



Royal College of Art

Postgraduate Art & Design

ROYAL COLLEGE OF ART

ROLE PROFILE

Post:	Senior Tutor (Research) (Maternity Cover)
School:	Communication
Programme:	MRes Communication Design Pathway
Grade:	10
FTE:	0.4, Fixed-term (Maternity Cover up to 12 months)
Responsible to:	Dean of School of Communication

Background

The Royal College of Art is the UK's only entirely postgraduate institution of art and design, dedicated to teaching, research and knowledge exchange with industry. The RCA has been ranked the number one university-level institution for art and design, internationally, for the eighth consecutive year according to the QS World University Rankings by Subject, 2022.

The College currently has some 2,700 students registered for Graduate Diploma, MA, MRes, MPhil and PhD degrees, and this is set to rise to 3,300 in coming years with the introduction of the new campus at Battersea during 2022. The majority of postgraduate teaching and research supervision is delivered by the RCA's four Schools: Architecture, Arts and Humanities; Communication; Design, with each School led by a Dean of international standing, and a recognised leader in their field.

In addition, the RCA has a number of established and planned research centres: the Helen Hamlyn Centre for Design; the Material Science Research Centre (which includes the Burberry Materials Futures Research Group and the Textiles Circularity Centre); the Intelligent Mobility Design Centre, Computer Science Research Centre, and a future centre in Drawing. The RCA is also home to one of the UK's most successful university incubators, InnovationRCA.

Our People

The RCA's Royal Visitor (Patron) is HRH Prince of Wales; its Chancellor is Sir Jony Ive, and the Pro-Chancellor and Chair of Council is Sir Peter Bazalgette. The RCA's Vice-Chancellor - the CEO of the institution - is Dr Paul Thompson. The RCA has more than 500 permanent staff, including internationally renowned artists, designers, architects, theorists and curators. These staff, together with an innovative pedagogy, world-class technical facilities and research centres, all contribute to an exceptional environment and a remarkable record of graduate employment. Generations of eminent graduates have created far-reaching impact and influence, such as Barbara Hepworth, Bridget

Riley, David Hockney, Sir Ridley Scott, Sir James Dyson OM, Asif Kapadia, Thomas Heatherwick, Chris Ofili, Tracey Emin, Jake and Dinos Chapman, Christopher Bailey, Idris Khan, Chantal Joffe, Sir David Adjaye, Erdem, Philip Treacey, Monster Chetwynd, Oscar Murillo and Lina Lapelyte.

Strategic Plan 2022–2027

The RCA has developed a new strategic plan, involving all staff in a process that was concluded in March 2022, with the publication of a new Strategic Vision and Plan for the next five years, and the appointment of our new Chair of Council, Sir Peter Bazalgette. This plan will embrace the roll out of a new model of delivery for our taught postgraduate programmes to support access and flexibility; it will underscore our commitment to being the world's most research-intensive art and design university; and it will commit to a number of Equity and Diversity goals which will lead towards the RCA becoming an anti-racist institution.

In line with an ambitious strategy for growth and significant expansion at the College's campus at Battersea, the RCA has reviewed its provision of technical services college-wide. Following this review and an initial technical services development plan, we seek to appoint a Head of Technical Services, to be responsible for all technical facilities and staff across the College. These include a range of general workshops, together with specialist facilities, for example in robotics, additive manufacturing, moving image, mechatronics; along with industry-facing knowledge exchange labs in visualisation and material futures to contribute towards revenue diversification and engagement with industry and commerce.

The aim is to achieve a more strategic approach to investment in, and development of, the technical facilities, equipment and staff of the College, improved utilisation and life-cycle planning and investment in technical equipment, and enhanced alignment with the academic timetable of student facing technologies and facilities. This change of approach will be implemented during an exciting and challenging period for the College, with the planned expansion of student numbers, the introduction of new areas of specialist study and practice, and the expansion of the College's activities on our largest and newest campus in Battersea.

School of Communication

In the RCA's School of Communication (SoC), we are interrogating the fundamental ways in which communication shapes our lives and using this knowledge to develop new ways of communicating and shaping the world through experimental and sometimes radical communication practices.

The School offers students and researchers the opportunity to develop their practices and careers as artists, communicators, curators, designers and writers. All are encouraged to focus in depth on the particularities of their own work while also being exposed to critically diverse positions across the School and to wider contexts and issues beyond, both across the College and in relation to challenges of societal, environmental, economic and cultural importance. We also work across media to experiment boldly with outcomes that take many forms, from graphic novel to VR experience, animated film to sound shower.

As a School, we are inspired by practices of communication that are culturally informed and historically aware, that encourage dialogue and are robust enough to celebrate and make space for new ideas, different voices, and other ways of thinking and making. We

have a distinctive research and knowledge exchange culture based upon a dynamic interplay between communication practice and theory, encompassing a broad range of subjects and approaches. Research projects in the school range from highly individuated scholarly and creative enquiry to projects concerning public policy and social justice, to speculative practice-focused enquiry.

Master of Research (MRes) Programme

The Master of Research (MRes) RCA is a ground-breaking research degree offering a critical investigation into the disciplines and future of art and design research. The programme encourages interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary research projects in collaboration with other Schools within the RCA and external partners. A uniquely interdisciplinary degree, the MRes is the first programme to be taught across all four schools of the RCA, offering training in practice-led and practice-based research methods for critical studies in Art and Design. Students work with, and learn from methods, practices and theories from Architecture, Arts and Humanities, Communication and Design.

This Master of Research is designed to provide early and mid-career Art and Design researchers with the intellectual, technical and professional tools with which to complete high-quality research projects, both at doctoral level and within the cultural and creative industries, working across traditional sociocultural, disciplinary and sectoral boundaries.

The Master of Research (MRes) recognises a demand for a new type of graduate and a new type of research training, acknowledging that in the last decade research-led art and design practice has increased in importance, exploring new models of collaboration across disciplines and between academic and non-academic institutions.

Purpose of role

Working with the School's Dean, PGR Lead, MRes HoP and the programme team and staff complement involved in SoC PGR, the person appointed to the role will be responsible for coordinating and contributing to high-quality research, supervision, teaching and the academic vision and management of the MRes Communication Design Pathway within SoC and the core team delivery of the MRes programme.

The Senior Tutor will be informed about current issues and developments in higher education and will be up to date with current practices and debates in Communication Design research and research by practice. The post holder will be active in research, nationally and internationally, and will ensure that the Pathway is informed by changes in contemporary communication discourse, technology and media, education, and wider socio-political environments. The post holder will work closely with the MRes HoP and SoC PGR Lead to see academic innovation in response to these external stimuli to maintain currency of content and delivery for the Pathway.

The Senior Tutor will contribute as required to the Schools Learning & Teaching development work, linking with the School Leadership Team as required. The Senior Tutor will maintain an international research profile.

Applicants should have an acknowledged international standing as a researcher and/or practitioner, with demonstrable experience of supervising Masters by Research, by dissertation and by studio project. Experience of managing student experience through

studio and workshop delivery and through blended learning is essential, as is the ability to work collegially in a small team, within the School and with the wider, cross-School Programme team.

Learning & teaching

- Provide academic, pastoral and technical (as appropriate) tutorial support to students, including regular one-to-one meetings as agreed
- Provide regular feedback to students to help them develop their skills and improve the quality of their work
- Participate in the assessment of student work, including through participation in the assessment board as required, ensuring a rigorous and fair assessment of the work
- If directed by the head of programme, lead a designated high-quality project, ensuring delivery on time and on budget
- Contribute to deliver and where appropriate lead on cross-college, cross-school and cross-disciplinary teaching, and research activities
- Keep abreast of innovation and best practice in learning and teaching in own subject
- Continually update own knowledge and understanding in academic specialism
- Be qualified to lead and carry out supervision of MRes students
- Contribute, where appropriate, to the development and enhancement of new and existing programmes and pathways, ensuring high quality academic content and innovation in learning and teaching, and assessment
- Contribute to teaching delivery, leading on allocated areas and delivering high quality teaching content that meets the needs of individual students
- Chair the relevant assessment boards as permitted under college regulations
- Explore and exploit the possibilities for collaboration with programmes in and beyond the school
- Coordinate visiting lecturers, setting clear expectations, monitoring performance, and providing feedback as required
- Brief external contributors to programmes, such as guest lecturers or speaker from industry, ensuring support and guidance as appropriate to the programme

Research

- Disseminate research findings through appropriate channels, and in line with the College's overall strategy
- Complete and keep up to date five-year individual research plan, reviewed and updated annually
- Develop and follow research interests in line with the strategic direction of the College and school, in consultation with the head of programme and the Dean
- Determine relevant research objectives and prepare proposals tailored to the appropriate audiences
- Consistently produce research outputs of at least 3* REF quality to enable submission to the REF
- Ensure that research makes a significant contribution to the overall standing of the school
- Conduct and lead research projects, building a programme of research which contributes to the overall standing and reputation of the College and contribute to school research funding targets

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- Provide research mentoring to tutors or others as appropriate, supporting and advising on research projects to help ensure optimal outcomes
- Develop and submit funding bids making a significant contribution to securing research funding in line with school targets
- Explore and exploit the possibilities for research collaboration with colleagues in and beyond the school

Academic management, administration & citizenship

- Participate in student recruitment, including assessing student ability and potential to inform recruitment decisions
- Promote the College to potential students, through speaking engagements, attendance at promotional events, or other relevant activities
- Lead field trips in line with programme requirements, supporting student learning and helping to ensure pedagogic value from such trips
- Undertake risk assessments for work as necessary, complying with the necessary policies and procedures and ensuring the safety of students and colleagues
- Participate in College committees as appropriate, contributing to sound decision making
- Contribute to annual programme monitoring, ensuring quality and identifying areas for improvement
- Support the development of tutors and visiting lecturers through mentoring, advice and feedback
- Manage projects to ensure high quality delivery on time to budget
- Contribute to the College's strategic plan

Knowledge transfer & executive education

- Actively build relationships with industry, and other relevant funding partners to promote the College and its students, to develop potential research and other revenue opportunities
- Lead proposals for knowledge exchange funding and manage any grants awarded to ensure delivery of objectives
- Develop opportunities for knowledge exchange and lead on knowledge exchange projects ensuring value for the College

Skills, knowledge and experience

Essential

- First degree in a relevant specialism
- A doctorate in relevant field
- A postgraduate certificate (PGCert) in higher education and/or accredited fellow of the Higher Education Academy, or willingness to undertake appropriate training to achieve such within two years of appointment
- If supervising research students, have completed research supervision training or willingness to undertake and complete appropriate training within two years of appointment
- Commitment to high quality teaching and fostering a positive learning environment for students.

- Commitment to continuous professional development.
- Commitment to equality of opportunity and the ability to work harmoniously with colleagues and students of all cultures and backgrounds
- Evidence of the ability to supervise academic work at masters and doctoral level
- Proven record of producing research outputs of at least 3* REF quality
- A recognised international profile in relevant specialist field
- Significant contribution as an effective teacher of postgraduate students and, through teaching, significant contribution to the advancement of the subject
- Experience of devising and teaching courses, and setting and assessing written work at postgraduate degree level
- Evidence of the ability to act as principal investigator or co-investigator

Additional information

- This post is a fixed term contract to cover a maternity leave, 0.4, 14 hrs per week, fractional, up to 12 months.
- Salary working 2 days per week: £22,373 - £25,042 per annum inclusive of London Allowance
- 30 days annual leave plus extended breaks at Christmas and Easter at the discretion of the college, pro-rata for part time staff
- A contributory defined benefit pension scheme and interest free season ticket loan are available
- The appointment is permanent subject to a two-year probationary period during which accreditation in learning and teaching must be achieved
- Time to conduct research will be allocated to the person appointed on the basis of the College's Academic Employment Framework. This stipulates a minimum of 20% research time for a research academic.
- The successful candidate will be required to work at any of the College's campus as necessary and reasonably requested

JULY 2022

PAY & BENEFITS

Pension

The Royal College of Art is a member of the Superannuation Arrangements of the University of London (SAUL) which is a contributory defined benefit pension scheme. The college will contribute a sum equal to 19% of your salary while you pay 6%.

Holiday

30 days paid leave a year plus bank and public holidays normally observed in England and Wales. In addition, the college is normally closed for six days a year, one day either side of Easter and the remainder between Christmas and New Year. Part-time staff will be entitled to the pro rata equivalent.

Season ticket loans

Interest-free loans are available for staff to purchase annual season tickets.

Enhanced maternity and adoption pay

Qualifying employees are entitled to enhanced maternity/adoption pay: 26 weeks full pay, 13 weeks Statutory Maternity/Adoption Pay. This compares to the statutory provision of 90% of average pay for 6 weeks followed by Statutory Maternity/Adoption Pay for 33 weeks.

Enhanced paternity pay

Qualifying employees are entitled to two weeks' paternity leave entitlement at full pay. This compares to the statutory provision of two weeks' pay at the statutory rate.

Enhanced sick pay

Occupational sick pay after six months' service is three months full pay/three months half pay.

24/7 confidential support

Staff and family members in their household have access to a free, external confidential support service for work, financial, legal, family and personal problems 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Occupational health

Occupational Health support for the College is provided by Imperial College's occupational health service at their South Kensington Campus.

Cycle to Work Scheme

The Royal College of Art has signed up to the Cycle to Work Scheme – part of the government's Green Transport Initiative – which allows employees to make significant savings on purchasing new bikes and safety equipment.

Library

All staff are welcome to join the college library.

Events

All staff are welcome to attend exhibitions, lectures and private views held by academic schools and programmes.