



Programme Specification

1. General Information

Programme title:	Jewellery and Metal
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

Jewellery and Metal is situated within the Applied Arts, located within the School of Arts and Humanities. Applied Art disciplines are always at the convergence of things. Whether that's the cusp of art/design, material/ immaterial, digital/analogue, these are disciplines which demand multidirectional attention and which require empathic, thoughtful and considered interactions with materials and materiality.

The Jewellery and Metal (JaM) programme seeks to unpick the relationship between people and things, pushing beyond the subject-object binary JaM students explore the multiple ways we are entrapped and enthralled by the complex entanglement of the material and immaterial worlds. Through emergent acts of making, JaM believes we can shed new light on these complex and essential relationships, revealing great depths in our understanding of, and being in, the world.

As artists and designers, we engage with the making process as an essential way of materialising ideas, thoughts, feelings, offering a space for innovative and radical new ways of approaching jewellery, objects, and metal. We are responsive to the rapidly changing social and cultural landscape, drawing on history and technology in nurturing intellectual and creative skills directed at understanding and pushing forward jewellery and objects of human making. The rich and extensive bodies of knowledge associated with jewellery and metal object-making underpin an approach that is outward-looking and open to the wider discourse of "things" connected to contemporary life. You can expect to work with, and through, a vast array of material possibilities, exploring a multiplicity of possible narratives.

Through tutorials, critique, workshops, and lectures you are encouraged to challenge traditional perceptions and perceived hierarchies, as well as to question and exploit both digital and analogue realities. Seminar and group discussion form an essential part of the JaM programme as we believe that the cross fertilisation of ideas alongside staff and peer feedback is essential to postgraduate learning and interdisciplinary thinking.

In these ways our programme views 'objects' speculatively and through flatter ontological models where "object" is referential of tangible form through to the intangible materialism of the impermanent; it is also the creative sinew connecting the human discourses and material explorations that connect jewellery and metal within material culture. 'Jewellery' is vastly more than 'adornment', it is a discipline which exemplifies our intimate relationship with the material world and is indicative of how we use the language of things and signs to communicate. We choose to wear jewellery for its complex meanings and symbolism but also because we are indefinably drawn to materials. 'Metals' occupy 80% of the Periodic Table, making up much of the world that surrounds us. The role of JaM is to expand the possibilities of metal, addressing the need for functional, ritualistic and speculative objects within the wider context of material culture.

JaM fuels a discourse that operates between fine art and design - this is our strength. Within the programme art and design are not viewed as binary opposites but as an energised continuum, interconnecting discourses of the applied art, fine arts, fashion, design, theory and beyond. You will be supported through 3 units of study. Unit 1 develops research skills and offers new intellectual positions to you, unit 2 focuses on theoretical and technical developments aiding you in situating their practice within the field, whilst the final unit (the Independent Research Project) prepares you for self-directed practice and research working towards an exhibition and publication of practice. Alongside programme specific delivery, theory and contextual studies will be delivered across the Applied Art disciplines, situating and contextualising the thinking (and making) of a material-led practice within the wider world.

3. Educational Aims and Outcomes of the Programme

Programme aims

- to develop your creative identity, through practice, critical reflection, and the ability to theorise, situate and contextualise your practice with contemporary art and design.
- to develop the opportunities for, and your skills in thinking through making, the exploration and experimentation of wide-ranging narratives through the manipulation of materials and self-reflexivity.
- to enable you to effectively define methods of research and personalised methodologies appropriate to self-directed practice.
- to develop your skills and ability in critically and energetically bridging dialogues between theory and practice, supporting your intellectual and critical ability and engendering an awareness of sustainability and the ecological impact of our disciplines, building towards

ethical and regenerative practices.

- to enable the exploration, and use of, existing technologies alongside developing your engagement with contemporary and future technologies.
- to enable you to realise outcomes through planning and the production of challenging, innovative works of high quality and ambition, both technically and conceptually, and through the opportunities presented by analogue and digital means.

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:

- synthesise and demonstrate an advanced understanding of the principles and methods of research and apply them effectively to your own practice;
- display clear command of the development, execution, exhibition, and communication of your work;
- confidently and effectively devise and deliver talks for specialist and non-specialist audiences alike;
- critique assumptions and conventions of wide-ranging narratives, interrogating the role and purpose of jewellery, objects, and metal within wider material culture;
- evidence self-reflexivity and thinking through making, resulting in a developed individualised working method/methodology;
- address and re-think existing technologies, exploring the potential of new and developing methods/processes/technologies, demonstrating independent creative thinking and innovation;

- evidence material approaches where ethical ideas of regeneration, circularity, social and communal impact are subject to rigorous interrogation and adoption.

4. What will I learn?

Curriculum Map

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Interrogating Your Practice and Deconstructing Assumptions (45 credits)	Urgency of the Arts (15 credits)	Independent Research Project (60 credits)
	Developing Methodologies (30 credits)	
AcrossRCA (30 credits)		

Programme Structure

The JaM unit structure allows an evolving practice to develop through specific and varied focuses.

- Interrogating your practice and Deconstructing Assumptions* focuses on widening the discussion around a JaM practice, developing analytical, poetic and research focused methods, which develops new innovative modes of thinking within a materials-led discipline;
- Developing Methodologies* expands on production methods, skills and techniques and developing a professional identity;
- The Independent Research Project* focuses on contextualisation, developments of outcome and critical reflection as key parts of a helical research empowered practice.

Unit Title	Term	Credit Value	Core or Elective?
Interrogating Your Practice and Deconstructing Assumptions	1	45	Core
Developing Methodologies	2	30	Core
AcrossRCA (College-Wide Unit)	1 & 2	30	Core
Urgency of the Arts (School-Wide Unit)	2	15	Core
Independent Research Project	3	60	Core

Interrogating Your Practice and Deconstructing Assumptions

Main Teaching Types: Tutorial, Lecture, Seminar, Workshop, Critique

Assessment Type: Continuous Assessment and Written Critical Self-Reflection

Interrogating Your Practice and Deconstructing Assumptions, focuses on developing analytical tools for deconstructing and critiquing your own practice and previous methods/approaches as well as providing new contexts and directions for your work. Emphasis is placed on inviting new thoughts and progressive ideas through which to develop a jewellery, object, or metal practice. The development of personal and investigative research methods are key, and are developed and discussed throughout the term.

Developing Your Voice and Situating a Practice

Main Teaching Types: Tutorial, Lecture, Seminar, Workshop, Critique

Assessment Type: Presentation and Written Proposal for Independent Research Project

Developing Methodologies focuses on developing new techniques, processes, lines of enquiry through a material-led, material-transformational practice as well as setting forth your suitable career context where you are asked to frame their practice within a chosen professional context within art and design. Research developments and lines of enquiry formulated in unit 1 will act as a background for the production of a body of work.

Independent Research Project

Main Teaching Types: Tutorial, Seminar, Professional Practice Critique

Assessment Type: Print Ready Publication/Portfolio and Viva

The *Independent Research Project* offers a point of synthesis through exhibition, critical reflection and portfolio production. Contracted and visiting staff from the programme support you to acquire advanced understanding of practice-led methodologies, critical reflection, production and presentation. Here, the IP supports you with the specific conceptual and material demands of exhibiting and sharing their work and uses this to prepare you for the diverse professional practices of contemporary art and design.

AcrossRCA – College-wide unit

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

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 you 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 you in recognizing, questioning, expanding, and reevaluating your 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, you will develop an understanding of the contemporary concerns that shape and influence artistic practice.

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

5. How will I learn?

- **Briefing:** presentations undertaken by academic staff at the beginning of a unit or project to outline the narrative, aims and expectations.
- **Studio Practice/ Independent Study:** you are expected to maintain and develop their learning through a self-directed, reflective and reflexive studio practice. This will be the majority of your study hours.
- **Personal Tutorials:** you will receive one-to-one tutorials with a personal tutor who is chosen according to your specific areas of interest, as well as sign up tutorials.
- **Exhibition:** you are required to show a body of work produced throughout unit 2 and the IRP. This exhibition offers public and professional exposure and contextualization. A critical reflection on the work produced for the exhibition is required. This, together with images, video etc. will subsequently be used in the production of a publication reflecting on work to date, stating career aims and providing promotional material for your next steps into professional life.
- **Lectures:** you will take part in the (Im)Material Culture Lecture Series which looks at the disciplines of JaM from a number of perspectives including philosophy, anthropology, material sciences, histories and culture.
- **Seminars:** seminars include the (Im)Material Culture Seminar Series, alongside seminars on a range of topics including professional practice, as well as the reoccurring “Thematic” seminars where you will work with other students in professionally aligned contexts.
- **Workshops:** these are interactive group sessions which focus on the development of a particular process or skill in relation to your practice and development.
- **Critiques/Presentation:** you will be expected to participate in group critiques. These groups

will range in size. You will also be encouraged to organise peer-led critiques. Contextual and Material Reviews will take place, as points of reflection within the curriculum.

- Technical Inductions: students in the JaM programme will undertake technical inductions in order to use the facilities of the Jewellery and Fine Metal workshops. You are encouraged to consider and plan the impact of that inductions and workshops will have on your studio practice, and consult with technical services and academic staff.
- Technical Workshops: you are expected to sign up to workshops throughout the year in order to make physical works that form part of their self-directed study. You are encouraged to consider and plan the impact that inductions and workshops will have on their studio practice and consult with technical services and academic staff.
- Negotiated technical learning: you will undertake negotiated technical learning throughout the year. It is your responsibility to request these sessions.

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

Assessment may include, but may not be limited to:

Continuous Assessment

Continuous Assessment includes continual monitoring, by your personal tutor, of your progress throughout a unit and via all Academic Teaching Typologies. Significant moments of interaction include mandatory tutorials, group discussion, seminar and review/critique. Continuous assessment allows a dialogue to emerge between staff and student, with ongoing developments in practice married with immediate feedback. Personal tutorials should be viewed as an essential part of your continuous assessment.

Presentation

You will be expected to present your work, to date, the methodologies you have employed, and contextualise your work through both primary and secondary research. You will present to peers and to academic staff who will provide immediate, in-situ feedback and advice for your practice/project's progression.

Critique/Review

You will be assessed via critique/review where the feedback is similar in type to presentation but usually feedback will be prompted, first from the academic-led peer group, before you are then

allowed to present and contextualise your work. Academic staff and peers will both provide immediate, in-situ feedback and advice for your practice/project's progression.

Critical Reflection / Unit Reflection

You will be required to undertake written critical reflection in which you'll employ critical, creative and analytical approaches to your own practice to date. Critical reflections contextualise your work in relation to contemporary debates and the wider field, and you will be encouraged to reflect on your personal, creative and professional ambitions (i.e. applied arts, fashion, fine art).

Summative Assessment and Viva

A summative assessment and (or) viva is a formal examination process. Summative assessment can take the form of a written and visual digital submission with written feedback from an assembled exam panel or a viva in which you are expected to present a body of work and will receive questioning on the submission from the examination panel.

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?

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/jewellery-metal-ma/#requirements>