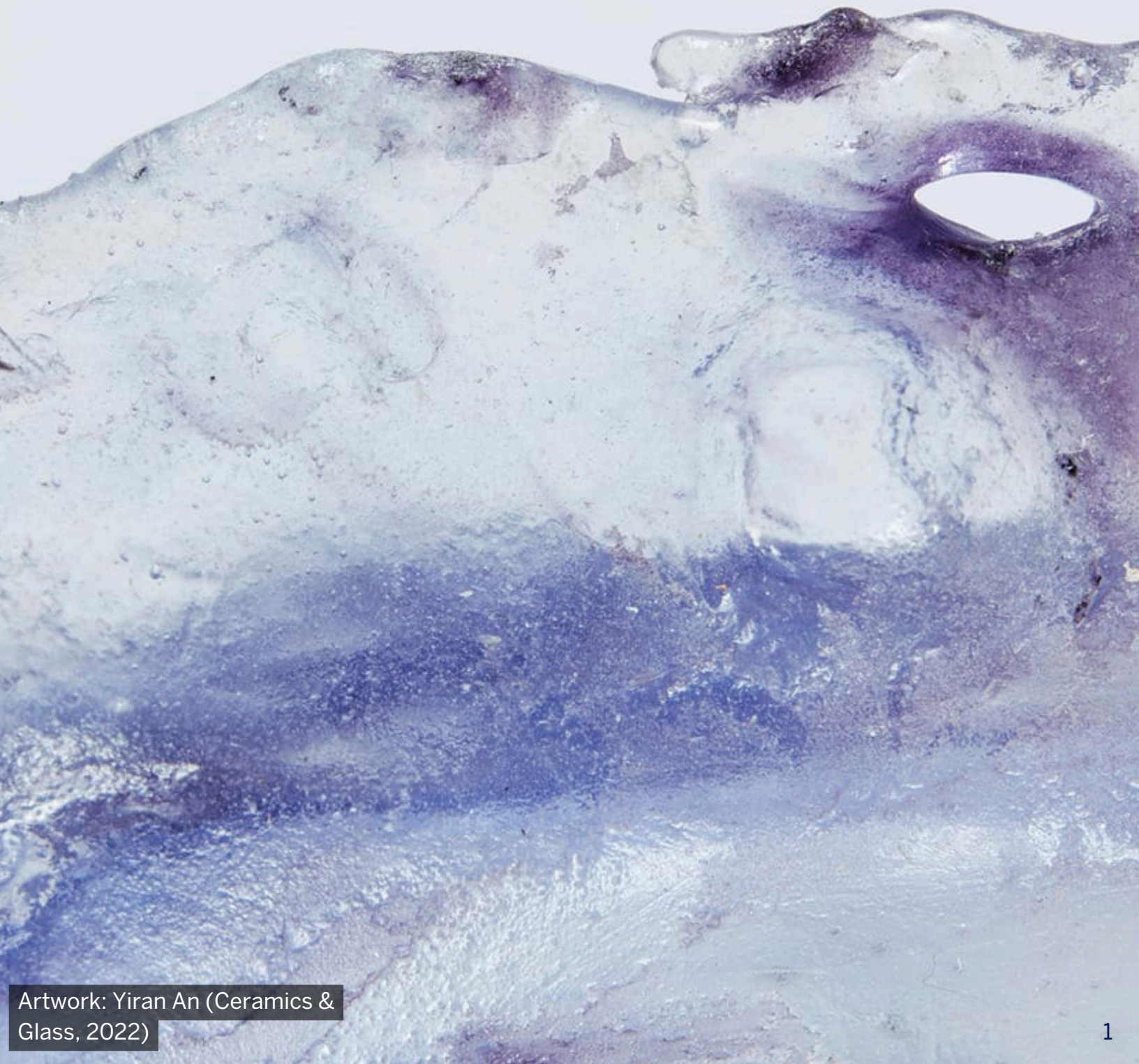


RCA

Tutor (Research) Jewellery and Metal July 2025



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 eleven consecutive years, according to the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025 – 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.

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. 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.

School of Arts & Humanities



Photo: Richard Haughton

School of Arts & Humanities

The School of Arts & Humanities bridges research and study in the fine and applied arts together with curating, writing and the history of design. We pay attention to the arts within the everyday, and to the everyday as site of practice, and as archive and technological advance. We maintain close and productive links with numerous organisations, world-renowned theatres, galleries, libraries and museums that depend on the Arts & Humanities, and which are central to our cultural and economic future; these links ensure that our work is relevant and public facing.

Jewellery and Metal



Photo: Richard Houghton

The Jewellery and Metal MA (JaM) sits alongside the Ceramics and Glass MA as part of the Applied Art programmes situated within the School of Arts and Humanities. The two programmes are driven by a material-led approach to research and practice. Applied Art disciplines are always at the convergence of things. Whether that's the cusp of art/design, material/immaterial, digital/analogue, Applied Art approaches require multidirectional attention and thoughtful and considered interactions with materials and materiality.

The programme emphasises a critical and reflexive approach to postgraduate study and to material-led, practice-based research. The programme philosophy seeks to unpick the relationship between people and things, pushing beyond the subject-object binary and JaM students explore the multiple ways we are entrapped and enthralled by the complex entanglement of the material and immaterial worlds. Through the emergent acts of making, JaM believes we can shed new light on these complex and essential relationships, revealing great depths in our understanding of, and being in, the world.

As applied artists, we engage with the making process as an essential way of materialising ideas, thoughts, feelings, offering a space for innovative and radical new ways of approaching jewellery, objects, and metal. We are responsive to the rapidly changing social and cultural landscape, drawing on history and technology in nurturing intellectual and creative skills directed at understanding and pushing forward jewellery and objects of human making. The rich and extensive bodies of knowledge associated with jewellery and metal object-making underpin an approach that is outward-looking and open to the wider discourse of "things" connected to contemporary life.

Tutor (Research)



Photo: Richard Haughton

Purpose of the post:

We are seeking a practitioner and researcher with extensive knowledge of materiel-led, practices and a wide grasp of the critical theories and philosophies that support innovation within the disciplines of jewellery and metal and more widely the territories of applied art. Applicants should be able to evidence a significant contribution to the field through their practice and research. The candidate should be able to evidence diverse, experimental and expansive approaches to the development of applied art practices and theories and be able to demonstrate an invested interest in teaching and pedagogy at postgraduate level. They will evidence the ability and enthusiasm for working collaboratively with colleagues in a team-based programme. They will be expected to take an active role in the development of the curriculum and develop innovative, research-informed, new modes of delivery.

Tutor (Research)



Photo: Richard Haughton

The successful candidate will be expected to utilise their own expertise as a researcher/practitioner through the delivering of lectures, workshops, seminars and crits and where appropriate in put into and deliver cross-school (Urgency of the Arts) and cross-college (AcrossRCA) other programmes units and programmes in the School and the new College wide unit 'Across RCA'. Their research will be expected to operate at a high level, consistently producing research outputs of at least 3* REF quality to enable submission to the REF. They will also be expected to pursue funding opportunities for their research and where possible, involve colleagues in collaborative projects contributing to the rich research culture and environment of the School.

The post holder will be expected to undertake administration around their teaching as required by the established structures and systems within the programme and across the School. The successful candidate will seek to promote the Programme, the College and its staff and students, acting as a positive advocate for the Royal College of Art.

Main Duties and Responsibilities:

In this context, the role will include the following:

- Undertaking research at 3* and 4* level within the Applied Art disciplines, and the ability to plan and deliver 5-year research plans while working within the research structures and appropriate research clusters of the School of Arts and Humanities (SoAH).
- Establishing themselves as an active participant in the SoAH Material Engagements Research Cluster.
- Contributing to discussions on curriculum development, including planning and supporting the creation of new pedagogical approaches and delivery methods across pre-sessional (pre-MA), MFA, MA, PGR, Executive Education, and micro-credential programmes, as well as contributing to the development and exploration of hybrid and blended modes of teaching.
- Supervising, supporting, and responding to the work of MA and PhD students through lectures, workshops, seminars, and critiques informed by and contributing to ongoing research.
- Undertaking administrative responsibilities related to teaching, in accordance with the established structures across the School.

Learning & teaching

- Provide academic, pastoral and technical (as appropriate) tutorial support to students, including regular one-to-one meetings as agreed
- Provide regular feedback to students to help them develop their skills and improve the quality of their work
- Participate in the assessment of student work, including through participation 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, and where appropriate lead on cross-college, cross-school and cross-disciplinary teaching and research activities as appropriate
- Keep abreast of innovation and best practice in learning and teaching in own subject
- Continually update own knowledge and understanding in academic specialism
- Supervise research students (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

Main Duties and Responsibilities:

Research

- Disseminate research findings through appropriate channels, in line with the College's overall strategy.
- Maintain and annually review a five-year individual research plan.
- Develop and pursue research interests aligned with the strategic direction of the College and School, in consultation with the Head of Programme and the Dean.
- Define relevant research objectives and prepare tailored proposals for appropriate audiences.
- Consistently produce research outputs of at least 3* REF quality to support REF submission.
- Ensure that research contributes meaningfully to the overall standing and reputation of the School.
- Conduct and lead individual research projects, building a coherent programme of research that supports the College's reputation and contributes to School research funding targets.

Academic Management, Administration & Citizenship

- Participate in student recruitment, including assessing student ability and potential to inform decision-making.
- Promote the College to prospective students through speaking engagements, attendance at promotional events, and other relevant activities.
- Lead field trips in accordance with programme requirements, enhancing student learning and ensuring pedagogic value.
- Undertake risk assessments where necessary, complying with relevant policies and procedures to ensure the safety of students and colleagues.
- Contribute to College committees as appropriate, supporting effective governance and decision-making.

Knowledge Transfer & Executive Education

- Contribute to funding proposals and manage any individual grants awarded, ensuring delivery against agreed objectives.
- Seek to develop industry links within your area of specialism to enhance the visibility of the College and create opportunities for students.

Person Specification

Skills, Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- A first degree in a relevant specialism and a postgraduate degree.
- Commitment to high-quality teaching and fostering a positive, inclusive learning environment for students.
- Demonstrated commitment to equality of opportunity and the ability to work harmoniously with colleagues and students from diverse cultures and backgrounds.
- Evidence of the ability to supervise academic work at Master's level.
- Commitment to continuous professional development.
- Evidence of, or clear potential to produce, research outputs of at least 3* REF quality, aligned with the strategic direction of the College.
- A postgraduate certificate (PGCert) in Higher Education and/or accredited Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy (HEA), or a willingness to undertake the appropriate training to achieve this within two years of appointment.

Desirable

- Experience in devising and delivering courses, including setting and assessing written work, at undergraduate or postgraduate level.
- A doctorate in a relevant field, or equivalent evidence of professional practice or academic achievement.
- For those supervising research students: completion of research supervision training, or willingness to undertake and complete appropriate training within two years of appointment.



Photo: Richard Haughton

Pay & Benefits

Additional Information:

- Salary working 5 days per week: from £54,263 per annum pro rata inclusive of London Allowance.
- 30 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/Battersea Campus as well as across the RCA's other London sites (White City) as necessary and reasonably requested.
- Grade: 9

Post: Tutor (Research)

School: Arts & Humanities

Programme: Jewellery and Metal

Grade: 9

Responsible to: Head of Programme

FTE: 0.8

Tenure: Permanent

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 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.