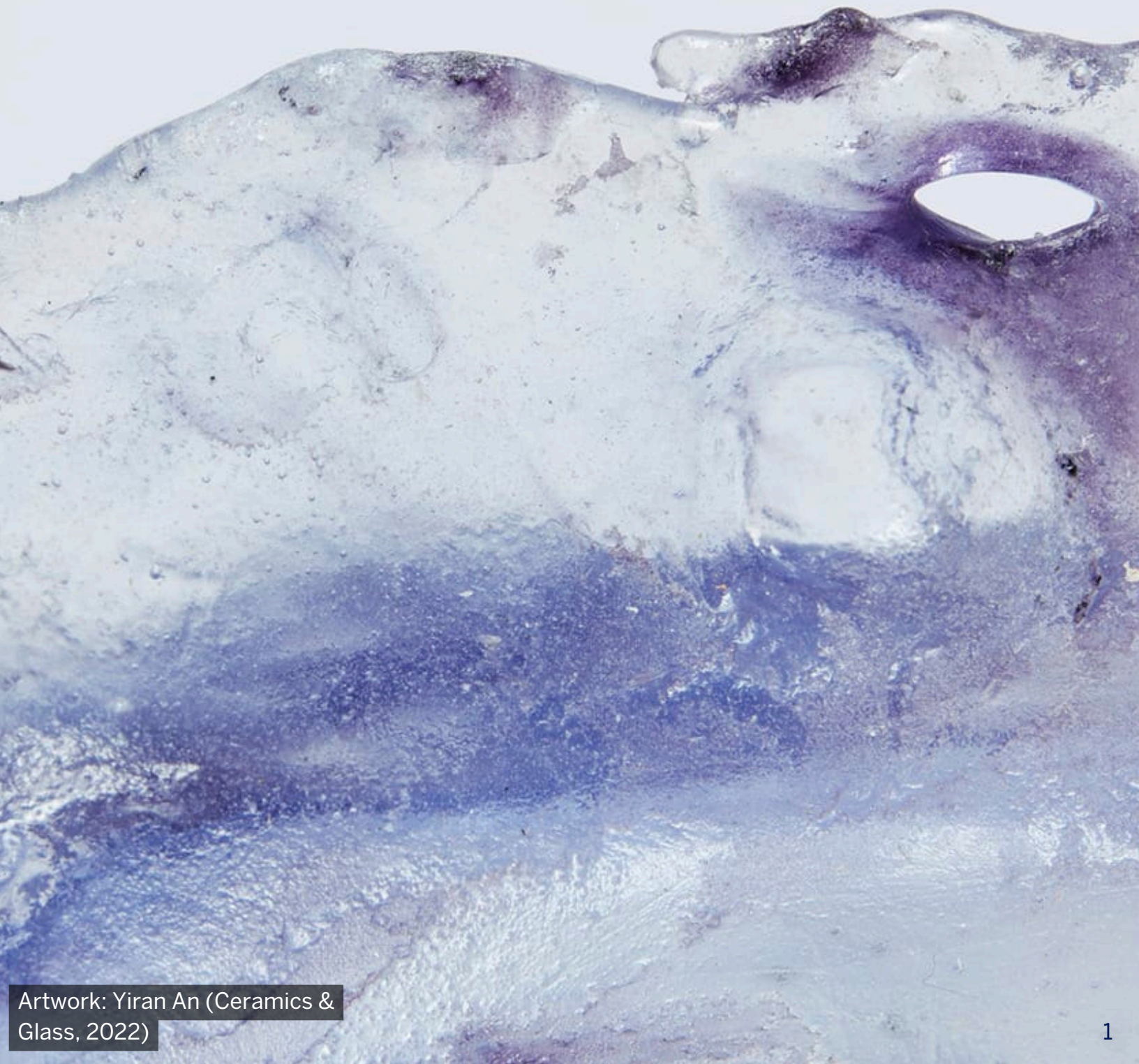


# RCA

## Specialist Technical Instructor - Blender February 2025



Artwork: Yiran An (Ceramics & Glass, 2022)

# CONTENTS



Photo: Richard Haughton

3	<b><u>About RCA</u></b>
4	<b><u>Our Strategy</u></b>
5	<b><u>Our People</u></b>
6	<b><u>Our Values</u></b>
8	<b><u>About the Role</u></b>
11	<b><u>Person Specification</u></b>
12	<b><u>Pay and Benefits</u></b>

# 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 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 role of Royal Visitor to the RCA was taken on by The former Prince of Wales – now His Majesty The King – in 2018. The announcement of HM The King’s retained Patronage of the RCA marks the first anniversary of Their Majesties’ Coronation. As part of the official Coronation Concert in May 2023, the Royal College of Art along with The Royal Ballet, The Royal Opera, the Royal Shakespeare Company, and the Royal College of Music came together for the first time ever to create a spectacular one-off performance, with a striking visual backdrop of specially-designed artworks contributed by students from the Royal College of Art.

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 & Vice-Chancellor – the CEO of the institution – is Professor Christoph Lindner who joined the College 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.

# Information, Learning & Technical Services



Photo: Richard Haughton

ILTS (Information, Learning, and Technical Services) is a cross-College directorate that supports staff and students to meet their academic objectives through a broad range of services. We provide leadership and expertise in implementing digital systems to enable more efficient working practices across the College. We have skilled and specialist staff on all three RCA sites.

## Technical Services:

Technical Services is a cross-college department of technical specialists that support all Teaching, Learning, Research & Knowledge exchange at the RCA.



Main purpose of the post:

- Take a lead in ensuring the effective provision and availability of specialist equipment and work areas in order to facilitate academic delivery, student learning, research and knowledge transfer 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 Blender technical support and instruction.



## Duties & Responsibilities:

- Plan, organise and deliver technical instruction, support, advice and demonstrations in Blender and related technical processes
- Take a lead in the growth of Blender software and services across the College, including the research, buying and setting up of new software, equipment and services.
- Actively support the growth of Blender software and hardware services across the College
- Be responsible for the Blender software technical spaces, contribute to the creation of learning materials and operate and maintain tools, equipment and processes in the Computing & Technology workshops.
- Monitor work being carried out in the Computing & Technology 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.



Photo: Richard Haughton

## Duties & Responsibilities (cont):

- Ongoing learning of Blender and 3D computer graphics as part of a dynamic team.
- Assist students and staff of all abilities in problem solving and finding technical solutions.
- Promote best practice within the Computing & Technology technical spaces, maintain specialist equipment, monitor safety and keep accurate records. Actively support the Lead technical instructor in the completion of risk assessments, ensuring all assessments are suitable, sufficient and remain up to date.
- Support college Teaching, Learning & Research activity that may require support in the development of 3D computer graphics, as appropriate for the role.
- Develop, create and maintain 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 regards to the current resource provision and future developments.
- Represent technical services and the Computing & Technology team by attending appropriate meetings as agreed with the Technical Coordinator.
- Comply with all Royal College of Art policies and procedures.
- Support events and exhibitions as required including the handling, transportation and installation of art works.
- Assist in the selection, training, induction and supervision of new and 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 to the role:

- Significant, highly skilled, specialist knowledge of Blender's integration capabilities within various production pipelines.
- Proficiency in Blender's modelling tool set, including sculpting and retopology.
- Experience creating animations and rigging models using Blender's designed tools.
- Knowledge of Blender's Cycles render engine to produce high-quality renders.
- Experience of helping others in the application of Blender software.
- Experience of planning and delivering in person technical workshops.
- 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 to the role:

- Familiarity with Blender's additional capabilities, including physics simulations, scripting, grease pencil and VFX workflows would be desirable but not essential.
- Experience of Adobe Suite and game development engines would be desirable but not essential.
- Experience of creating online learning materials is desirable but not essential.



# Pay & Benefits

## Additional Information:

- Responsible to: Technical Coordinator, Computing and Technology
- Full time salary: Grade 7 £43,809 - £47,336 per annum including London Allowance. Pro rata salary will be £26,285 - £28,402 per annum including London Allowance.
- Permanent and part time role (0.6fte - 21 hours per week).
- 27 days annual leave plus extended breaks at Christmas and Easter, at the discretion of the College Pro rata for part time employees.
- A contributory defined benefit pension scheme and interest-free season ticket loan are available, along with many other benefits.
- Location: All 3 sites
- Department: Information, Learning and Technical Services



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

27 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 six weeks' paternity leave entitlement at full pay.

### 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.



## Equality, diversity and inclusion - Disability and neurodiversity

### Disability Confident

RCA is a Disability Confident Committed employer. You may recognise the logo from our job adverts.

Disability Confident is a government scheme designed to encourage employers to recruit, retain, and develop disabled people. RCA was originally awarded the Disability Confident certificate in October 2022, which broadens and deepens our existing commitment as an employer.

As a Disability Confident Committed employer, we commit to the below core activities:

- ensure our recruitment process is inclusive and accessible
- communicating and promoting vacancies
- offering an interview to disabled people who meet the minimum criteria for the job
- anticipating and providing reasonable adjustments as required
- supporting any existing employee who acquires a disability or long-term health condition, enabling them to stay in work
- at least one activity that will make a difference for disabled people





**10 YEARS**

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

QS World University Rankings by Subject 2015-24

Together, the RCA community can generate change now for a sustainable future everywhere.