity to gift artwork to the [University of Salford Art Collection](#)

This year we are offering a maximum total of 5 places including:

- 1 *Print Scholarship*: individual studio space, with guided tour & induction sessions at [Hot Bed Press](#)
- 1 x Studio space at [Islington Mill](#) (any media)
- 1 x Studio space at [Paradise Works](#) (any media)
- Up to 2 further Scholarships for artists who will participate in the programme in full but not require a studio space in Salford. (In some cases it may be possible to access Castlefield Gallery New Art Spaces)

From the above a maximum of 1 Scholarship can be allocated for an *MA student* due to graduate in September this year.

What we are looking for:

We are looking for self-motivated applicants, open to continual learning and constructive challenge, who can and will commit to the programme for 18 months (on a part-time basis with the final 6 months being focused on mentoring only). Applicants are not expected to have a fixed plan as to what they would do during the programme, but must demonstrate a thirst to evolve their practice further post-graduation, with ideas and ambitions to explore in their chosen field, as well as the commitment and drive to make them happen and catalyse their careers.

We expect individuals to work both independently and collaboratively with those leading the programme in order to further their own development whilst also supporting their cohort of Scholars.

What we expect:

Successful candidates are expected to:

1. Sign a contract committing to participate actively in the core programme for 12 months from August 2026 – September 2027, and mentoring for an approximate further 6 months, and agreeing to repay all funds if they withdraw or do not fully participate in the programme, (dates subject to review).
2. Be open to continual learning and constructive challenge, to experiment with ideas and develop new work through the programme and catalyse their future careers. To be self-motivated and organised, and to be able to work independently as well as part of a group of peers and an extended group of arts professionals.
3. Commit to engage in a minimum of 80% of the core programme of coaching, career, practice and professional development sessions, 1-2-1 advisory sessions and mentoring, studio group crit days, and regional and national trips. You will be responsible for managing your own time.

4. Communicate effectively, professionally and in a timely way with the Scholarship team at the University of Salford Art Collection, Castlefield Gallery, and wider studio and individual professionals supporting the scheme.
5. At the end of the programme, in discussion with University Art Collection team (Lindsay Taylor and Stephanie Fletcher), gift work to the University Art Collection. This could be artwork - but equally could be documentation of projects, film, sound recordings or written proposals. Visit <http://artcollection.salford.ac.uk/> to learn more about the University's Art Collection.

Application Process & Eligibility

The *Graduate Scholarship Programme* is only open to University of Salford undergraduate students from the Salford School of Arts, Media and Creative Technology who will complete their undergraduate studies in May 2026 and to Masters students who are due to complete their programme of study in September 2026.

Applicants who will be undertaking further study at the time of the scholarship (e.g. starting an MA in 2026) will not be eligible.

Applications should be emailed to:

**To apply, send the form, your CV, and your artwork examples to:
K.Marchant@salford.ac.uk with the subject line "GSP Application"
by the deadline: 5pm on Friday 22nd May 2026.**

Please ensure that you:

1. Complete the attached application form (keep to the word count).
2. Send your CV (up to two pages)
3. Include images and/or video/sound files of your work (**maximum of 4 items**).

Please note:

- All files should be **clearly marked** with **your name, title(s) of work, description, medium and year of production**.
- Please do not send files more than 5MB. If you wish to submit larger files (e.g. video or sound) please send us a link.
- Do not send by direct WeTransfer links as these may not be received.

Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Accessibility:

We aim to remove barriers, bias or discrimination that prevents individuals or groups from realising their potential, and to develop organisational cultures that positively value diversity. If you have access needs and wish to discuss these in relation to the application and interview stage, or the opportunity more broadly, please contact: K.Marchant@salford.ac.uk in the first instance.

We are committed to equal opportunities and will work with the selected applicants to meet access requirements through reasonable adjustments during the programme. Where disclosures are made and access and support needs identified, there will be more detailed discussions after interview stage.

Care and consideration:

Please note: we approach the delivery of the programme with the aim of enacting care and consideration for all involved. To this end we operate a zero-tolerance policy towards hostile, disrespectful or abusive behaviour towards our staff, volunteers and others, in person, over the phone or via any other communications channels.

Selection process:

The selection will be made by a panel, chaired by the University Curator, and comprising of individuals representing the programme's partners and collaborators.