RCA

Tutor (research) Information Experience Design

April 2024
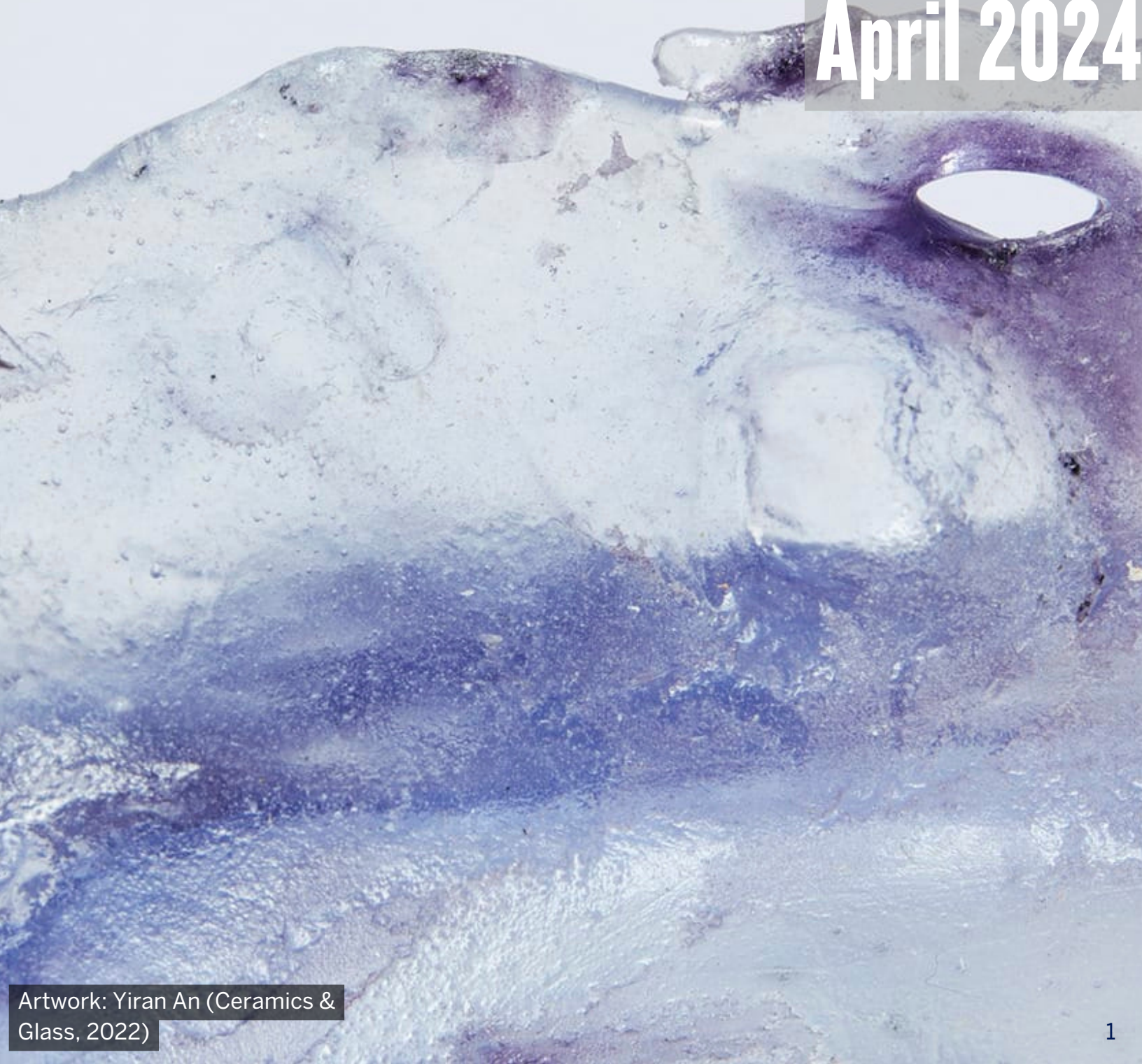
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Photo: Richard Haughton

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-level institution 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 2021.

Studying at the RCA is the starting point for the world's creative leaders. With more than 25,000 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 2,800 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. 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

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 President and Vice-Chancellor – the CEO of the institution – is Dr Paul Thompson, who joined the College in 2009, but will be leaving in May 2024. The incoming President and Vice-Chancellor is Professor Christoph Lindner, who will be joining the RCA in April 2024.

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 196 FTE, supported by around 215 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

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 Communication

Photo: Richard Haughton

The School of Communication situates human and non-human communication within the frames of culture, community, consciousness, commercialism and creativity. In a world of false news, rising inequalities and global challenges, it is imperative that we change the narrative of communication. The School seeks to rise to global and local challenges; informing and enhancing forward-thinking and socially engaged processes, approaches and strategies. The School's ethos embraces interdisciplinarity whilst maintaining our specialisms through programme offers in Animation, Digital Direction, Information Experience Design and Visual Communication, and research focus. Our links with industry are reinforced by the School's location at White City, London.

Programme: MA in Information Experience Design

Photo: Richard Haughton

Information Experience Design (IED) is the creative practice of intervening in, designing and generating experiences of complex ideas and phenomena using data and experience design. The shared medium in IED is information: you'll work with both "cold" data (quantifiable numeric data) and "warm" data (the data of interrelationship). This approach allows you to build an exciting personal practice in living systems and computational systems.

In IED, you might design a light installation in a forest, a global museum, a podcast fiction, a breathing chair, a VR adventure in a microbiome, an emotionally responsive game for dogs, or a wearable sensing deep time. IED projects go beyond the personal and embrace collective, trans-individual, and more-than-human perspectives.

Our teaching approach is unique and experimental, representing cutting-edge art and design education informed by world-class IED practitioner research. You'll need maturity and dedication. The programme's intellectual content is cutting-edge and challenging. You'll engage deeply with society and the environment, integrating experimentation with activism and empathy.

Tutor (research)

<u>Purpose of the post:</u>

The purpose of this role is to develop, deliver and promote the study of Experimental Design in Information Experience through teaching and research. Experimental Design is an interdisciplinary, practice-based pathway that aims to question, critique, push and provoke notions of information and experience. It uses a critical methodology within communication design practice. Graduates identify themselves as leading experience and information design practitioners working across forms, contexts and applications, oriented around communication, narrative and experience. As IED graduates, they balance knowledge and expertise in digital and physical tools, materials and technologies with contextual, critical, historical and theoretical knowledge.

The postholder will demonstrate enthusiasm for working with students and alongside colleagues with high levels of commitment and energy required by a world-leading postgraduate environment. The postholder will contribute to the School's MA/MRes/PGR provisions, by working with academic staff in the School. The postholder will take responsibility through administration, workshop management and tutorial organisation as required. In order to do this, the postholder will liaise with the School's Head of Programme in curricula development and delivery.

The postholder will maintain an international research profile, initiate, plan, lead and deliver externally funded research and knowledge exchange initiatives, and undertake research degree supervision and examination in one or more of the School's areas of expertise.

Main Duties and Responsibilities:

Learning & teaching
· Provide academic, pastoral and technical (as appropriate) tutorial support to students, includingregular one to onemeetings as agreed
· Provide regular feedback to students to help them develop their skills and improvethe quality of theirwork
·Participate in the assessment of student work, including throughparticipation 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 teachingand research activities as appropriate
·Keep abreast of innovation and best practicein learning and teaching in own subject
·Continually update own knowledge and understanding in academic specialism
· Supervise researchstudents (MPhil or PhD as appropriate)
· Contribute to teaching, delivering high quality teaching content that meets the needs of individual students
· Actively engage in broader educational issues, such as external examining and attending conferences
·Contribute to curriculum design and supporting material to help ensure high quality academic content and innovation in learning and teaching, and assessment

Research
·Disseminate research findings through appropriate channels, and in line with the College's overallstrategy
·Complete and keep up to date five year individual research plan, reviewed and updatedannually
·Develop and follow research interests in line with the strategic direction of the Collegeand school, in consultation with the head of programmeand 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 standingof the school
·Conduct and lead individual research projects, building a programme of research which contributes to the overall standing and reputation of the Collegeand contribute to school research funding targets

Main Duties and Responsibilities:

Academic management, administration & citizenship
·   Participate in student recruitment, including assessing student ability and potentialto inform recruitment decisions
·Promote the Collegeto potential students, through speaking engagements, attendance at promotional events, or other relevantactivities
·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

Knowledge transfer& executive education
·   Contribute towardsproposals for fundingand manage any individual grantsawarded to ensure deliveryof objectives
·   Seek to develop links with industry in area of specialism to promote the Collegeand its students

Person Specification

Essential characteristics of the postholder:

·First degree in a relevantspecialism
·Commitment to high quality teachingand fostering a positive learningenvironment for students.
·If supervising researchstudents, have completedresearch supervision trainingor willingness to undertake and complete appropriate training within two years of appointment
·   Commitment to continuous professional development.
·   Commitment to equality of opportunity and the ability to work harmoniously with colleagues and students of all culturesand backgrounds
·   Evidence of the ability to supervise academic work at masters and doctoral level
·   Experience of devising and teaching courses,and setting and assessing writtenwork at undergraduate or postgraduate degree level

Desirable

·   A doctoratein relevant field or evidenceof appropriate professional practice or academic achievement
·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
·   Evidence of, or clear potential to produce, research outputs of at least 3* REF quality in line with the strategicdirection of the College

Pay & Benefits

Additional Information:

- Salary (grade 9) working 3 days per week: £31,410 - £35,037 per annum inclusiveof London Allowance.
- Normal hours will total 21 per week over 3 days, 9.30am to 5.30pm with an hour each day for lunch
- The appointment is Fixed Term until 31 July 2025.
- 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 our White City campus, and across the
- 30 days annual leave plus extended breaks at Christmas and Easter.
- A contributory defined benefit pension scheme and interest free season ticket loan are available.

Post: Tutor (research)

School: Communication

Programme: Information Experience Design
Grade: 9

Responsible to: Head of Programme
FTE: 0.6
Tenure: Fixed term until 31 July 2025

Responsible to: Head of Programme

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

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 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 shared parental pay

Qualifying employees are entitled to enhanced shared parental pay: up to 24 weeks' paid at the full rate of the employee's normal pay (only in the first 26 weeks following the start of maternity/adoption leave), followed by 13 weeks Statutory Shared Parental Pay. This compares to the statutory provision of up to 37 weeks paid at the statutory rate or 90% of average weekly earnings, whichever is lower.

Enhanced sick pay

Occupational sick pay after three 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.