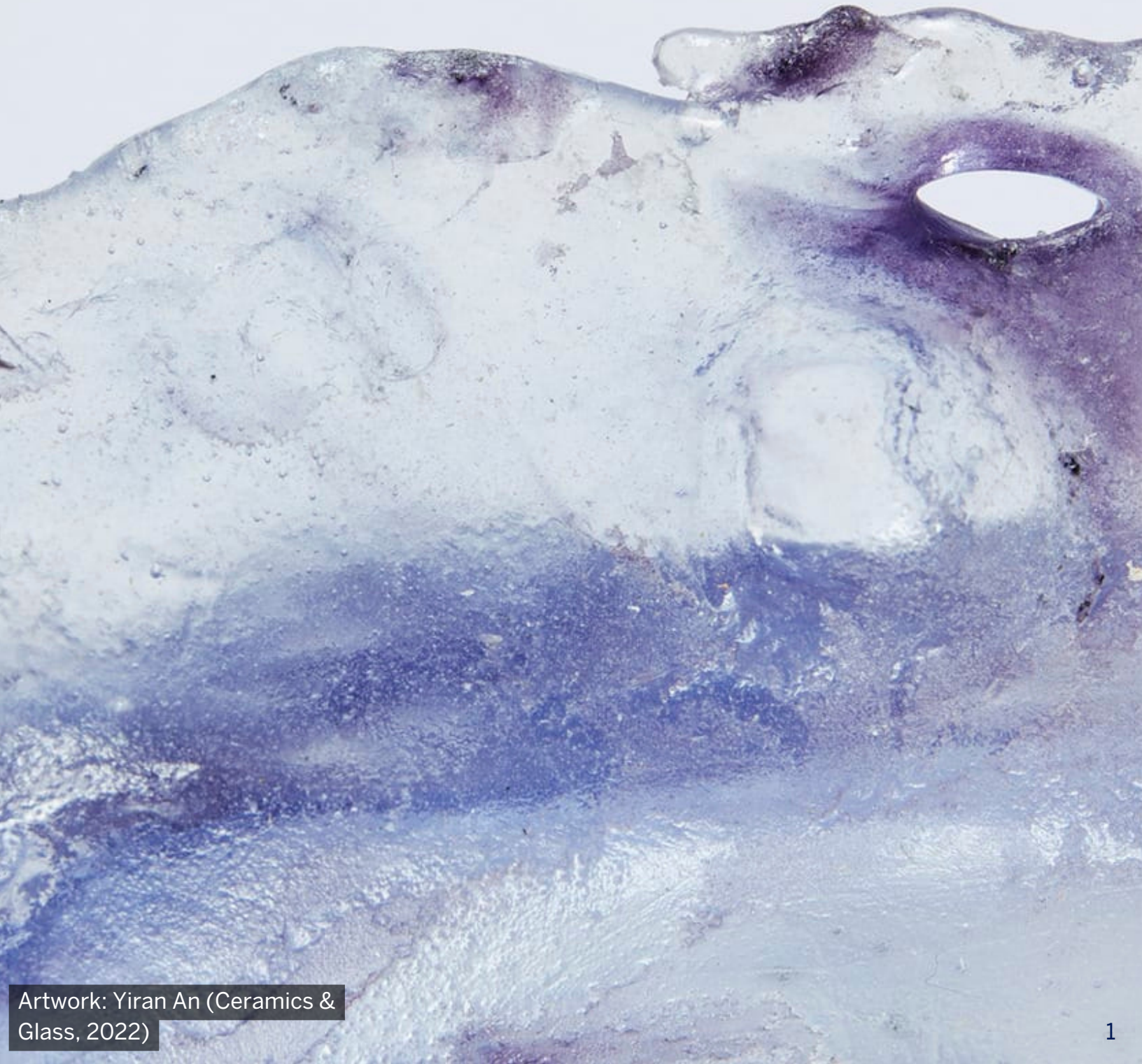


# RCA

## Technical Instructor - Bio Materials July 2023



Artwork: Yiran An (Ceramics &  
Glass, 2022)



# CONTENTS



Photo: Richard Haughton

3	<a href="#"><u>About RCA</u></a>
4	<a href="#"><u>Our Strategy</u></a>
5	<a href="#"><u>Our People</u></a>
6	<a href="#"><u>Our Values</u></a>
7	<a href="#"><u>About the Role</u></a>
9	<a href="#"><u>Person Specification</u></a>
10	<a href="#"><u>Pay and Benefits</u></a>

# WELCOME TO THE RCA



Photo: Iwan Baan

Founded in 1837, the Royal College of Art is the world's largest community of postgraduate art and design students. It is also the oldest art and design university in continuous operation and has been ranked as the world's number 1 art & design university for a remarkable nine consecutive years, according to the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2023 – the largest worldwide survey of academic and industry opinion.

The RCA is research-led, and recognised in the UK-wide Research Excellence Framework (REF) as the UK's most research-intensive institution – with an increased proportion of the College's outputs classed as 'internationally excellent' and 'world-leading' in the most recent REF assessment of 2022.

Studying at the RCA is the starting point for the world's creative leaders. With more than 20,000 RCA alumni across the globe, the RCA's graduates form a unique international network of artists, designers, creators and innovators. Every year, RCA alumni are recognised as leaders in their discipline, making national and international headlines for their work, which shapes the world we live in. Its graduate start-up incubator, InnovationRCA, is one of the most successful in the country with a high proportion of female start-up founders and a high 'survival' percentage after five years of trading.

Over 2,700 students are spread across four schools, studying at Graduate Diploma, MA, MPhil, MRes and PhD levels, with plans for this to rise to 3,300 by 2027. The College's mix of professionalism and creative freedom, together with its renowned academic community and rigorous academic framework provides the ecosystem in which students flourish and achieve their highest potential.





Photo: Richard Haughton

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.

The RCA espouses a hybrid approach, supporting 'traditional' making and technical skills in fine and applied art and design alongside the foundational sciences, engineering and technology which underpin designers' ability to solve today's global challenges. The RCA champions the value of interdisciplinary learning and was the first art and design university in the world to implement a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Design and Mathematics) academic vision, with investment in new faculty posts in Materials Science; Computer Science and Robotics alongside art and design disciplines. By applying creative insights to evidence-based science, its staff, students, researchers and start-ups are addressing major global challenges such as rapid urbanisation and transport; loss of biodiversity; ageing populations; unsustainable consumption and production; and the rise of AI.

### Our Strategy

The RCA's strategic vision is to increase its influence on the world stage of globally ranked universities, punching significantly above its weight, and attracting, supporting and convening the world's most talented faculty, students, artists, designers and creative leaders. For more information on The RCA's Strategic Plan 2022–27, please click on this link: [Strategic Plan 2022–27](#).



# Our People



Photo: Richard Haughton

Prior to the death of Her Majesty, the RCA's Royal Visitor (Patron) was HRH Prince of Wales; however, His Majesty King Charles III's office has yet to confirm which institutions he will continue to serve as a Patron, following his ascension to the throne. The RCA's Chancellor is Sir Jony Ive, and the Pro-Chancellor and Chair of the Council is Sir Peter Bazalgette (please see a link to Council independent members' biographies). The RCA's Vice-Chancellor - the CEO of the institution - is Dr Paul Thompson, who joined the College in 2009.

The RCA has more than 500 permanent staff, including internationally renowned artists, designers, architects, theorists and curators. These staff, together with 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.

# Our Values



Photo: Shaun James

The RCA community operates in line with four agreed values:

## Curiosity

We have a tenacious commitment to innovation and openness to change. We positively interrogate ideas, assumptions and plans and welcome the honest scrutiny that is alive in a learning community.

## Inclusion

We celebrate diversity and embrace difference as a source of strength. We strive for an inclusive RCA community, removing barriers and challenging exclusionary and discriminatory practices.

## Collaboration

We value what happens together and we help and support each other to achieve our collective goals. We work in partnership with our students, staff, alumni, institutions and communities across the globe to make a lasting difference.

## Integrity

We are always willing to listen, we offer constructive feedback and we promote accountability, building relationships of mutual trust and respect. We are resilient in the face of challenges, pursuing outcomes with individual, cultural, societal and economic impact.



# Technical Instructor - Bio Materials



Photo: Richard Haughton

## Purpose of the post:

- Contribute as part of a team in the effective provision and availability of specialist equipment and work areas in order to facilitate academic delivery, student learning, and Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation (RKEI) activities.
- Provide highly skilled technical assistance, guidance and instruction to all users, demonstrating equipment and processes as appropriate.
- Provide support to the Technical Coordinator in the day-to-day function of technical services within the area of Bio Materials.

### Main Duties and Responsibilities:

- Provide technical support, advice and demonstrations in bio-material, BLS1 operations, microscopy, mycelium and culture growing.
- Support the growth of Bio Materials resources across the College, including the acquisition and commissioning of new equipment and development of both lab and technical spaces.
- Be responsible for the Bio Materials technical spaces, contribute to the creation of learning materials and operate and maintain tools, equipment and processes in the workshops.
- Monitor work being carried out in the Bio Materials technical spaces, ensuring high standards of health & safety and housekeeping at all times.
- Support the research, buying and setting up of new equipment and services by maintaining industry links and identifying new and relevant technologies and practices.
- Ongoing learning of Bio Materials research and processes as part of a dynamic team.
- Assist students and staff of all abilities by conducting bench-scale experiments, problem-solving and finding technical solutions.
- Promote best practices within the Bio Materials technical spaces, maintain specialist equipment, monitor safety and keep accurate records. Actively support the Lead technical instructor in the completion of risk assessments, helping ensure all assessments are suitable, sufficient and remain up to date.
- Support college Teaching, Learning & Research activities that may require support in the area of Bio Materials, as appropriate for the role.
- Support the creation and development of learning and promotional material.
- Participate in the reviewing and monitoring of technical facilities. Liaise with Academic, Professional Services, IT Services, Research staff and all other service providers and users with regard to the current resource provision and future developments.
- Comply with all Royal College of Art policies and procedures.
- Support events and exhibitions as required including the handling, transportation and installation of artworks.
- Assist in the training and induction of new or temporary staff.
- Undertake any other duties consistent with the role as required and in agreement with the Technical Coordinator and or Technical Services Manager.



# Person Specification

## Essential characteristics of the postholder:

- Knowledge and experience of bio-materials, culture growing and BSL1 operations.
- Demonstrable knowledge of health and safety best practices within a lab environment, including an understanding of COSHH and Risk Assessment procedures.
- Experience in delivering in-person technical instruction.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- The ability to use initiative and work as part of a team.
- Excellent organisational, time management, planning and problem-solving skills.
- Excellent user focus and a flexible approach.

## Desirable characteristics of the postholder:

- Experience in microscopy would be desirable but not essential.
- An ability to bridge scientific processes with creative projects and practitioners would be desirable but not essential



Photo: Richard Haughton

# Pay & Benefits

## Additional Information:

- Salary working 5 days per week: £34,786- £39,617 per annum pro rata inclusive of London Allowance.
- 25 days annual leave plus extended breaks at Christmas and Easter pro-rata for part-time staff
- A contributory defined benefit pension scheme and interest-free season ticket loan are available
- The successful candidate will be required to work at Kensington Campus as well as across the RCA's other London sites (White City and Battersea) as necessary and reasonably requested.



Photo: Philip Vale



### 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 16% of your salary while you pay 6%.

### Holiday

25 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 on 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.

### Life Cover

Active members of the SAUL pension scheme automatically receive life cover. A lump sum of four times your salary together with a refund of your contributions and a 2/3 pension for your dependent/spouse is payable should you die whilst in employment.

### 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.