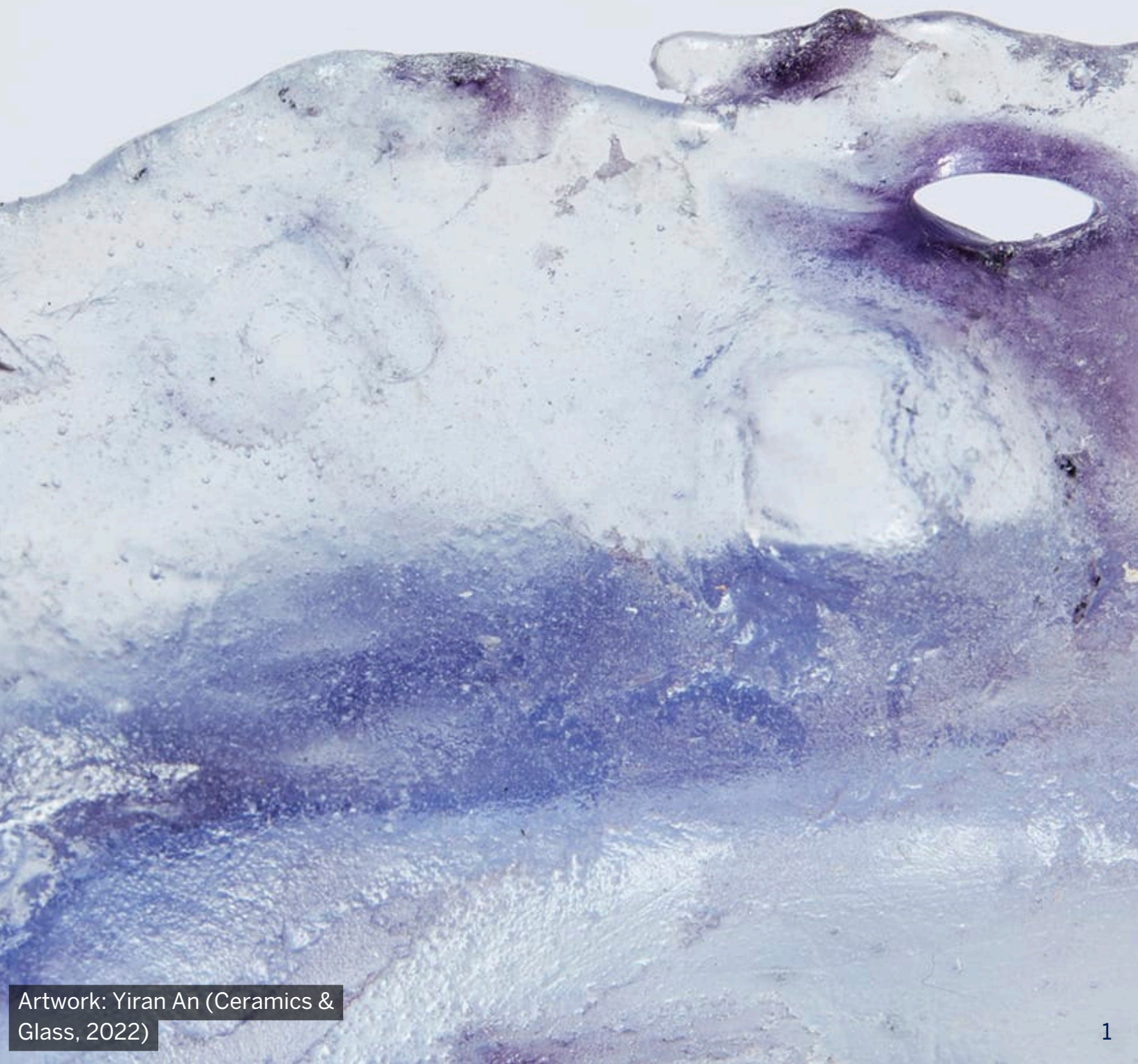


RCA

Postdoctoral Researcher (INFUZE Project) June 2024



Artwork: Yiran An (Ceramics & Glass, 2022)

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Photo: Richard Haughton

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WELCOME TO THE RCA

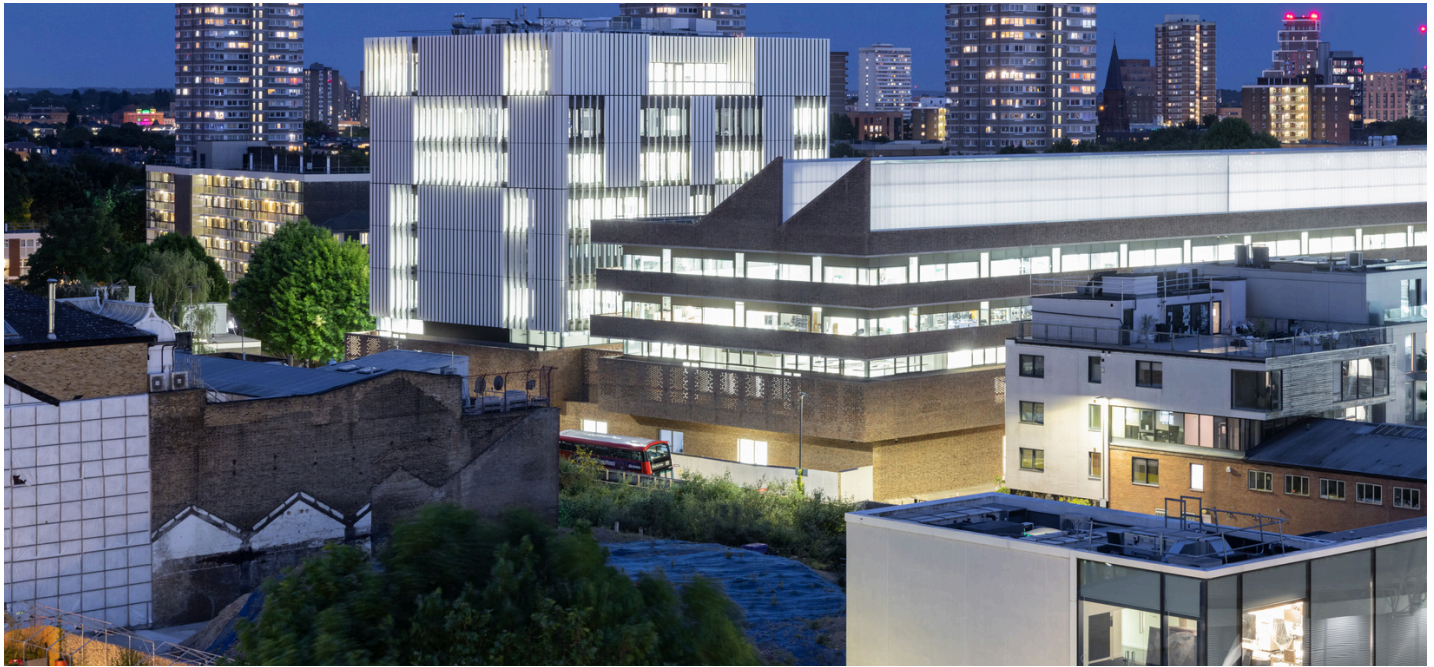


Photo: Iwan Baan

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 ten consecutive years, according to the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024 – 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

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 joined 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



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.

Intelligent Mobility Design Centre



Photo: Richard Haughton

The IMDC is an interdisciplinary centre exploring, experimenting, prototyping and evaluating new mobility and automotive transitions via the synthesis of design and research methods. It integrates design and technology with insights into people and the social, environmental and economic context to enable a 360 view on the design of future mobility.

The IMDC is organised into three distinct yet complementary Studios enabling a multifaceted perspective on mobility design:

- The Automotive Transitions Studio is focussed on vehicle design and explores the paradigm shifts of the car industry, its transition to a focus on sustainability and its connection with car design heritage, material culture, fashion and people's aspirations.
- The Humanising Technology Studio explores how mobility experiences and services may be transformed by the impact of emerging technologies and how these can be made accessible, usable, and enjoyable by understanding people and leveraging creative methods.
- The People & Places Studio explores the relationships between society, place-making and our transport systems and how design might respond to this relationship through new forms of architecture and sustainable mobility products, services and experiences.

The IMDC collaborates with business, academic, government and voluntary sector partners and exchanges knowledge via education, events, publications and industrial collaboration and strategic partnerships. The partnership with Hyundai-Kia is the inaugural industry funded Innovation Lab at the IMDC. Hyundai Motor Group and its Hyundai, Kia, and Genesis brands, has partnered with IMDC to foster the creative exploration of the future of mobility.

Postdoctoral Researcher



Photo: Richard Haughton

Inspiring Futures for Zero Carbon Mobility – Postdoctoral Design Researcher, Royal College of Art

Would you like to be part of a major collaborative research initiative to help tackle transport's contribution to the climate crisis? Are you looking to apply your design research experience to a new challenge? Do you thrive on working in an exciting and creative environment committed to making a difference?

About the project:

Inspiring Futures for Zero Carbon Mobility (INFUZE) is a major £7.8m five-year research grant funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. Working across the Universities of Leeds, Lancaster and the Royal College of Art, INFUZE is seeking to achieve transformative change in how transport works, addressing the climate challenge whilst improving fairness and quality of life. INFUZE is an exciting new collaboration which will work with citizens and businesses to re-imagine our transport systems. The programme will build an increasingly ambitious suite of real-world trials with communities, transport providers and government partners.

Purpose of the Post:

INFUZE seeks a postdoctoral design researcher to contribute to our ground breaking work in transforming urban mobility systems and experiences. This role offers an exciting opportunity to engage in leading trans-disciplinary research and develop innovative solutions to the inclusion and net zero challenges facing twenty first century urban mobility.

You will play a key role in developing a novel participatory mobility design science. Drawing upon your expertise in people-centred and inclusive design, design research methods, service and mobility design and advanced visualisation, you will lead workshops and feasibility studies aimed at developing collaborative innovation. You will co-design with citizens, policy-makers, service providers and experts in social science, data visualisation and modelling, whole system science and transport planning.

You will initiate collaborative design research to understand mobility challenges and opportunities, test initial solutions through pilot interventions, experiment with detailed designs and evaluations, support the implementation of trial mobility services in Leeds and continuously improve and iterate service designs, touchpoints and experiences to enable widespread adoption and scalability.

You will work closely with Co-Is and a communication designer at the RCA, social futures designers at Lancaster University and the social, transport and data team at the University of Leeds. You will also support the participation of a wide range of stakeholders, including community members, mobility providers and policy makers at Leeds city council. This collaborative approach will ensure that our research outcomes are relevant, impactful and applicable to real-world mobility and net zero challenges.

Lancaster's social futures lead will focus on social design, analysis and integration with other work packages with you focussing on visualisation, co-design and public participation. You will help to bridge the gap between the social futures that arise through Lancaster's design research and the lived experience of citizens who are currently dependent on their cars but interested in changing the ways they get around if the service, environment and city is able to evolve to meet their needs.



Main Duties and Responsibilities:

- To undertake high-quality, rigorous, and (where relevant) collaborative research which lead to robust research outcomes.
- To develop personal research objectives and interests that align closely with wider project plans, working with the PI to ensure these are in line with the strategic direction of the project, the Centre and of the College as a whole.
- Where appropriate, to prepare and submit funding proposals in collaboration with Centre team members to UK and international research funders, industry partners and other funding sources, to support the Centre's research agenda and the post-holder's own research career development plans.
- In collaboration with team members, to manage the award, ensuring execution of proposed research, efficient management of resources, and effective delivery of research outcomes and impacts.
- To work with academic, industry and third sector partners as appropriate on collaborative research and knowledge exchange to achieve the deliverables of the INFUZE project.
- To support engagement with partnering companies, undertaking collaborative research and contributing to working relationships to maintain a productive partnership.
- To produce and disseminate research outputs that are effectively shared with the world through appropriate channels (for example books, peer-reviewed journals, conferences) to the discipline.
- To produce research outputs. These outputs may be suitable for submission to the national Research Excellence Framework (REF) exercise, with a quality of at least 3* as per the REF definition.
- 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 participate in relevant academic, industry, government and policy networks as appropriate, presenting the work of, and representing the project or Centre as relevant.
- To participate in project and Centre team meetings and activities, events and workshops, contributing ideas for development, delivery and promotion of projects.
- To contribute to the RCA Academic community through presentations or teaching in appropriate forums and participation in RCA-wide activities such as Across RCA or Committees and boards as requested.
- Where appropriate, to support the delivery of Executive Education courses and workshops.
- Where appropriate and relevant, to assist the lead researcher in supervision of junior researchers or project workers engaged in projects, ensure they are equipped to deliver outputs within agreed timescales and are undertaking work at an appropriate level.
- 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:

- The successful candidate must be able to demonstrate at least one of the following
 - PhD in a relevant field (e.g. design research, service design, mobility design, urban design, transition design)
 - Or equivalent level of experience in a different sector
 - Or a Masters degree and significant experience in research projects
- Evidence of producing quality research outputs relevant to the career stage and discipline.
- Evidenced experience of contributing to and reporting on projects.
- Experience with people-centred design
- Experience in visualisation, creating impactful design and artwork
- Experience in designing public exhibitions and events
- Demonstrable understanding of good practice in research conduct (including in research ethics, research integrity and handling research data).
- Demonstrable ability to be a collaborative member of a broader team, working constructively with senior staff and supporting the work of less experienced staff or students involved in projects.
- Evidenced flexibility and confidence to tackle a wide range of tasks, with an open, pro-active, creative and problem-solving approach.
- Evidenced excellent writing, communication and presentation skills, able to adopt an appropriate style for a range of specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- Evidenced strong interpersonal and team-working skills.
- Genuine commitment to the aims of the project and of the Centre.

Desirable:

- Evidenced experience of collaborative projects, preferably involving Higher Education / industry / public sector collaborations in a relevant field.
- Evidenced experience with people-centred design and living lab approaches
- Interest in sustainable mobility, future scenarios, human experience and behaviour, inclusive design
- Experience of trans-disciplinary approaches to systemic challenges
- Understanding of research projects and Higher Education Design projects.

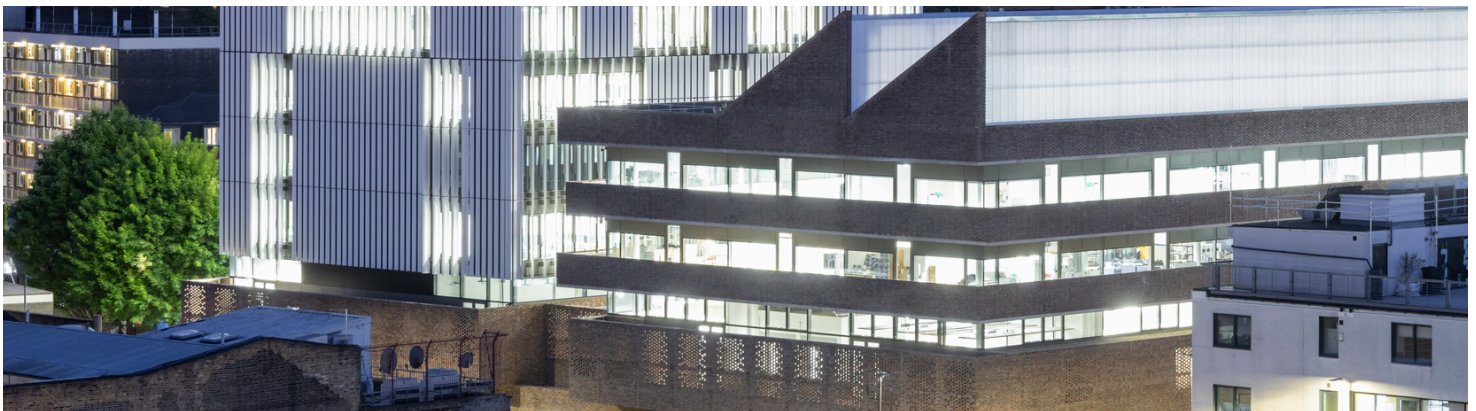


Photo: Iwan Baan

Pay & Benefits

Additional Information:

- Responsible to: Professor Dale Harrow
- Full time salary: Grade 7 £42,205 - £45,732 per annum including London Allowance.
- FTE: 1 (35 hours per week), 9.30 - 17.30 with an hour for lunch.
- Fixed term contract for a 3 year duration.
- 25 days annual leave plus extended breaks at Christmas and Easter, at the discretion of the College. Rising to 27 days per annum from October 2024.
- A contributory defined benefit pension scheme and interest-free season ticket loan are available
- Location: Battersea
- Department: Intelligent Mobility Design Centre



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. Increasing to 27 days a year from October 2024.

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 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.



10 YEARS

as the world's N°1
University for Art & Design

QS World University Rankings by Subject 2015-24