



Royal College of Art

Postgraduate Art & Design

ROYAL COLLEGE OF ART

ROLE PROFILE

Post:	Tutor, Experimental Design
School:	Communication
Programme:	Information Experience Design
Grade:	9
FTE:	0.6
Responsible to:	Head of Programme

Background

The Royal College of Art is the UK's only entirely postgraduate institution 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". Over 50 years on, the College remains in the vanguard of creative enquiry, and in 2019/20 the College will have around 2,400 students from more than 75 countries. Applications are strong, and the College's strategy sets out an ambitious plan both to increase student places to 3,000 by 2021 and to launch new programmes underpinned by its world-class research.

The College is located on three sites in central London, in Battersea, Kensington, and White City. The RCA recently launched GenerationRCA which will propel the University's radical new academic vision by focusing on three key pillars: 'Place, Projects and People'. This programme will see the RCA transform its campuses and the ways in which the university teaches, researches and creates. It includes the construction of the Herzog & de Meuron-design flagship building in Battersea and introduction of future programmes centred on nano and soft robotics, computer science and machine learning, materials science and the circular economy.

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 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, Margaret Calvert, Alison Jackson, Idris Khan, Sir Quentin Blake, Sir David Adjaye, Suzie Templeton and Sir Ridley Scott.

School of Communication

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 transformative processes, approaches and strategies. Whether operating in a social, artistic, commercial, political or academic environment, the goal is to question and to construct new, exploring fresh solutions, thoughts and pathways to help contribute to the building of a better future.

The School's ethos embraces agility, interdisciplinarity and transformation 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.

Purpose of the post

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.

Learning & teaching

- Lead Experimental Design seminars, lectures and projects, coordinate workshops, and set projects across pathways and programmes within the School as directed by the Head of Programme
- Provide academic, pastoral and technical (as appropriate) tutorial support to students, including regular one to one meetings as agreed
- Coordinate, monitor and report on the activities of the student group in relation to Experimental Design

- 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
- Through a contemporary vision, inspire students to explore the subject and discipline within their practice
- 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 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

Research

- Disseminate research findings through appropriate channels, and in line with the College's overall strategy
- Complete and keep up to date five-year individual research plan, reviewed and updated annually
- Develop and follow research interests in line with the strategic direction of the College and school, in consultation with the head of programme and 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 standing of the school
- Conduct and lead individual 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

Academic management, administration & citizenship

- Participate in student recruitment, including assessing student ability and potential to inform recruitment decisions
- Promote the College to potential students, through speaking engagements, attendance at promotional events, or other relevant activities
- 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 School and programme-wide activities including organisation and planning of internal and external events
- Participate in college committees as appropriate, contributing to sound decision making

Knowledge transfer & executive education

- Contribute towards proposals for funding and manage any individual grants awarded to ensure delivery of objectives
- Seek to develop links with industry in area of specialism to promote the College and its students

Skills, knowledge and experience

Essential

- First degree in a relevant specialism
- A doctorate in relevant field or evidence of appropriate and advanced practice
- Extensive knowledge of contemporary communication practice in the UK and internationally
- Ability to question, critique and provoke notions of information, experience and design
- Extensive and expanded knowledge of aspects of experimental design, including a range of critical tools, methods and processes for the development and understanding of the relationship between information experience, adjacent disciplines and beyond
- Experience of devising and teaching courses, and setting and assessing written work at undergraduate and postgraduate degree level
- Evidence of the ability to supervise academic work at masters and doctoral level
- Evidence of, or clear potential to produce, research outputs of at least 3* REF quality in line with the strategic direction of the College
- Demonstrable commitment to high quality teaching and fostering a positive learning environment for student
- Demonstrable commitment to equality of opportunity and the ability to work harmoniously with colleagues and students of all cultures and backgrounds
- Experience of working around themes and discourses that will further the diversity of the RCA community
- Enthusiasm and an ability to work collaboratively with a small staff team and be responsible and committed to students and the School throughout the academic year
- Demonstrable commitment to continuous professional development

Desirable

- A postgraduate certificate (PGCert) in higher education
- An accredited fellow of the Higher Education Academy
- If supervising research students, have completed research supervision training or willingness to undertake and complete appropriate training within two years of appointment

Additional information

- Salary working three days per week: £27,977 - £31,282 per annum inclusive of London Allowance.
- Normal hours will total 15 per week over 3 days, 9.30am to 5.30pm with an hour each day for lunch
- 18 days annual leave plus extended breaks at Christmas and Easter
- A contributory defined benefit pension scheme and interest free season ticket loan are available

MARCH 2020

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.

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.

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.