



Royal College of Art

Postgraduate Art & Design

ROYAL COLLEGE OF ART

JOB DESCRIPTION

Post:	Tutor (research)
School:	Architecture
Programme:	MA Architecture
Grade:	9
Responsible to:	Head of Programme
FTE:	1.0
Tenure:	Permanent
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 RCA has been ranked the number one university-level institution for art & design, internationally, for the eighth consecutive year according to the QS World University Rankings by Subject, 2021.

The College currently has some 2,700 students registered for Graduate Diploma, MA, MRes, MPhil and PhD degrees, and this is set to rise to 3,000 in coming years. The majority of postgraduate teaching and research supervision is delivered by the RCA's four Schools: Architecture, Arts & Humanities; Communication; Design, with each School led by a Dean of international standing and a recognised leader in their field.

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 Burberry Materials Futures Research Group); the Intelligent Mobility Design Centre, the HELIX Centre, and future centres in Computer Science and in Drawing. The RCA is also home to one of the UK's most successful university incubators, InnovationRCA.

Our People

The RCA's Royal Visitor (Patron) is HRH Prince of Wales; its Chancellor is Sir Jony Ive, and the Pro-Chancellor and Chair of Council is Sir Peter Bazalgette. The RCA's Vice-Chancellor - the CEO of the institution - is Dr Paul Thompson. The RCA has more than 500 permanent staff, including internationally renowned artists, designers, architects, theorists and curators. These staff, together with an innovative pedagogy, world-class technical facilities and research centres, all contribute to an exceptional environment and a remarkable record of graduate employment. Generations of eminent graduates have created far-reaching impact and influence, such as Barbara Hepworth, Bridget Riley, David Hockney, Sir Ridley Scott, Sir James Dyson OM, Asif Kapadia, Thomas Heatherwick, Chris Ofili, Tracey Emin, Jake & Dinos Chapman, Christopher Bailey, Idris



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Khan, Chantal Joffe, Sir David Adjaye, Erdem, Monster Chetwynd, Oscar Murillo and Lina Lapelyte.

Strategic Plan 2022–2027

The RCA is currently crafting a new strategic plan, involving all staff in a process that was concluded in March 2022, with the publication of a new Strategic Vision and Plan for the next five years and the appointment of our new Chair of Council, Sir Peter Bazalgette.

This plan will embrace the roll out of a new model of delivery for our taught postgraduate programmes; it will underscore our commitment to being the world's most research-intensive art & design university; and it will commit to a number of Equity and Diversity goals which will lead towards the RCA becoming an anti-racist institution.

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

The School of Architecture is led by Dr Adrian Lahoud and 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 currently 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.



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MA Environmental Architecture is currently 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.

Purpose of the post

The purpose of the post is work with the Dean School of Architecture and the Head of Programme MA Architecture to conceptualise, coordinate, and administer teaching and research as part of the RIBA part 2 validation of the MA Architecture programme.

The MA Architecture is a RIBA/ARB part II accredited professional degree and as such the post requires the candidate maintain current knowledge and understanding of developments in practice and architectural education, supporting innovative teaching and delivery of the curriculum and programme to maintain validation whilst reflecting and reinforcing the ambitions of the school and programme.

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



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- 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 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



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Skills, knowledge and experience

Essential

- First degree in a relevant specialism
- A postgraduate certificate (PGCert) in higher education and/or accredited fellow of the Higher Education Academy, or willingness to undertake appropriate training to achieve such within two years of appointment
- If supervising research students, have completed research supervision training or willingness to undertake and complete appropriate training within two years of appointment
- Commitment to high quality teaching and fostering a positive learning environment for students.
- Commitment to continuous professional development.
- Commitment to equality of opportunity and the ability to work harmoniously with colleagues and students of all cultures and backgrounds
- Evidence of, or clear potential to produce, research outputs of at least 3* REF quality in line with the strategic direction of the College

Desirable

- A doctorate in relevant field or evidence of appropriate professional practice or academic achievement
- Experience of devising and teaching courses, and setting and assessing written work at undergraduate or postgraduate degree level
- Evidence of the ability to supervise academic work at masters and doctoral level

Additional information

- Salary working 5 days per week: £47,290 - £52,880 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
- A contributory defined benefit pension scheme and interest free season ticket loan are available
- The appointment is permanent subject to a two-year probationary period.
- Time to conduct research will be allocated to the person appointed on the basis of the College's Academic Employment Framework. This stipulates a minimum of 20% research time for a research academic.
- The successful candidate will be required to work at our Kensington, and across the RCA's other London sites (White City and Battersea) as necessary and reasonably requested.

June 2022



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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 19% 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 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.

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.