



# Programme Specification

## 1. General information

<b>Programme title:</b>	Arts and Humanities
<b>Award:</b>	MFA
<b>Qualification Framework level:</b>	7
<b>Mode</b>	Full-Time
<b>School/Department or equivalent:</b>	Arts and Humanities
<b>Campus location(s):</b>	Battersea
<b>Total UK credits:</b>	180
<b>Date valid from/to</b>	2023-24

## 2. Programme Philosophy

This MFA programme supports you to extend your practice, locate and expand its professional potential and explore your agency in forging the future of arts and humanities. The programme foregrounds the processes by which you learn, the process of forming professional networks, the processes of researching and making work and processes by which you engage audiences and activate your practice.

This professionally engaged, externally-facing programme brings you together with other creative practitioners in a multidisciplinary, collaborative community that promotes a dynamic dialogue to actively examine how the arts and humanities can address current and future challenges.

You will identify and explore the professional realm that you and your work will operate within. You will interrogate that context through live projects that activate and extend your practice. You will explore how you can engage audiences towards building a professionally robust, ethically sound and research-informed approach. The programme will encourage you to develop models and build networks that should help sustain your practice and research after graduating.

The 180 credits that make up the programme are broken down into a series of 15, 30 and 60 credit units. Flexibility and choice are at the heart of the offer, with a combination of core and elective units enabling you to create a bespoke programme of studies that best suits your approach, context and interests.

Core units establish the principles and basis of the MFA Programme. The *Conditions* unit asks you to critically analyse the history, context and philosophies of art through a global perspective taking into consideration current decolonial debates. The *Positions* unit supports you to identify and explore the professional realm you see your work operating within. The 30-credit *Live* unit is an opportunity to work in response to a live context, considering how your work will engage audiences.

These core units run alongside your elective units, which are designed to enable you to align your practice with one of the School of Arts and Humanities areas of research excellence:

- Sites and Situations
- Health and Care
- Material Engagements
- Curatorial Practices
- Synthetic Encounters: Human : Machine : Interspecies : Art

The multidisciplinary communities of practice and research, formed around your choice of electives, will help to develop networks that can further extend your work through collective and collaborative practice.

In addition, the programme offers the opportunity to further extend your research and practice through selecting units from a series of College-wide electives. These include, for example, units in teaching and learning from the MEd (Master of Education) Programme and Research Methods units from the MRes (Master of Research). In this way the MFA Programme is designed to allow you to tailor the curriculum to best suit the direction you intend to develop your work or practice post graduation.

Drawing upon the learning and work established in previous units, the MFA culminates in the development of your 60-credit Independent Research Project in which you generate a body of work, either independently or collaboratively, and present a reflection on your experience of the MFA programme.

### **3. Educational Aims and Outcomes of the Programme**

#### **Programme aims**

*This MFA programme of study has the following aims:*

- To support you to situate your practice in a professional context. The programme challenges you to activate your practice, engage audiences and explore the live contexts within which your work operates;
- To provide a framework in which you can extend and develop your practice as research. The Programme aims to help you align your practice with the expertise of one of the School's areas of research excellence, contributing to, and developing, the area's advancement of knowledge;
- To support you to explore how your practice, and the arts in general, can address and respond to the changing nature of current and future social, political and environmental challenges;
- To equip you to be able to work collectively and/or collaboratively, considering how your practice might operate in relation to that of others within, and beyond, your discipline;
- To challenge you to extend and advance your work in a way that is critically aware of its ethical impact, acknowledging its effect on others and its potential contribution to positive social change.

#### **What will I be expected to achieve?**

**Upon successful completion of the programme, you will be expected to meet the requirements of both the College-wide Learning Outcomes and your programme-specific Learning Outcomes.**

### College-Wide Learning Outcomes

You should be able to:

- Interrogate and articulate the intentions of your work in relation to the critical and conceptual context of your field(s) of study;
- Independently plan and produce work that is informed by developments at the forefront of your field(s) of study;
- Evaluate and critique the principles and methods of research in your field(s) of study, and apply these principles to your creative, professional and/or scholarly practice;
- Demonstrate originality in how you translate knowledge into practice;
- Communicate your creative, professional and/or scholarly practice to a non-specialist audience;
- Critically reflect on the likely public impact of your creative, professional and/or scholarly practice, and on your responsibilities as a practitioner;
- Define your professional ambitions and identify the challenges involved in meeting them.

### Programme-Specific Learning Outcomes

**Upon successful completion of the programme, you should be able to:**

- Apply your creative practice to professional contexts, devising critically-informed strategies for engaging audiences;
- Critically apply an area of research in the development and advancement of your research-led practice;
- Critically analyse how your practice can address global and societal challenges through realising creative outcomes that respond to complex issues;
- Analyse your role and contribution to collective or collaborative projects to evaluate your effectiveness in working with other creative practitioners;
- Critically assess the ethical implications of your practice, demonstrating an advanced awareness of the impact of your work and working processes on others.

## **4. What will I learn?**

### **Curriculum Map**

## Full-time, 1 Year, 45 Weeks

### Term 1

Core Unit 15 credits  
**Conditions**

Core Unit 15 credits  
**Positions**

Elective Unit 15 Credits  
**SoAH Electives**

Elective Unit 15 Credits  
**SoAH Electives** or  
**RCA Elective** or  
**AcrossRCA**

### Term 2

Core Unit 30 credits  
**LIVE**

Elective Unit 15 Credits  
**SoAH Electives**

Elective Unit 15 Credits  
**RCA Elective** or  
**AcrossRCA**

### Term 3

Core Unit 60 credits  
**Research Project**

### Programme Structure

Unit Title	Term	Credit Value	Core/Elective
Conditions	1	15	Core
Positions	1	15	Core
School Elective 1	1	15	Elective
School Elective or College-wide Elective	1	15	Elective
Live	2	30	Core
School Elective 2	2	15	Elective
College-wide Elective	2	15	Elective
Independent Research Project	3	60	Core

#### **CONDITIONS (15 Credits) (Term 1)**

The *Conditions* unit seeks to redress the dominant orthodoxies and canons of western art to reveal the power dynamics and biases inherent within them, and to critically reconsider the role of the arts and humanities now and in the future. The unit draws on awareness of different perspectives across various global consciousness and then considers how local action might have value in addressing the world's current challenges. A priority is to ask how we might deconstruct patriarchal structures and systemic racism through art practices? You will present your work to others, form groups of shared interest and select the elective units.

#### **POSITIONS (15 Credits) (Term 1)**

The *Positions* unit asks you to explore the professional, academic and cultural position that you see your work operating within. The unit will explore artist-run initiatives, institutional residencies and the commercial arts sector, asking you to formulate a critical position and plan for developing a sustainable practice after graduation. You will consider what attributes will equip you to be

successful in your chosen professional arena.

### **LIVE (30 Credit)** (Term 2)

The *LIVE* unit is an opportunity to work in response to a live, external context. You will either work with one of the MFA Programme's external partners, or develop a self-initiated external group project. The unit invites you to work in collectives to propose, devise and realise a project that explores modes for activating your work in public and engaging audiences. Key words such as *encounter*, *participation* and *process* will be explored in detail where you consider what these terms mean to your developing research and practice.

### **SoAH Electives (15 Credits per unit)** (Terms 1 and 2)

A series of elective units within the School of Arts and Humanities will offer you the possibility of aligning your practice with one of the School's areas of research excellence. The SoAH elective units, studied in sequential pairs, challenge you to locate your practice within a territory of research and consider how you might contribute to expanding the knowledge and research in that area.

### **Cross-College Electives (15 Credits per unit)** (Terms 1 and 2)

You can choose to select one or two *College-wide Electives*. These electives are devised by one of the other four Schools within the RCA, as well as the MRes (Master of Research) and MEd (Master of Education). These units will expand the community you are working alongside and challenge you to consider the potential for cross-disciplinary dialogue and practice to inform your developing research and practice identity.

### **Independent Research Project (60 Credits)** (Term 3)

The 60-credit *Independent Research Project* is an opportunity to build a body of work that addresses the key ambitions of your research and practice. You will propose, develop and realise a project, taking control over all aspects including the potential to adapt the list of assessment evidence to suit your practice. You will draw on what you have learnt on the programme and devise a project which might be individual or collaborative. The work will engage a public audience via presentation in the form of a public exhibition, publication or event. The unit culminates in the MFA conference where you will present your practice and research. You will evidence your critical awareness of how your work is located in the professional realm, describe how your work engages with an area of knowledge, and show how your work addresses key social, political, environmental challenges. Planning for continued practical and professional development after graduation is an important aspect of this unit. For those students wishing to extend their work at PhD level, an outline research proposal will be a component of the *Independent Research Project*.

## **5. How will I learn?**

Every aspect of the MFA seeks to reconsider established modes and orthodoxies. As such, the MFA provides a space for difference. This is embedded in the approach to the ways you will learn as much as the content you will explore and the work you will make.

The MFA programme emphasises group participation. Establishing a community of practice and research is at the heart of the MFA's mission. Therefore, much of the teaching and learning activity, which is a blend of online and face-to-face contact, will be formed around group discussion. Innovative and experimental modes of teaching will be deployed in order to stimulate discussion and nurture participation. Such events include 'long-table' discussions, embodied learning and events-based learning where you are encouraged to develop a 'dialogue through doing'. This means learning through practice alongside your peers. Regular 'Exchange' sessions will bring you together to discuss and critique work and reflect on your ongoing practical and conceptual enquiry. In addition, a

timetable of 1:1 and group tutorials, seminars and lectures will form the basis by which you engage with the units across the programme.

The physical location for the MFA will be a 'Live-Room'. The room will be the focus for discussion, social interaction and tutorial contact as well as being a space for making and a place to host events. The Live Room will be a multidisciplinary workspace that enables practice, discussion, documentation, learning and broadcast. The Live-Room will act as a focus for engaging audiences, inviting interaction with the extended RCA community.

This MFA is an advanced level, practical programme of study. You will be expected to produce practical outcomes and develop a body of work. However, it is expected that you will not rely on individual studio space or intensive technical workshop support in order to realise your work. Practical consultancies, conducted by RCA technical and academic staff will support you to plan and develop your practical work, with the emphasis on developing modes that you can sustain after graduation rather than relying on specialist technical resources at College. This approach to building a sustainable practice in preparation for continued development is aligned with the professionally-engaged philosophy of the MFA Programme.

## 6. Assessment and feedback

### Regulations

Regulations for assessment and progression can be found [here](#). Please familiarise yourself with these.

### Assessment

MFA assessment is considered an essential opportunity to take stock, to identify and reflect on what you have learnt and to maintain a momentum of enquiry.

Each unit on the MFA is assessed holistically. There is a list of items that must be submitted for assessment but no one item is considered to have more weight than any other item. In this way you are able to demonstrate how you have met the unit learning outcomes in whichever way is most appropriate to your practice and research.

Listed assessment evidence, which appear in each of the unit descriptor documents, are drawn from the following items: verbal presentations; written critical reflections; proposal documents including risk assessments; recorded presentations (video or audio); body of work, normally represented via a portfolios of practice; or public exhibition engagement (in the Research Project).

In order to encourage creative risk taking and experimentation and to enable collaborative and collective practice, no alphabetical or numerical grades are given. Assessment outcomes include Pass, Pass Subject to Corrections, Referral or Fail.

Summative assessment takes place at the end of each unit, with feedback in the form of peer feedback, tutor feedback or self assessment, or a combination of these. In keeping with the programme's emphasis on dialogue and participation, assessment takes place via Dialogic Assessment Tutorials. These are either group tutorials or 1:1 and led by a tutor or senior tutor. This mode of assessment means that you directly participate in the assessment and continued reflection on the development of your practice.

Any formal, summative written feedback, in addition to feedback at the dialogic assessment tutorials will be completed with three weeks of the end of a unit.

**Information regarding individual assessments will be included in the Unit Descriptors, and will be available to students at the beginning of the academic year.**

## 7. What award can I get?

All Masters' degrees constitute 180 credits at the RCA. All credits are organised into units of study. Each award comprises of a set number of units. A unit carries a designated credit value.

To be awarded an RCA Masters' degree you are required to successfully complete 180 credits of study at level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ). You will need to successfully complete all units to achieve the requisite 180 credits.

If you fail a unit at the first attempt, you will be offered an opportunity to resit the unit. If you are unsuccessful at a second attempt, you cannot progress further in your studies, but may be offered an exit award.

Exit awards:

An exit award is a final award from the RCA and cannot be rescinded.

If you have gained at least 120 credits at level 7 of the FHEQ, you may be eligible for the exit award of Postgraduate Diploma.

Upon exit, you will receive a transcript listing all credits completed during your studies at the RCA.

For more information about the RCA policies for assessment, progression and awards, please see the Regulations.

## 8. Admissions

### Cross-College requirements

We welcome applicants from a wide range of backgrounds, and encourage applications from candidates with demonstrable evidence of professional engagement with their chosen discipline area.

Candidates must normally have obtained a good relevant undergraduate degree or an equivalent qualification (usually or Bachelors' degree, or Graduate Diploma). Candidates who already hold a relevant Masters' qualification are also encouraged to apply.

Other qualifications may be approved, providing that the College's Academic Board for Concessions and Discipline (ABCD) is satisfied that the applicant has the potential to pursue the programme of study successfully. The ABCD is empowered to make judgements about the extent to which qualifications or experience gained elsewhere may be accepted in partial fulfilment of its requirements.

[English Language](#)

Applicants who are not a national of a majority English-speaking country will need to demonstrate their English language proficiency. The College accepts a range of English language qualifications. The full list can be seen at <https://www.rca.ac.uk/studying-at-the-rca/apply/entrance-requirements/english-language-requirements/>

Applicants are exempt from this requirement if they have received a 2.1 degree or above from a university in a majority English-speaking nation within the last two years.

If a student would need a Student Route Visa to study at the RCA, they will also need to meet the Home Office's minimum requirements for entry clearance.

All applicants will be asked to submit a portfolio, a statement, and a short video. Programme-specific requirements for these will apply and are detailed below.

### Programme-Specific requirements

Applicants for the MFA will apply with one of the following options:

#### Option 1 Portfolio and Accompanying statement

A **portfolio of work** that includes up to 10 completed works. The images should demonstrate an established practice that evidences Masters-level engagement.

A **statement of practice**. This statement should include a description of your position and should cover the following areas:

- Describe the nature of your work and indicate how you intend to develop your practice on the course and beyond.
- How do you engage with current socio-political contexts through your practice?
- Outline how collaborative and/or collective practice has informed your approach and operated within your practice.

You should also indicate which of the School's area of research you foresee your work aligning with:

- Sites and Situations
- Health and Care
- Material Engagements
- Curatorial Practices
- Wild Science - Art's Digital Future

#### Option 2 Statement only

Given the interdisciplinary, outward-facing nature of the programme, alongside the ambition to expand the range of knowledge, approaches and positions that forge what contemporary arts and humanities might be, we welcome applicants from a broad range of previous disciplines and backgrounds, beyond visual art. If you have an ambition to participate in the MFA project, and develop an arts and/or humanities practice you should write a 1000-1200 word **position statement**. This statement should include the following:

- describe your previous research and practice
- how you intend to engage with current debates and challenges and what attributes you will bring to the learning community



You should include or attach samples of text (or video links etc if appropriate) that show examples of your previous work. Examples might include (but are not limited to): essays, short stories, films, curated exhibitions, proposals.



# Programme Specification

## 1. General Information

<b>Programme title:</b>	Arts and Humanities
<b>Award:</b>	MFA
<b>Qualification Framework level:</b>	7
<b>Mode</b>	Part Time
<b>School/Department or equivalent:</b>	Arts and Humanities
<b>Campus location(s):</b>	Battersea
<b>Total UK credits:</b>	180
<b>Date valid from/to</b>	2023-24

## 2. Programme Philosophy

This part-time MFA programme supports you to extend your practice, locate and expand its professional potential and explore your agency in forging the future of arts and humanities. The programme foregrounds the processes by which you learn, the process of forming professional networks, the processes of researching and making work and processes by which you engage audiences and activate your practice.

This professionally engaged, externally-facing programme brings you together with other creative practitioners in a multidisciplinary, collaborative community that promotes a dynamic dialogue to actively examine how the arts and humanities can address current and future challenges.

You will identify and explore the professional realm that you and your work will operate within. You will interrogate that context through live projects that activate and extend your practice. You will explore how you can engage audiences towards building a professionally robust, ethically sound and research-informed approach. The programme will encourage you to develop models and build networks that should help sustain your practice and research after graduating.

The 180 credits that make up the programme are broken down into a series of 15, 30 and 60 credit units over the two-year part-time mode. Flexibility and choice are at the heart of the offer, with a combination of Core and Elective units enabling you to create a bespoke programme of studies that best suits your approach, context and interests.

Core units establish the principles and basis of the MFA Programme. The *Conditions* unit asks you to critically analyse the history, context and philosophies of art through a global perspective taking into consideration current decolonial debates. The *Positions* unit supports you to identify and explore the professional realm you see your work operating within. The 30 credit *Live* unit is an opportunity to work in response to a live context, considering how your work will engage audiences.

These core units run alongside your elective units, which are designed to enable you to align your practice with one of the School of Arts and Humanities areas of research excellence:

- Sites and Situations

- Health and Care
- Material Engagements
- Curatorial Practices
- Synthetic Encounters: Human : Machine : Interspecies : Art

The multi-disciplinary communities of practice and research, formed around your choice of electives, will help to develop networks that can further extend your work through collective and collaborative practice.

In addition, the programme offers the opportunity to further extend your research and practice through selecting units from a series of College-wide Electives. These include, for example, units in teaching and learning from the MEd (Master of Education) Programme and Research Methods units from the MRes (Master of Research). In this way the MFA Programme is designed to allow you to tailor the curriculum to best suit the direction you intend to develop your work or practice post graduation.

Drawing upon the learning and work established in previous units, the MFA culminates in the development of your 60 credit Independent Research Project in which you generate a body of work, either independently or collaboratively, and present a reflection on your experience of the MFA programme.

### **3. Educational Aims and Outcomes of the Programme**

#### **Programme aims**

*This MFA programme of study has the following aims:*

- To support you to situate your practice in a professional context. The programme challenges you to activate your practice, engage audiences and explore the live contexts within which your work operates;
- To provide a framework in which you can extend and develop your practice as research. The Programme aims to help you align your practice with the expertise of one of the School's areas of research excellence, contributing to, and developing, the area's advancement of knowledge;
- To support you to explore how your practice, and the arts in general, can address and respond to the changing nature of current and future social, political and environmental challenges;
- To equip you to be able to work collectively and/or collaboratively, considering how your practice might operate in relation to that of others within, and beyond, your discipline;
- To challenge you to extend and advance your work in a way that is critically aware of its ethical impact, acknowledging its effect on others and its potential contribution to positive social change.

#### **What will I be expected to achieve?**

**Upon successful completion of the programme, you will be expected to meet the requirements of both the College-wide Learning Outcomes and your programme-specific Learning Outcomes.**

#### **College-Wide Learning Outcomes**

You should be able to:

- Interrogate and articulate the intentions of your work in relation to the critical and conceptual context of your field(s) of study;
- Independently plan and produce work that is informed by developments at the forefront of your field(s) of study;
- Evaluate and critique the principles and methods of research in your field(s) of study, and apply these principles to your creative, professional and/or scholarly practice;
- Demonstrate originality in how you translate knowledge into practice;
- Communicate your creative, professional and/or scholarly practice to a non-specialist audience;
- Critically reflect on the likely public impact of your creative, professional and/or scholarly practice, and on your responsibilities as a practitioner;
- Define your professional ambitions and identify the challenges involved in meeting them.

#### Programme-Specific Learning Outcomes

#### **Upon successful completion of the Programme, you should be able to:**

- Apply your creative practice to professional contexts, devising critically-informed strategies for engaging audiences;
- Critically apply an area of research in the development and advancement of your research-led practice;
- Critically analyse how your practice can address global and societal challenges through realising creative outcomes that respond to complex issues;
- Analyse your role and contribution to collective or collaborative projects to evaluate your effectiveness in working with other creative practitioners;
- Critically assess the ethical implications of your practice, demonstrating an advanced awareness of the impact of your work and working processes on others.

## **4. What will I learn?**

### **Curriculum Map**

## Part-time, 2 Years, 90 weeks

### Year 1

#### Term 1

Core Unit 15 credits  
**Conditions**

Elective Unit 15 Credits  
**SoAH Electives**

#### Term 2

Core Unit 15 credits  
**Positions**

Elective Unit 15 Credits  
**SoAH Electives**

#### Term 3

Core Unit 30 credits  
**LIVE**

### Year 2

#### Term 4

Core Unit 15 credits  
**Research Project**

Elective Unit 15 Credits  
**SoAH Electives** or  
**RCA Elective** or  
**AcrossRCA**

#### Term 5

Core Unit 15 credits  
**Research Project**

Elective Unit 15 Credits  
**RCA Elective** or  
**AcrossRCA**

#### Term 6

Core Unit 30 credits  
**Research Project**

### Programme Structure

Unit Title	Term	Credit Value	Core/Elective
Conditions	1	15	Core
School Elective 1	1	15	Elective
Positions	2	15	Core
School Elective 2	1	15	Elective
Live	3	30	Core
Independent Research Project	4, 5, 6	60	Core
School Elective or College-wide Elective	4	15	Elective
College-wide Elective	5	15	Elective

#### **CONDITIONS (15 Credits) (Term 1)**

The *Conditions* unit seeks to redress the dominant orthodoxies and canons of western art to reveal the power dynamics and biases inherent within them, and to critically reconsider the role of the arts and humanities now and in the future. The unit draws on awareness of different perspectives across various global consciousness and then considers how local action might have value in addressing the world's current challenges. A priority is to ask how we might deconstruct patriarchal structures and systemic racism through art practices? You will present your work to others, form groups of shared interest and select the elective units.

#### **POSITIONS (15 Credits) (Term 2)**

The *Positions* unit asks you to explore the professional, academic and cultural position that you see your work operating within. The unit will explore artist-run initiatives, institutional residencies and the commercial arts sector, asking you to formulate a critical position and plan for developing a sustainable practice after graduation. You will consider what attributes will equip you to be successful in your chosen professional arena.

### **LIVE (30 Credit) (Term 3)**

The *LIVE* unit is an opportunity to work in response to a live, external context. You will either work with one of the MFA Programme's external partners, or develop a self-initiated external group project. The unit invites you to work in collectives to propose, devise and realise a project that explores modes for activating your work in public and engaging audiences. Key words such as *encounter*, *participation* and *process* will be explored in detail where you consider what these terms mean to your developing research and practice.

### **SoAH Electives (15 Credits per unit) (Terms 1, 2 or 4)**

A series of elective units within the School of Arts and Humanities will offer you the possibility of aligning your practice with one of the School's areas of research excellence. The SoAH elective units, studied in sequential pairs, challenge you to locate your practice within a territory of research and consider how you might contribute to expanding the knowledge and research in that area.

### **Cross-College Electives (15 Credits per unit) (Terms 4 and 5)**

You can choose to select one or two College-wide Electives. These Electives are devised by one of the other four Schools within the RCA, as well as the MRes (Master of Research) and MEd (Master of Education). These units will expand the community you are working alongside and challenge you to consider the potential for cross-disciplinary dialogue and practice to inform your developing research and practice identity.

### **Independent Research Project (60 Credits)**

The 60-credit *Independent Research Project* is an opportunity to build a body of work that addresses the key ambitions of your research and practice. You will propose, develop and realise a project, taking control over all aspects including the potential to adapt the list of assessment evidence to suit your practice. You will draw on what you have learnt on the programme and devise a project which might be individual or collaborative. The work will engage a public audience via presentation in the form of an off-site, external public exhibition, publication or event. The unit culminates in the MFA conference where you will present your practice and research. You will evidence your critical awareness of how your work is located in the professional realm, describe how your work engages with an area of knowledge, and show how your work addresses key social, political, environmental challenges. Planning for continued practical and professional development after graduation is an important aspect of this unit. For those students wishing to extend their work at PhD level, an outline research proposal will be a component of the *Independent Research Project*.

## **5. How will I learn?**

Every aspect of the MFA seeks to reconsider established modes and orthodoxies. As such, the MFA provides a space for difference. This is embedded in the approach to the ways you will learn as much as the content you will explore and the work you will make.

The MFA Programme emphasises group participation. Establishing a community of practice and research is at the heart of the MFA's mission. Therefore, much of the teaching and learning activity, which is a blend of online and face-to-face contact, will be formed around group discussion.

Innovative and experimental modes of teaching will be deployed in order to stimulate discussion and nurture participation. Such events include 'long-table' discussions, embodied learning and events-based learning where you are encouraged to develop a 'dialogue through doing'. This means learning through practice alongside your peers. Regular 'Exchange' sessions will bring you together to discuss and critique work and reflect on your ongoing practical and conceptual enquiry. In addition, a timetable of 1:1 and group tutorials, seminars and lectures will form the basis by which you engage with the units across the Programme.

The physical location for the MFA will be a 'Live-Room'. The room will be the focus for discussion, social interaction and tutorial contact as well as being a space for making and a place to host events. The Live Room will be a multidisciplinary workspace that enables practice, discussion, documentation, learning and broadcast. The Live-Room will act as a focus for engaging audiences, inviting interaction with the extended RCA community.

MFA Arts and Humanities is an advanced level practical programme of study. You will be expected to produce practical outcomes and develop a body of work. However, it is expected that you will not rely on studio space provision in the college or intensive technical workshop support in order to realise your work. The part-time mode of this MFA is designed to suit those who have an existing practice and the means to carry out their work outside the college. Practical consultancies, conducted by RCA technical and academic staff will support you to plan and develop your practical work, with the emphasis on developing modes that you can sustain after graduation rather than relying on specialist technical resources at College. This approach to building a sustainable practice in preparation for continued development is aligned with the professionally-engaged philosophy of the MFA programme.

## 6. Assessment and feedback

### Regulations

Regulations for assessment and progression can be found [here](#). Please familiarise yourself with these.

### Assessment

MFA assessment is considered an essential opportunity to take stock, to identify and reflect on what you have learnt and to maintain a momentum of enquiry.

Each unit on the MFA is assessed holistically. There is a list of items that must be submitted for assessment but no one item is considered to have more weight than any other item. In this way you are able to demonstrate how you have met the unit learning outcomes in whichever way is most appropriate to your practice and research.

Listed assessment evidence, which appear in each of the unit specification documents, are drawn from the following items: verbal presentations; written critical reflections; proposal documents including risk assessments; recorded presentations (video or audio); body of work, normally represented via a portfolios of practice; or public exhibition engagement (in the Independent Research Project).

In order to encourage creative risk taking and experimentation and to enable collaborative and collective practice, no letter or number grades are given. Assessment outcomes include Pass, Pass Subject to Corrections, Referral or Fail.

Summative assessment takes place at the end of each unit with feedback in the form of peer feedback, tutor feedback or self assessment - or a combination of these. In keeping with the programme's emphasis on dialogue and participation, assessment takes place via Dialogic Assessment Tutorials. These are either group tutorials or 1:1 and led by a tutor or senior tutor. This mode of assessment means that you directly participate in the assessment and continued reflection on the development of your practice.

Any formal, summative written feedback, in addition to feedback at the dialogic assessment tutorials will be completed with three weeks of the end of a unit.

**Information regarding individual assessments will be included in the unit descriptors, and will be available to students at the beginning of the academic year.**

## 7. What award can I get?

All Masters' degrees constitute 180 credits at the RCA. All credits are organised into units of study. Each award comprises of a set number of units. A unit carries a designated credit value.

To be awarded an RCA Masters' degree you are required to successfully complete 180 credits of study at level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ). You will need to successfully complete all units to achieve the requisite 180 credits.

If you fail a unit at the first attempt, you will be offered an opportunity to resit the unit. If you are unsuccessful at a second attempt, you cannot progress further in your studies, but may be offered an exit award.

Exit awards:

An exit award is a final award from the RCA and cannot be rescinded.

If you have gained at least 120 credits at level 7 of the FHEQ, you may be eligible for the exit award of Postgraduate Diploma.



Upon exit, you will receive a transcript listing all credits completed during your studies at the RCA.

For more information about the RCA policies for assessment, progression and awards, please see the Regulations.

## 8. Admissions

### Cross-College requirements

We welcome applicants from a wide range of backgrounds, and encourage applications from candidates with demonstrable evidence of professional engagement with their chosen discipline area.

Candidates must normally have obtained a good relevant undergraduate degree or an equivalent qualification (usually or Bachelors' degree, or Graduate Diploma). Candidates who already hold a relevant Masters' qualification are also encouraged to apply.

Other qualifications may be approved, providing that the College's Academic Board for Concessions and Discipline (ABCD) is satisfied that the applicant has the potential to pursue the programme of study successfully. The ABCD is empowered to make judgements about the extent to which qualifications or experience gained elsewhere may be accepted in partial fulfilment of its requirements.

#### English Language

Applicants who are not a national of a majority English-speaking country will need to demonstrate their English language proficiency. The College accepts a range of English language qualifications. The full list can be seen at <https://www.rca.ac.uk/studying-at-the-rca/apply/entrance-requirements/english-language-requirements/>

Applicants are exempt from this requirement if they have received a 2.1 degree or above from a university in a majority English-speaking nation within the last two years.

If a student would need a Student Route Visa to study at the RCA, they will also need to meet the Home Office's minimum requirements for entry clearance.

All applicants will be asked to submit a portfolio, a statement, and a short video. Programme-specific requirements for these will apply and are detailed below.

### Programme-Specific requirements

Applicants for the MFA will apply with one of the following options:

### **Option 1 Portfolio and Accompanying statement**

#### **Portfolio**

A **portfolio of work** that includes up to 10 completed works. The images should demonstrate an established practice in any medium. Video, sound or live performance work may be represented by an image with a link (e.g. Vimeo, Youtube etc.) included in the title.

#### **Statement of Practice** (300-500 words)

Alongside your portfolio of 10 images please include a brief (300-500 word) statement. This statement should include the following areas:

-Describe the nature of your work and indicate how you intend to develop your practice on the course and beyond.

-say how you engage with current socio-political contexts through your practice?

-outline how collaborative and/or collective practice has informed your approach

Please also indicate which of the School's area of research you foresee your work aligning with:

- Sites and Situations
- Health and Care
- Material Engagements
- Curatorial Practices
- Wild Science - Art's Digital Future

### **Option 2 Statement only** (up to 1000 words)

Given the interdisciplinary, outward-facing nature of the Programme, alongside the ambition to expand the range of knowledge, approaches and positions that forge what the arts and humanities can be, we welcome applicants from a broad range of previous disciplines and backgrounds, beyond visual art. If you have an ambition to participate in the MFA project, and develop an arts and/or humanities practice you should write a **position statement** of up to 1000 words. This statement should include the following:

-describe your previous research and practice

-say how you explore or engage with current debates and/or societal challenges

-indicate what attributes you will bring to the learning community

You can include or attach examples of previous texts (or video links etc if appropriate) that show examples of your previous work. Examples might include (but are not limited to): essays, short stories, films, exhibition critiques, proposals.

