



Royal College of Art

Postgraduate Art & Design

JOB DESCRIPTION

Post:	Senior Tutor (research)
School:	Architecture
Programme:	Programmes in the School of Architecture (MA, MRes, MPhil/PhD and faculty research)
Grade:	10
Responsible to:	Dean, School of Architecture
FTE:	1.0 (Full time)

The Royal College of Art is the UK's only entirely postgraduate university of art and design, dedicated to teaching, research and knowledge exchange with industry.

The College's 1967 Royal Charter specifies that the College's purpose is "to advance learning, knowledge and professional competence particularly in the field of the fine arts... through teaching, research and collaboration with industry and commerce". Fifty years on, the College remains in the vanguard of creative enquiry, with around 2,000 students from 65 countries registered for MA, MRes, MPhil and PhD degrees. Applications are strong, and the College's strategy sets out an ambitious plan both to increase student places to 3,000 by 2020 and to launch new programmes underpinned by its world-class research. Recent examples in the School of Architecture include the launch in 2017 of City Design, and Environmental Architecture, both initially at MA level but with plans to develop into research degree study.

The College is located on three sites in central London, in Kensington, Battersea and White City. In 2016 the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced an unprecedented £54 million grant to support a major expansion at Battersea to create a flagship innovation campus, housing new research centres, knowledge exchange labs and additional space for the College's highly successful business incubator, InnovationRCA. With planning consent achieved in February 2018, enabling work on the new building is due to start in early 2018 with the completed building being handed over in late 2020.

As well as welcoming students from around the world, the College's global dimension is enhanced through extensive links with business and industry and

its partnerships with leading art and design, cultural and educational institutions; including, among many others, its neighbours in Kensington (Imperial College London, the Victoria & Albert Museum, the Royal College of Music, the Science Museum, and the Natural History Museum).

The College has 400 full- and part-time staff, including internationally renowned artists, designers, theorists and practitioners. These staff, together with innovative forms of teaching and learning, dedicated technical facilities and research centres, all contribute to create an exceptional creative and intellectual environment and a remarkable record of graduate employment. Numerous eminent graduates have created far-reaching impact and influence, and the College boasts such noteworthy alumni as Sir James Dyson, Thomas Heatherwick, David Hockney, Tracey Emin, Christopher Bailey, Julien McDonald, Alison Jackson, Idris Khan, Sir David Adjaye, Suzie Templeton and Sir Ridley Scott.

THE ROLE

The School of Architecture provides a stimulating and vibrant cultural context for study in one of the world's leading design cities. It offers a unique depth of study into architecture, interior design, city design and environmental architecture as sites of invention and intervention. What marks out the RCA as a distinctive environment for architects and interior designers are the opportunities it offers to realise live projects, and to work alongside designers and fine artists in a research intensive, postgraduate-only environment.

Reporting to the Dean of the School of Architecture, the Senior Tutor will develop and implement a comprehensive and expanded research programme at the School of Architecture. In alignment with College and school strategic priorities, they will establish and oversee research at all levels including postgraduate taught, postgraduate research, and faculty. They will help develop an emphasis on research in its various modes, whether through scholarship, exhibitions, publications, or other forms of experimental practices, which in turn will feed into the development of the programmes, and new pathways of study.

The Senior Tutor will also guide the growth, development and visibility of a range of initiatives to assure their originality and longevity, presence and identity at the school, in the city and in an international context.

Applicants must have a track record of attracting significant research funding through RCUK, EU, InnovateUK and/or charitable and commercial sources, and have an internationally recognised track record of research contribution to the field, evidenced through practice, publications and exhibitions in alignment with one of the school's strategic priority areas: ecology and climate change, city design and/or intergenerational cities, mobility and migration, or/as well as in exhibition practices, information and media systems, and forms of historical and theoretical work.

It is essential that candidates possess a PhD in Architecture or one of the disciplines offered by the school, along with the experience and skills required to translate, implement and coordinate school- and programme-level strategy into

coursework, curriculum and pedagogy on a multi-year basis and a proven record of producing research outputs of 3*/4* REF quality.

Mission

The Royal College of Art aims to achieve international standards of excellence in the postgraduate and pre- /mid-professional education of artists and designers and related practitioners. It aims to achieve these through the quality of its teaching, research and practice and through its relationship with the institutions, industries and technologies associated with the disciplines of art and design.

The College aims to achieve these standards of excellence by:

- Fostering a high level of understanding of the principles and practices of art and design;
- Encouraging individual creativity among staff and students;
- Recruiting students of proven ability and by providing pre-professional and post-experience study opportunities;
- Continuously enhancing appropriate links and collaborations with industries and professional bodies;
- Exploring the innovative applications of technologies and processes to the disciplines of art and design;
- Encouraging awareness of social and environmental developments insofar as they relate to art and design; and through co-operation and partnership with other institutions, locally, nationally and internationally.

The College delivers its programmes across four Schools, and the institution-wide Research and Knowledge Exchange department:

- School of Architecture;
- School of Communication;
- School of Design;
- School of Arts & Humanities.

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

The School of Architecture is led by Dr Adrian Lahoud. Architecture at the RCA sets out to inspire design innovation. The programme expands the possibilities of architecture and its agency in the world by encouraging a speculative, independent and critical ethos among its students.

Located in Kensington and, from September 2018 also in White City, the School of Architecture provides a stimulating and vibrant cultural context for study in one of the world's leading cities for design and the creative industries. The distinctive College environment offers students the opportunity to realise live projects and to work alongside designers and fine artists in an intensive, postgraduate-only environment. Students are encouraged to extend their material, conceptual and technical skills – expanding the potential of their practice while forming a rich set of networks and creative partnerships able to sustain their future careers.

The design studio provides a critical platform for shaping distinctive forms of practice upon graduation. The project-based pedagogy is supported by historical, theoretical and technical seminars where students are introduced to a wide range of design research methods and approaches. Within each programme, opportunities for external engagement, interdisciplinary collaboration and field work are provided in line with the pedagogical ambitions of students and staff.

PROGRAMMES

MA Architecture: Architecture at the RCA sets out to inspire individual design innovation. The RIBA accredited Part II programme expands the possibilities of architecture and its agency in the world by encouraging an independent and critical ethos among its students. The RCA's tradition of open-minded and experimental studio culture offers a stimulating space for students who are looking to develop a distinctive and innovative voice in the field.

MA Interior Design: The programme engages its participants in exploring emergent ideas and issues concerning distinct aspects of the design of the interior. This incorporates research, practice and making work that explores the diversity of human occupation in numerous environments, extending from the room to the city. The programme encourages the view that the interior is an interface between its occupants and the built environment, and supports the notion that the interior is an agent for social change.

MA City Design is a 15-month MA programme which launched in September 2017. The programme is aimed at a new generation of architects and urban designers interested in the radical transformation of cities and the societies that are shaped by them. It proposes a new multi-scalar approach to urban design education that unites architectural, technological and scientific research. The course is design-led and project-based as well as being connected to practice in London through an innovative partnership scheme.

MA Environmental Architecture is a 15-month MA programme which launched in September 2017. The programme is aimed at an emerging generation of designers interested in the widespread and far reaching transformation of environments and landscapes. It proposes a new multi-scalar approach to environmental and landscape education that unites spatial, technological and scientific research. The course is design-led and project-based as well as connected to practice in London through an innovative partnership scheme.

MRes RCA Architecture Pathway: offers training in practice-based research methods for critical studies of spatial design. Unique to the MRes Architecture Pathway is the offer of four specialisms that support a range of interests seen as essential to contemporary architectural and urban research:

- Architecture and Media
- City Design

- Social Movements
- Future of Work

The MPhil/PhD in Architecture and MPhil/PhD in Interior Design encourage interdisciplinary research projects in collaboration with other schools and external partners. Both MPhil and PhD programmes support traditional academic research, but also strongly emphasise practice-led and experimental research, preparing graduates for diverse career opportunities in academia, leading architectural and urban design practices, human rights organisations, NGOs, as well as social and environmental coalitions.

Research

The School of Architecture is committed to design and research that has impact in the world by formulating critical positions on the challenges confronting the built environment and the role of the architect in relation to them. In both research and pedagogy, the school advances the theory and practice of critical design at all scales: from the interior to the city. In keeping with an institution that values innovative practice, alongside academic research, creative and experimentation driven design-led research is integrated with more conventional text-based enquiry.

For further details of current research projects in the School of Architecture, please click [here](#).

Location

Based at the South Kensington campus (and from September 2018 also at White City) the School of Architecture studios are the heart of day-to-day activity for the programmes, and are purpose-designed for inspiration and interaction between students of different design disciplines. As well as an individual studio space, students have access to traditional 3D-making facilities, contemporary digital fabrication equipment and a suite of bookable project and making spaces.

ROLE DESCRIPTION

Reporting to the Dean of the School, the Senior Tutor will develop and implement a comprehensive and expanded research programme at the School of Architecture. Areas of strategic importance to the school include: ecology and climate change, city design and/or intergenerational cities, mobility and migration.

They will help develop an emphasis on research in its various modes, whether through scholarship, exhibitions, publications, or other forms of experimental practices, which in turn will feed into the development of the programmes, and new pathways of study.

Research at the school will be organised into three phases: conception, process, and dissemination. The Senior Tutor will guide each of these phases. In the first

phase, they will explore, propose, and develop the conceptual direction, framework and guidelines for major research initiatives. Working with the Research Office and the Dean, and the Development and Alumni Relations Office for philanthropic support, they will help formulate funding strategies for research initiatives, and build research teams of faculty, students, fellows and visiting scholars. In the second phase, they will design an approach to research methods, processes, and goals, and help plan lectures, visiting professorships, and events that will inform research projects. Finally, they will organise a structure of publications, symposia, exhibitions, and other forms of realisation and dissemination for research projects at the school.

The Senior Tutor will guide the growth, development and visibility of these initiatives to assure their originality and longevity, presence and identity at the school, in the city and within an international context.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Learning and Teaching

- examining and evaluating alternative research centre models at institutions in London, Europe, the Americas, and beyond;
- establishing a structure that will integrate research-led learning and teaching practices across multiple programme levels in accordance with the school's strategic priority areas: ecology and climate change, city design and/or intergenerational cities, mobility and migration;
- assisting in the development of new pathways on the school's taught programmes including pedagogical approaches, curricula and assessment;
- leading or contributing to courses, seminars and programmes where required;
- providing regular feedback to students to help them develop their skills and improve the quality of their work;
- contributing, delivering and where appropriate leading on cross-college, cross-school and cross-disciplinary teaching and research activities as appropriate;
- supervising students (MRes, MPhil or PhD as appropriate).

Research

- leading on the development of funding bids to make a significant contribution to securing research funding in line with school targets;
- supporting the Dean and the Heads of Programme in the school to coordinate and deliver research activity, bid writing and research funding pipelines;
- disseminate the school's research findings, ensuring maximum REF-defined impact through internationally recognised forums in line with the College's overall strategy;
- drawing upon existing research expertise, research networks, and research outputs to further develop and expand research activity within the School of Architecture in alignment with one of the school's strategic priority areas:

ecology and climate change, city design and/or intergenerational cities, mobility and migration;

- contributing to research methodologies teaching, training and support across the School of Architecture;
- assisting and supporting academic staff in framing and developing their research agenda and five-year plan in line with the school's strategic priority areas;
- drawing upon extensive experience with, and knowledge of, research methodologies within the various spatial disciplines including architecture, urban urbanism, planning and/or geography and help to structure inquiry for students including coordinating seminars and delivering lectures;
- familiarity and knowledge of research methodologies in other disciplinary areas including the sciences, ethnography and anthropology and help to structure approaches to experimentation and field work;
- exploring opportunities for growth in the research degrees programme in the school, ensuring research expands beyond the professionalised academic training of the PhD programme, or the professionalised design research within the architecture studios. In addition to the school's strategic priority areas, these programmes could be conceived to attract students interested in exhibition practices, information and media systems, and forms of historical and theoretical work;
- encourage graduates to return to pursue further study
- produce research outputs of 3*/4* REF quality in sufficient quantity to enable submission to the REF;
- completing and keeping up to date five-year individual research plan, reviewed and updated annually that is in line with school and College level research priorities and in coordination with the Dean;
- conducting and leading research projects, building a programme of research which contributes to the overall standing and reputation of the College and contribute to school research funding targets;
- leading a research group, if appropriate, managing successful delivery of research objectives, and ensuring effective collaboration high quality outputs;
- providing research mentoring to tutors or others as appropriate, supporting and advising on research projects to help ensure optimal outcomes;
- explore and exploit the possibilities for research collaboration with colleagues in and beyond the school.

Academic Management, Administration and Citizenship

- participating in student recruitment, including assessing student ability and potential to inform applicants of recruitment decisions via Registry;
- promoting the College to potential applicants, through speaking engagements, attendance at promotional events, or other relevant activities as required;
- undertaking risk assessments for work as necessary, complying with the necessary policies and procedures and ensuring the safety of students and colleagues;

- participating in College committees as appropriate, contributing to sound decision making;
- contributing to annual programme monitoring, ensuring quality and identifying areas for improvement;
- supporting the development of tutors and visiting lecturers through mentoring, advice and feedback;
- managing projects to ensure high quality delivery on time to budget;
- contributing to the College's strategic plan.

Knowledge Transfer and Executive Education

- developing strategic partnerships based in large-scale research questions related to the aforementioned strategic priorities;
- leading proposals for knowledge exchange funding and manage any grants awarded to ensure delivery of objectives;
- developing opportunities for knowledge exchange and lead on knowledge exchange projects ensuring value for the College;
- ensuring school is translating sufficient research ideas into deliverable Executive Education courses, both bespoke and as part of the College portfolio;
- developing appropriate mechanisms for tracking School of Architecture staff capacity, activity and success in delivering Executive Education to target.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

The successful candidate will be expected to demonstrate evidence of the following skills, capabilities and experience:

Essential:

- PhD in Architecture or one of the disciplines offered by the school;
- experience of supervising MPhil and PhD students;
- a track record of attracting significant research funding through RCUK, EU, InnovateUK and/or charitable and commercial sources;
- proven record of producing research outputs of 3*/4* REF quality;
- an established, significant and internationally recognised track record of research contribution to the field evidenced through practice, publications and exhibitions in alignment with one of the school's strategic priority areas: ecology and climate change, city design and/or intergenerational cities, mobility and migration, or/as well as in exhibition practices, information and media systems, and forms of historical and theoretical work;
- capacity to critically reflect upon, locate and develop pedagogical practices in architecture within a broader social and political field;
- experience and skills required to translate, implement and coordinate school and programme level strategy into coursework, curriculum and pedagogy on a multi-year basis. Including helping to establish synergies and efficiencies at a College and school wide level;
- demonstration of interest and engagement with either the Fine Arts and/or the Sciences through shared research projects and partnerships;

- demonstrable commitment to continuous professional development, e.g. have completed research supervision training;
- a commitment to high quality teaching and fostering a positive learning environment for students;
- demonstrable commitment to equality of opportunity and the ability to work harmoniously with colleagues and students of all cultures and backgrounds.

Desirable:

- Postgraduate certificate (PGCert) in higher education and/or accredited fellow of the Higher Education Academy;
- evidence of the ability to act as principal investigator or co-investigator.

Additional information

- Salary: £53,202 - £59,534 per annum inclusive of London Allowance.
- Normal hours will total 35 per week over 5 days, 9.30am to 5.30pm with an hour each day for lunch.
- 30 days annual leave plus extended breaks at Christmas and Easter.

PAY & BENEFITS

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

6 weeks' (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 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.

Cycle to Work Scheme

The Royal College of Art has signed up to the Cycle to Work Scheme – part of the government's Green Transport Initiative – which allows employees to make significant savings on purchasing new bikes and safety equipment.

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.

Professorships and readerships

The College awards professorships or readership to academic staff based on published criteria through an annual application process. Any award is subject to successful completion of probationary period, which is normally one year from first appointment.

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.