

Statement on Additional Funding for Research and Innovation in 2018/19

The Glasgow School of Art (GSA) welcomes the Scottish Funding Council's ongoing support for the research and innovation undertaken and supported by the Scottish HE sector, and in particular the additional funding allocated to the REG and UIF for academic year 2018/19. We are pleased to provide this statement outlining how the significant increase to UIF investment will enhance GSA's activities in this area, and support our contribution to HE's collective role in improving Scotland's innovation performance. We will do so by:

- enhancing our existing capacity and programme of activities
- developing new provision
- collaborating with other HE providers towards common objectives, including those coordinated through the Universities Scotland Research and Commercial Directors' Group.

GSA's ambitions for research, knowledge exchange, innovation and enterprise are set out under Priorities 3 and 4 of our Outcome Agreement for 2018-21, and this statement should be read in conjunction with those commitments. We remain dedicated to playing our part in achieving the UIF National Outcomes, through our own activities and in collaboration with other Scottish HE providers. We are pleased to report that we are already making good progress towards a number of our stated objectives, and that the additional UIF should increase our capacity to achieve more in less time. With reference to our existing plans and initiatives:

- We will increase resources allocated to GSA's internal RDF Impact Fund, which supports academics to undertake research-based, impact generating activities with industry and other non-academic partners.
- We will continue to develop our CPD portfolio to support innovation and creativity in creative industries and other professional sectors. A new programme teaching Building Performance Evaluation to architects and other built environment professionals has been developed, and we now aim to develop and pilot two more new CPD courses in 18/19.
- Two new KTP projects have commenced at GSA during the last six months, and a new proposal was submitted in September 2018. We now aim to have four KTPs awarded or under consideration by the end of 2018/19 (+1 proposal).
- GSA continues to play a key role in the DHI Innovation Centre with University of Strathclyde and NHS Scotland, and all are working productively on the current phase of delivery. We will keep working closely with our partners on the development and implementation of the next phase of this transformative initiative.
- We will stimulate demand and strengthen our 'connections to the contemporary' (an institutional strategic objective) by developing and completing the next two Places of Creative Production events, in conjunction with partners in Dundee and Edinburgh. Our (UIF-funded) Creative Ecology Fellow will play a central role in this programme to explore and enhance understanding of the contribution made by Scottish HE to the creative economy, and future priorities in this area.
- Over the last year, staffing changes have constrained to some extent our capacity in the Department of Research and Enterprise to respond to industrial opportunities. This year's increase to UIF coincides with the (imminent) recruitment of new team members in Research and KE support, and a renewed ability to work more closely with stakeholders such as Interface, the KTP centre network and the RCDG itself. In addition, we continue to develop a more joined-up approach across a number of GSA departments to support industrial engagement; increased UIF will help to facilitate renewed input from GSA Enterprises (our commercial trading arm) and GSA Development (which manages relationships with a range of industry supporters).

The twin purposes of the Additional Funding for Research and Innovation are timely and consistent with GSA's own objectives. Our Research and Enterprise Strategy for 2018-21 includes a commitment to increase the proportion of our research funding that is secured from UKRI and Innovate UK, for example. We recognise the opportunities represented by the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund and are keen to participate, at an appropriate level. In this respect, we support the broad objective of RCDG to build shared capacity to coordinate ambitious Scottish responses to the ISCF challenges, and we remain willing to invest an appropriate level of UIF towards that aim. In doing so, however, we remain conscious that our ability to contribute to a

number of the ISCF challenges is limited, due to the nature of our specialisms. GSA's greatest interest is in those opportunities arising from the Creative Industries Sector deal, including the development of immersive technologies. Since we are not involved directly in one of the successful Creative Industries Cluster projects, our strategy will be to target smaller, ISCF-related opportunities via UKRI and Innovate UK (such as Audiences of the Future Challenge Funding). Of the possible 'Wave 3' ISCF topics, GSA is most closely aligned with 'Reimagining our Neighbourhoods for the Future', and we are interested in potential links to Strength in Places initiatives. More broadly, the design innovation methods that we have deployed in a range of contexts (including DHI, CSIC and creative sectors) could be relevant to other ISCF projects, and we are keen to discuss possibilities with others in the sector via US RCDG.

As a small institution, GSA benefits from access to the Scottish HE sector's collective knowledge on research and innovation through our participation in US RCDG initiatives. We support the ongoing progress towards UIF National Objectives, and note our gratitude to those institutions that have taken a lead on coordinating each theme. The UIF also enables us to maintain or enhance our participation in other collaborative innovation, enterprise and impact support activities within Scotland, including: contributing to the costs of Converge Challenge from 18/19 (£5,000); membership of the Scottish Universities Insight Institute (£15,000); joining the Energy Technology Partnership (£5,000); and maintaining membership of Entrepreneurial Scotland and Praxis Auril.

The ongoing enhancement of GSA's support for enterprise and professional practice skills is a particular priority for GSA in 18/19 (under a new overarching brand, 'Enterprise Studio'), complementing the UIF National Objective relating to Enterprise. We support the RCDG group's aim of facilitating the sharing of good practice between HEIs (e.g. on spin-out formation), contributing to the costs of Converge Challenge, and exploring the formation of a possible successor to Enterprise Campus. In addition, we believe that there is a gap in the provision of enterprise support for graduates and academics seeking to establish start-ups in the creative industries – a field in which GSA can make a significant contribution. The rationale for sector-specific provision is both cultural (founders are motivated by different kinds of ambitions, some are initially resistant to the language and form of conventional business support) and structural (very high levels of micro businesses, frequent project-level collaboration instead of company growth, different IP issues). We therefore intend to invest increased UIF in the expansion of our development of new initiatives to support creative enterprise, working in partnership with RCS, QMU and other HEIs as appropriate.

In July/August 2018, GSA and RCS collaborated with University of the Arts London to deliver a creative enterprise summer school, which included the two-week 'Modual' programme. This brought together cross-disciplinary project teams of graduates, working between Glasgow and London using the latest remote collaboration software tools, to develop creative Kickstarter projects with a social enterprise dimension. Intended as an 'accelerator' project, Modual enabled 21 participants from GSA, and 9 from RCS, to gain skills such as agile project development, co-design of products and raising investment. A larger cohort of GSA graduates then took part in a further week of creative business support. The evaluation of this pilot project is still in progress, but our initial assessment is that it was successful, and we intend to invest up to £20,000 in a larger project for 2019, potentially working with RCS again and QMU. Based on initial discussions with GSA and RCS, Creative Scotland is supportive of this work, and considers it complementary to recommendations in EKOS's 2017 report for SFC on Creative Graduates and Innovation.

In addition, GSA, RCS and QMU have agreed to organise a session during 18/19 for Scottish HEI staff who are involved in supporting creative enterprises. The purpose will be to share good practice, and investigate what is known about the needs of newly formed creative enterprises as compared to those of other types of new business. The objective will be to capture relevant knowledge for the benefit of the Scottish HE sector, including existing academic research and details of relevant initiatives that have been successful beyond HE and in other locations.