



Royal College of Art

Postgraduate Art & Design

Post:	Postdoctoral Researcher
Department:	Contemporary Art Practice, SoAH
Grade:	7, 0.4 FTE
Responsible to:	Principle Investigator
Duration:	Fixed-term contract – approx. 2 years

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 and design, internationally, for the eighth consecutive year according to the QS World University Rankings by Subject, 2022.

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 3,300 in coming years with the introduction of the new campus at Battersea during 2022. The majority of postgraduate teaching and research supervision is delivered by the RCA's four Schools: Architecture, Arts and 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 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.

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 and Dinos Chapman, Christopher Bailey, Idris Khan, Chantal Joffe, Sir David Adjaye, Erdem, Philip Treacey, Monster Chetwynd, Oscar Murillo and Lina Lapelyte.

Strategic Plan 2022–2027

The RCA has developed 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 to support access and flexibility; it will underscore our commitment to being the world's most research-intensive art and 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.

In line with an ambitious strategy for growth and significant expansion at the College's campus at Battersea, the RCA has reviewed its provision of technical services college-wide. Following this review and an initial technical services development plan, we seek to appoint a Head of Technical Services, to be responsible for all technical facilities and staff across the College. These include a range of general workshops, together with specialist facilities, for example in robotics, additive manufacturing, moving image, mechatronics; along with industry-facing knowledge exchange labs in visualisation and material futures to contribute towards revenue diversification and engagement with industry and commerce.

The aim is to achieve a more strategic approach to investment in, and development of, the technical facilities, equipment and staff of the College, improved utilisation and life-cycle planning and investment in technical equipment, and enhanced alignment with the academic timetable of student facing technologies and facilities. This change of approach will be implemented during an exciting and challenging period for the College, with the planned expansion of student numbers, the introduction of new areas of specialist study and practice, and the expansion of the College's activities on our largest and newest campus in Battersea.

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.

Purpose of the Post:

This AHRC-funded project aims to diagnose shifts in emergency signal communication and to speculate new siren sounds in collaboration with musicians, academics and specialists. It identifies 'Preemptive Listening' as an ear tuned to emergency and the prevention of danger. The project expands our understanding of who listens and how, informed by deaf studies and auraldiversity. The practice-led research will manifest as a documentary essay film and exhibition, an audio archive, a symposium and a journal article. The postholder will work closely with the PI (Dr. Aura Satz), team members and project partners across culture, industry, and community to deliver the research outcomes of the project. Working as a key member of the project team, the successful candidate is a talented early-career researcher with a proven knowledge in sound studies, auraldiversity, experimental film, and artistic practice.

Main Duties and Responsibilities:

- Conduct research to deliver the project outcomes under the supervision and direction of the PI.
- Support the PI in the design and development of the research activities for the project.
- Conduct critical literature review and primary research e.g., interviews and workshops where required, and analysing research findings to contribute to the overall research outcomes.
- Contribute to the creation of a research archive for the project, made available through the RCA library.
- Participate and attend meetings with project partners and, where necessary, visit labs, studios, and workspaces that support the research enquiry and delivery of outcomes.
- Write project reports and participate in project meetings and activities.
- Engage in the dissemination of the results of the research under the supervision of the PI. Support communication of research outcomes to a wide variety of audiences, including through public engagement, tailoring content and style to a broad range of specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- Engage in the wider research and scholarly activities of the School and College. Contribute to the RCA Academic community through presentations or teaching in appropriate forums and participation in RCA-wide activities as appropriate.
- Act as an effective and collaborative member of a broader team.
- Carry out administrative and management work associated with the research project and other tasks as part of the project work, as required.
- Working with the project team, ensure that project outputs and project deliverables are properly documented and disseminated to key audiences, via reports, papers, exhibits, publications, the website etc.
- To contribute to project updates on a regular basis, working with other team members, project partners and relevant stakeholders.
- Support the development of proposals for further research funding.
- To ensure confidentiality on all matters and information obtained during the course of employment.
- To conduct all research reflecting best practice in ethics, integrity, research data management, and research governance, ensuring compliance with RCA policies and external funding terms and conditions and sector standards.
- To respect the confidentiality of data stored electronically and by other means in line with the Data Protection Act.

Person Specification:

Essential:

- Hold a recent doctorate, or are very close to acquiring a PhD, in a relevant field to the project including sound studies, experimental/documentary film, cultural studies, artistic practice.
- Have interest in and (proven) experience with a multidisciplinary approach to sound, societal and political themes related to the project.
- Demonstrated experience of contributing to and reporting on projects and managing resources.
- Have an excellent track record in research, preferably with a focus on research through practice; evidence of producing quality research outputs relevant to the career stage and discipline.
- Demonstrable understanding of good practice in research conduct (including in research ethics, research integrity and handling research data).

- Demonstrable ability to be a collaborative member of a broader team.
- Evidenced flexibility and confidence to tackle a wide range of tasks, with an open, proactive, creative and problem-solving approach.
- Evidenced excellent writing, communication and presentation skills, able to adopt an appropriate style for a range of specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- Evidenced strong interpersonal and team-working skills.

Desirable:

- Relevant / relatable professional experience in a related sector (such as curating art/music, film-industry, etc.).
- Evidenced experience of working on collaborative projects, preferably involving HE and industry collaborations in a relevant field.
- Evidenced experience of addressing aural diversity and neurodiversity from a sound perspective in relevant professional practice.
- Evidenced experience of generating a digital audio, visual and text research archive within a HE context, that can additionally be used as a teaching resource.

Additional information

- Full time salary : £37,910 - £41,171 per annum inclusive of London Allowance.
- Normal hours will total 14 hours per week over 2 days, 9.30am to 5.30pm with an hour each day for lunch.
- 25 days annual leave per annum pro rata, plus extended breaks at Christmas and Easter at the discretion of the college.
- A contributory defined benefit pension scheme and interest free season ticket loan are available.
- Term: Fixed term for 24 months.

August 2022

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

25 days paid leave a year pro rata 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.