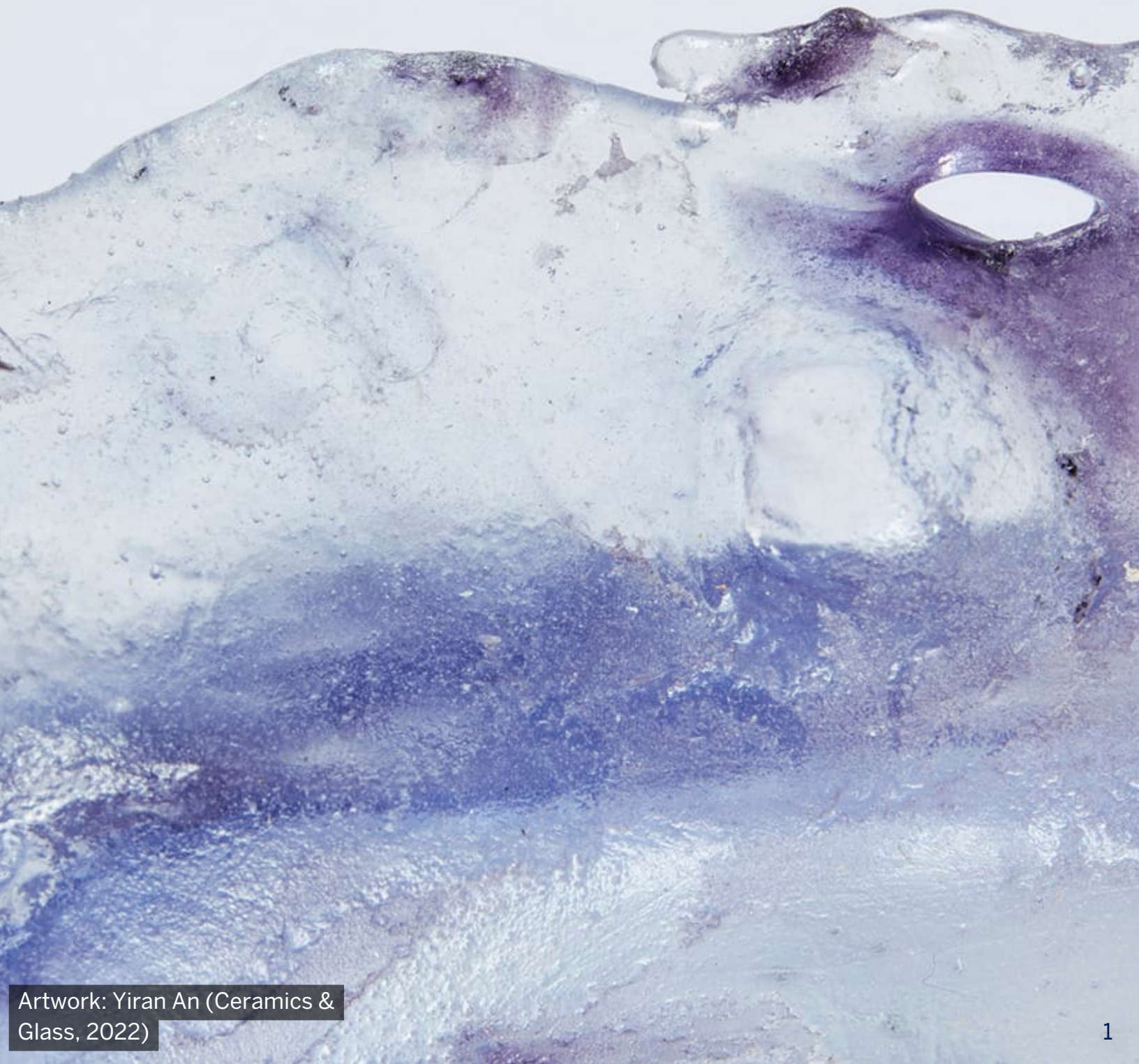


# RCA

## Research Associate (Data Viz)

### September 2023



Artwork: Yiran An (Ceramics &  
Glass, 2022)



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Photo: Richard Haughton

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# 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 one art and design university for a remarkable nine consecutive years, according to the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2023 – the worldwide survey of academic and industry opinion.

The RCA is research-led, and recognised in the UK-wide REF (Research Excellence Framework) 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.

More than 2,700 students are spread across four schools and research and academic departments, studying at Graduate Diploma, MA, MFA, MDes, MArch, MEd, MRes, MPhil 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 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

His Majesty King Charles III is Royal Visitor to the RCA (ie Patron). The RCA's Chancellor is Sir Jony Ive, and the Pro-Chancellor and Chair of Council is Sir Peter Bazalgette (please see 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's academic faculty bring world-leading expertise and industry knowledge to the practice-based model of teaching. There is a core academic and research workforce of 230 FTE, supported by around 170 Associate Lecturers and a wide range of Guest Lecturers who bring 'live' industry experience into the taught curriculum – for example, Amin Taha of GrantOn design, whose work was twice shortlisted for the RIBA Stirling Prize, in 2017 and 2021, teaches in the School of Architecture; and Yao Yingjia, who is Vice President and Chief Designer at Lenovo teaches in the School of Design.

The RCA combines contemporary and industry-focused teaching perspectives. It also employs a team of 95 highly skilled technicians, many of whom themselves have postgraduate qualifications in their fields of specialism, which range from rapid prototyping and subtractive manufacturing to film and sound engineering, and from digital modelling to metal fabrication and jewellery making.

# 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.



# School of Design



Photo: Richard Haughton

## The School of Design

The School of Design engages with design on multiple levels, from the highly conceptual to the deeply practical, with a strong culture of innovation, experimentation and debate. Programmes are supported by staff with reputations in world-leading research, teaching and practice. The School offers programmes in Innovation Design Engineering, Design Products, Fashion, Textiles, Service Design, Health Care and Design Futures. The School has research degrees to PhD level. The School's Research Strategy addresses the UN Sustainability Goals and UNESCO and engages staff and students in world class research and teaching.

### About the Post:

NEMO aims to make a significant impact in researching, co-designing and developing innovative research and solutions for the world's ocean issues. We are seeking a motivated, engaging and resourceful research associate who can productively engage with a multidisciplinary team of researchers and industry experts.

Expectations of the post will involve supporting the data gathering and visualisation of projects supporting initiatives and collaborations in the UK and international locations in a range of climates, developing, developed and remote locations in the global north and south.

Engagement with both the intellectual and applied aspects of the research are crucial to enable the development of sophisticated engagements and solutions in complex and challenging environments across diverse cultures.

# NEMO - New Economic Model for the Oceans

## NEMO - New Economic Model for the Oceans:

The Royal College of Art (RCA) in London, England, is a UNESCO Ocean Decade Implementing Partner. Our research connects scientific data to community actions to address three Ocean Decade Challenges: protecting and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity; developing a sustainable and equitable ocean economy; and changing humanity's relationship to the ocean. Through design research, we work across disciplines, engage stakeholders and use whole systems thinking to tackle ocean issues.

As part of this research, we are examining relationships between coastal communities and the ocean including the UK and Greenland from the perspectives of climate change, resilience and new economic models. We are interested in learning about how local residents perceive their connection to the ocean and how this is reflected in local cultures and daily life.

Our research also focussed on co-design and data visualisation between scientists and organisations generating ocean data and stakeholders and communities who may use the information for resilience, safeguarding and regenerative activities. More information about the project can be found here:

<https://www.rca.ac.uk/news-and-events/news/royal-college-of-art-named-un-ocean-decade-implementing-partner/>

<https://www.rca.ac.uk/research-innovation/projects/unesco-ocean-decade-partnership/>



# Research Associate (Data Viz), NEMO (New Economic Model for the Oceans)



Photo: Richard Haughton

## Purpose of the post:

Working as a key member of the project team, the successful candidate is an accomplished early career researcher with a proven knowledge of data visualization techniques, software, coding and state of the art practices supporting co-design between science and ocean stakeholders. The post holder will have a deep interest in sustainable and resilient practices and collaborate with team members and partners across ocean communities, scientific community, public bodies, policy makers, marine agencies and cultural institutions to deliver the research outcomes of the project. This is an exciting opportunity to be a key member in a research project of international importance, supporting the investigation and testing of nature-based actions within ocean ecosystems that proactively address the climate emergency. Working from the RCA, the researcher will be supported and mentored by an experienced multi-disciplinary team of researchers.

### Main Duties and Responsibilities:

- To undertake supervised high-quality, rigorous, and (where relevant) collaborative research projects which lead to robust research outcomes.
- To deliver on specific research activities or outputs as outlined in the NEMO project
- To develop research skills and knowledge of research methods and techniques that support the Centre's research agenda and personal career development.
- As appropriate, to support team members with the preparation and submission of funding proposals to UK and international research funders, industry partners and other funding sources, to support the Centre's research agenda.
- To support team members with the management of awards, ensuring execution of proposed research, efficient management of resources, and effective delivery of research outcomes and impacts.
- To support liaison with academic, industry and third sector partners as appropriate on collaborative research and knowledge exchange projects.
- To contribute to research outputs that are effectively shared with the world through appropriate channels (for example books, peer-reviewed journals, conferences) to the discipline.
- To support communication of research outcomes to a wide variety of audiences, including through public engagement, tailoring content and style to a broad range of specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- To support and participate in project and Centre team meetings and activities, events and workshops, contributing ideas for development , delivery and promotion of projects.
- To conduct all research reflecting best practice in ethics, integrity, research data management, and research governance, ensuring compliance with RCA policies and external funding terms and conditions and sector standards.
- To ensure compliance with RCA processes and procedures in relation to procurement and use of equipment and facilities, including health and safety policies, working with relevant departments across RCA.
- To ensure confidentiality of sensitive project information is maintained, through appropriate project data protection.
- To undertake general administrative and other tasks relevant as part of the team's and the Centre's work, as required by senior staff.



# Person Specification

## Essential characteristics of the postholder:

The successful candidate must be able to demonstrate at least three of the following:

- A Master's degree level qualification or equivalent level of experience
- Evidenced experience in Research Projects
- Have a track record of experience in multidisciplinary design research projects including applied and technical competence.
- Experience of Unity software
- Coding/scripting Skills: C++, HTML&JS, Python
- Data Integration: working with databases and APIs
- Evidenced experience of contributing to and reporting on projects.
- Demonstrable understanding of good practice in research conduct (including in research ethics, research integrity and handling research data)
- Flexibility and confidence to tackle a wide range of tasks with an open, proactive, creative approach to problem solving
- Excellent written communication skills, oral presentation skills and ability to adopt an appropriate style to a range of specialist and non-specialist audiences
- Strong interpersonal and teamwork skills

## Desirable characteristics of the postholder:

- Software Frameworks: UNREAL Engine, and/or AI-related engines
- Coding/scripting skills: Android, C, C#, R, OpenGL and/or WebGL
- Data Integration: MySQL, Oracle DBs, or equivalent
- Real-time tracking Frameworks/Camera & Motion Tracking: OptiTrack, VICON, or equivalent
- Working with XR headsets, XSENSE, Leap Motion, Kinects
- Knowledge of Ocean related design issues and an affinity with ocean, science and community systems for tackling human induced climatic changes
- Proven ability to work across a range of sectors with a cross section of individuals both academic and non-academic
- Project communication experience
- Experience planning information gathering and dissemination events for a range of different participants and audiences

# Pay & Benefits

## Additional Information:

- Grade 6: Salary working 5 days per week: £35,974 - £40,741 per annum pro rata inclusive of London Allowance.
- FTE: 0.4
- Term: Fixed term for 12 months
- 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



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.