



Programme Specification

1. General Information

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|---|-------------------------------|
| Programme title: | Sculpture |
| Award: | Masters |
| Qualification Framework level: | Level 7 |
| School/Department or equivalent: | School of Arts and Humanities |
| Campus location(s): | Battersea |
| Total UK credits: | 180 |
| Date valid from/to: | 2023-24 |

2. Programme Philosophy

The study of sculpture is ever-expanding and includes object-making, public art and social practices, site and space, performance, sound, film and video. Rather than only considering the specific manifestations of sculpture, we prefer to think of it as a methodology from which to progress the production of art.

This means that the Sculpture programme at the Royal College of Art (RCA) supports a diverse, experimental and expansive approach to the development of artistic practice. You are encouraged to adopt a critical and reflexive approach to the production, development and display of your work. Important to the programme ambition is that you situate your practice within the social, political and economic conditions of the contemporary world; identifying what sculpture can contribute to ongoing material, critical, technological, and philosophical debates

To that end, teaching staff and guests demonstrate that research and experimentation are highly valued elements of study, and can lead you to imagine new materials and spaces, to innovate with technology, for impact towards social transformation, sustainability and political awareness and change.

The programme supports collaborative and interdisciplinary approaches to the making and exhibiting of sculpture. Central to this interdisciplinary approach is the critique (and celebration of the historical forms of sculpture, a legacy we that we regard as a launch pad for the future.

3. Educational Aims and Outcomes of the Programme

Programme Aims

- Support you to develop an imaginative, innovative and independent sculptural practice, which is technically and conceptually rigorous in research and ambitious in production;
- Create an environment for experimentation in the use of methods and materials, facilitating the skills to articulate clearly the intentions of the work produced;
- Explore with you the creative, critical and social possibilities of contemporary sculpture;
- Take to an advanced level your understanding of the historical and contemporary context of sculpture and how this relates to your developing practice;
- Encourage an advanced understanding of the principles and methods of research and how select approaches might apply to individual and collaborative practice.
- Build professional practice skills founded on an understanding of equality, diversity and sustainability, preparing you for graduate opportunities, including residencies, commissions and collaborations post-graduation.
- Enrich your experience by facilitating participation and involvement in the postgraduate culture of the School of Arts & Humanities, the RCA as a whole and the wider environs of London, the UK and online global arts communities.

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

You should be able to:

- Create and situate an innovative sculptural practice that integrates a material rationale, an embedded research process and appropriate technical accomplishment;

- Work with materials, processes and environments in experimental ways that test the parameters of sculptural practice;
- Demonstrate an advanced understanding of historical and contemporary debate around the practice and exhibition of sculpture;
- Critically articulate and debate the intellectual and technical rationales and processes involved in the production of your work and that of others;
- Create collaborations that develop your creative practice while understanding the role of collaboration in the professional field;
- Demonstrate an advanced understanding of the principles and methods of research strategies and evidence the select application of these to your own practice;
- Demonstrate an advanced understanding of the material demands of exhibiting and sharing your practice to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

4. What will I learn?

Curriculum Map

| Term 1 | Term 2 | Term 3 |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Sites and Situations (45 credits) | Urgency of the Arts (15 credits) | Independent Research Project (60 credits) |
| | The Expanded Field (30 credits) | |
| AcrossRCA (30 credits) | | |

Programme Structure

| Unit Title | Term | Credit Value | Core or Elective? |
|--|-------|--------------|-------------------|
| Sites and Situations | 1 | 45 | Core |
| The Expanded Field | 2 | 30 | Core |
| Independent Research Project | 3 | 60 | Core |
| Urgency of the Arts (School-Wide Unit) | 2 | 15 | Core |
| Across RCA (College-wide Unit) | 1 & 2 | 30 | Core |

Sites and Situations (45 credits)

In *Sites and Situations* you identify the intention of your practice, its context and relation to site and material. This begins with an orientation of the culture and philosophy of the programme, the location (city and building), facilities, staff and other students' work.

Sites and Situations embeds the central notion of thinking-through-practice. This is achieved through tutorials, critiques, seminars, panel talks and off-site activities. *Sites and Situations* supports you through the production of work, demonstrating the ability to develop a creative, innovative and individual practice. Through the unit, you will locate their work within a critical context that reflects current and emerging approaches to the production of sculpture and the wider arts and humanities.

The Expanded Field (30 credits)

The Expanded Field you identify the future direction of your practice, its relation to materiality and immateriality. There is a focus on collaboration and an interdisciplinary context. This further embeds the culture and philosophy of the programme: experimentation, innovation and critical reflection.

The Expanded Field encourages the development of an individual studio practice, within a wider matrix of professional relationships. This is achieved through collaborative off-site projects, workshops and a lecture series that is designed to support and encourage self-reflection, creative responses and a critical understanding of the creative economy.

AcrossRCA (College-wide unit, 30 credits)

Across **terms 1 and 2**, you will participate in **AcrossRCA**. This unit aims to support you to meet the challenges of a complex, uncertain and changing world by bringing you together to work collaboratively in interdisciplinary teams on a series of themed projects informed by expertise within and beyond the College. These projects will challenge you to use your intellect and imagination to address key cultural, social, environmental and economic challenges. In doing so, you will develop and reflect on the abilities required to translate knowledge into action, and help demonstrate the contribution that the creative arts can make to our understanding and experience of the world.

Urgency of the Arts (School-wide unit, 15 credits)

In **term 2**, School of Arts and Humanities Masters' students will participate in a School-wide unit called "The Urgency of the Arts." In this unit we ask how arts and humanities research and practice can engage with our current socio-political climate, and how might it shape, be necessary and essential in contemporary cultural debates.

The unit introduces students to a diverse range of perspectives, approaches and methods relevant to contemporary practice and thought in the arts and humanities. The delivery, predominantly based on workshops and featuring specialist presentations by leading artists, aims to assist students in recognizing, questioning, expanding, and reevaluating their own artistic practices and disciplinary assumptions. Through interactions with staff and students from across the School, as well as through a variety of methodological approaches, students will develop an understanding of the contemporary concerns that shape and influence artistic practice.

Students will be supported in understanding the possibilities, complexities and impact of their own work. They will be encouraged to contextualise it within broad cultural landscapes to recognise and emphasise its potential and also the complex ways in which their work may be received and understood.

Independent Research Project (60 credits)

The 60-credit Independent Research Project (IRP) is an opportunity to build a body of work that addresses the key ambitions of your research and practice. You will work towards presenting a work or works in the IRP Public Exhibition, which enables you to explore how you can activate your work in a public context, experiment with the most appropriate forms of realising your ideas and gain critical feedback.

The IRP exhibition takes place mid-way through the unit and will be followed by a period of reflection and further development, which emphasises planning for continued practice and research post-graduation. The Independent Research Project offers a point of synthesis through exhibition and subsequent critical reflection. The focus is on self-directed study.

Assessment will be based upon the Portfolio of Practice. A reflective document that looks at the key elements of development which led to your research and exhibition. Also, how has creative identity been forged for future practice? The Portfolio of Practice will include the ideas and context from which the work emerged, including experimentation, decision making, conceptual ambition, (im)materials and meaning.

5. How will I learn?

You will be taught through a variety of activities. These may include:

- Briefing presentation of key information at beginning of each unit;
- Personal tutorials - a one to one meeting of a student and staff to review progress;
- Exhibition of student work; a public presentation of the student outcomes of a programme or unit of study;
- Lectures – presentation delivered to an audience of students;
- Critiques – group review of student work;
- Orientation – programme forums and welcome week;
- Technical Inductions – scheduled inductions to enable students to access technical facilities;
- Studio practice/project work – independently developed practice;
- Off-site Projects – field trips and archive visits
- Off-site Collaborative projects – intensive group projects with external partners;
- Workshops which introduce a particular process or project – sign up or voluntary;
- Negotiated technical learning;
- Panel talks focusing on core discipline themes;
- Special guest lecture series focusing on interdisciplinary research and collaborative practices.

6. Assessment and feedback

Regulations

Regulations for assessment and progression can be found [here](#). Please note that College regulations are subject to annual updates and amendments.

Unit assessment

Sites and Situations

Studio work, self-assessment form and a project proposal.

The Expanded Field

Studio work, self-assessment form and a written exhibition proposal.

Urgency of the Arts

Critical Reflection: You will be required to produce a critical reflection on their learning. The critical reflection should contextualise your work in relation to contemporary debates.

Independent Research Project

Studio work, self-assessment form, and digital portfolio. To include exhibited work, critical reflection and contextual material.

7. What award can I get?

To be awarded an RCA MA degree you need to gain 180 credits at level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ). This will involve successfully completing all units. If you fail a unit at the first attempt, you will be offered an opportunity to resit the unit. If you are successful at resit you will be awarded the credits for that unit. If you are unsuccessful, you cannot progress further in your programme.

Exit awards:

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

For more detailed information about the College's assessment, progression and awards policies see the Regulations.

8. Admissions

Cross-College requirements

Academic Entry Requirements

Candidates must normally have obtained a good relevant undergraduate degree or an equivalent qualification. The College recognises as an equivalent qualification any degree, diploma, certificate or other evidence of formal qualification awarded by a university or other higher education establishment where the award is made following the successful completion of a programme of at least three years' study, the programme of study being open, as a general rule, only to persons holding a certificate awarded on the successful completion of a full programme of upper secondary education.

Other qualifications may be approved, providing that the College's Academic Board for Concessions and Discipline (ABCD) is satisfied that the applicant has the ability 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.

Portfolio

All applicants are required to submit a portfolio as part of the application process. A portfolio is a showcase of an applicant's work as an artist or designer and can be made up of images, videos or

writing examples. The portfolio helps us to better understand the applicant and allows them to show evidence of their ability and motivation to undertake a given programme.

Each programme is looking for different things in a portfolio; each Head of Programme provides specific advice on portfolio requirements in the online application system. We advise prospective students to consider these requirements carefully before submitting their application.

Applicant Qualities

Generally, we are looking for applicants to demonstrate their:

- creativity, imagination and innovation;
- ability to articulate the intentions of the work;
- intellectual engagement in areas relevant to the work;
- technical skills appropriate to the work;
- potential to benefit from the programme and achieve MA standards overall.

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 Visa visa to study at the RCA, they will also need to meet the Home Office's minimum requirements for entry clearance.

Admission Process

Applications must be made directly to the College through our online application portal:

<https://www.rca.ac.uk/studying-at-the-rca/apply/application-process/ma-application-process/>

Upon completion of that first stage of the application process, candidates will be invited to submit a portfolio of their work, a 300-word statement of intent and a video communicating clearly their motivations, personal interests and why they are pursuing a Masters degree at the Royal College of Art. These materials are reviewed by members of the programme team who will communicate an academic decision to the College Registry, who manage the process of offer-making in line with the College's recruitment targets. In some cases, where the programme team is not able to make an

admission decision based solely upon the work submitted by the applicant, we may invite the candidate to undertake an interview with us.

Whilst there are still spaces available, successful candidates will be made an offer of a place. If there is no vacancy for a subsequent successful applicant, the candidate will be placed on a waiting list, and may be made a firm offer should a place become available.

Programme-Specific requirements

Specific advice on programme portfolio requirements is provided by the Head of Programme in the online application system. Please consult the College website for further information on programme-specific admission and portfolio requirements:

<https://www.rca.ac.uk/study/programme-finder/sculpture-ma/#requirements>