



## Photography

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Photography plays a crucial role in contemporary art practice. The Photography Department aims to provide a critical and educational environment in which students can develop as artists with photography at the core of their practice.

The department understands photography as a medium with no fixed identity. This disregard for a fixed essence is photography's strength: no aesthetic purity but a multiplicity of rhetorical forms used for the creation of fact, fiction and fantasy. An informed practice of photography acknowledges the heterogeneous traditions of fine art and visual culture. It also engages with practices of reading and writing about the image. Theory and practice inform each other and this dialogue characterises committed study at MA level.

### Applying

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The criteria for acceptance by the Royal College of Art are talent and potential, along with the commitment and the ambition to achieve in art and design. Candidates are selected for places entirely on merit, and we welcome applications from all over the world. All departments hold open days during the application period.

The College is introducing an online application process for 2010/11 admissions. MA Applications will be accepted from 1 December 2009 to 18 January 2010. Full details of the MA Application Process and Entry Requirements are available at [www.rca.ac.uk/admissions](http://www.rca.ac.uk/admissions).

## Key Dates and Contacts

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### 1 December 2009

online applications open

### 18 January 2010

closing date for receipt of applications

### 27 January 2010

closing date for receipt of portfolios

### 26 February 2010

invitations issued to candidates selected for interview

### 19 March 2010

interviews completed

### 31 March 2010

results letters sent

### Open Day

15 December 2009, 11am and 2.30pm

### Enquiries

+44 (0)20 7590 4414

[photography@rca.ac.uk](mailto:photography@rca.ac.uk)

[www.rca.ac.uk](http://www.rca.ac.uk)

### General admissions enquiries:

[admissions@rca.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@rca.ac.uk)

## Staff

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### Head of Department

Professor Olivier Richon

### Visiting Professor

Dr Darian Leader

### Senior Tutors

Peter Kennard; Hermione Wiltshire

### Tutors

Dr Susan Butler; Sarah Jones; Dr Paul Kilsby; Yve Lomax; Rut Blees Luxemburg; Dr Francette Pacteau; Mary Robert

### Recent Contributors to the Lecture

#### Programme include

Eric de Chasse; Alexander Garcia Duttmann; Celine Duval; Catherine Grant; Anthony Haughey; Carol Mavor; Mike Marshall; Sophy Rickett; Bridget Smith; Margaret Salmon; Mark Aerial Waller; Nick Waplington

### School of Fine Art Tutors

Stuart Croft (Time-based Arts); Jonathan Miles (Critical and Historical Studies); Nigel Rolfe (Fine Art Senior Tutor)

### Senior Technician

George Duck (B&W Processing, Lighting for Film and Video)

### Technicians

Dr Roddy Cañas (Time-based Arts); Jan Naraine (Colour Printing and Processing); Kam Raoofi (Fine Art Computing); Lewin St Cyr (Studio and Stores)

## MA Programme

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We expect our students to produce not only images but also analytical thinking in order to study what photography is, for the purpose of discovering what it can become. We anticipate that the photographic practices that students bring to the department will range from studio-based constructed images to documentary interpretations of our cultural and social environment. While retaining photography as a core discipline, we also welcome students whose work engages with the moving image. The students' work is therefore diverse and linked by an interest in questions of meaning, spectatorship and representation. The department offers a context in which students can articulate ideas through making their work and can reflect critically on what they have made.

Teaching is based on individual and group tutorials, critical studies seminars, group crits and lectures by leading artists and theorists. Students have the opportunity to participate in relevant workshops that deal with technical and conceptual aspects of photographic practice. Weekly critical-studies seminars address contemporary photographic practices and draw upon theories of representation informed by aesthetics, semiotics and psychoanalysis.

Apart from the Show for final-year students, there are also interim work-in-progress exhibitions in the College galleries and opportunities for individual or group project exhibitions

in the Hockney Gallery. We are also able to offer occasional exchanges with the New York School of the Visual Arts, the Cité Des Arts, Paris and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

## MA Entrance Requirements

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- You are generally expected to have a good BA degree from a photography or fine-art course.
- You should be able to demonstrate an original and critical approach to photography as well as an ability to engage with current theories of art and culture which inform their practice.

## Portfolio

- Your portfolio must be well edited and include a selection of recently completed work which should not exceed 20 prints.
- Edited video or DVD should be a maximum of 5–7 minutes long. We do not accept CD-ROMs at this stage of the exam.
- Portfolios should not exceed A2 size.
- Students living abroad may send slides instead of a portfolio, but prints are always preferred.

## Interview (if invited)

- You will be interviewed by three members of the academic staff and a student representative.

## Research

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The department welcomes research applicants.

Current or Recent Areas of Research include: The non-likeness of photographic portraiture; Perfectibility: the whippet as a mode of inquiry; Image automation: photography and computed images.

## MPhil/PhD Entrance Requirements

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Normally students should have obtained a Masters degree in Fine Art or Photography.

We are seeking researchers who are actively engaged with theory as a form or practice and who consider the ways in which practical work embodies and generates critical discourse.

Applications include a portfolio of previous work and a written research proposal that convincingly describes your research question.

You are encouraged to submit an outline of their proposal to the Senior Research tutor prior to application. For more information, email [photography@rca.ac.uk](mailto:photography@rca.ac.uk).





## Facilities

The Photography Department is housed in purpose-built accommodation on three floors of the Stevens Building. Most of the studios offer 16ft-high windows for daylight illumination and are equipped with flash and tungsten lighting units.

Equipment includes:

- processing of colour negatives and black-and-white film
- darkrooms for exhibition-size colour prints
- high-resolution film scanners
- photography and moving image studios
- a range of lenses and cameras from 35mm to 10 x 8 inches

It is expected that students will possess their own camera outfit, using the College store for additional items.

## Career Prospects

In a 2008 survey, 98% of Photography graduates who studied here from 2002–7 were found to be in directly related employment/activity.

The majority of our students pursue their practice in the form of exhibitions, publication and commissions and teaching in higher education.

## Funding

The RCA's particular situation and educational ethos means the actual cost of the educational experience we provide is comparatively high. We offer an experience that is real value for money, but studying here is a serious financial investment, so it's important to ensure that you have adequate funding in place.

2009/10 tuition fees (for guidance): UK/EU students £5,780; Channel Islands and the Isle of Man £12,000; overseas students £24,000 per year.

The College is able to allocate more than £2.5 million in bursaries to eligible students. For more information see [www.rca.ac.uk/funding](http://www.rca.ac.uk/funding).

## Extra Support

Students who are accepted onto an MA programme have access to: extensive support as pre-students in their year of application; learning and pastoral support during their two years of study; and professional practice support for three years following graduation.

Student Support offers assistance with practical, housing and financial issues, as well as supporting international students and students with disabilities, including dyslexia and dyspraxia. For more information see [www.rca.ac.uk/support](http://www.rca.ac.uk/support).

## College Initiatives

In addition to our core MA and Research activities, we offer opportunities to participate and collaborate in projects, exhibitions, placements and professional enterprises, among others: workshops, awards and prizes are offered across all disciplines; the Helen Hamlyn Centre offers a focus for people-centred design and innovation at the College; and InnovationRCA provides the opportunity to interact with business and industry partners. For more information see Innovation and enterprise: [www.rca.ac.uk/iande](http://www.rca.ac.uk/iande).

## More Information

College information:  
[www.rca.ac.uk/about](http://www.rca.ac.uk/about)

Students/alumni interviews:  
[www.rca.ac.uk/stories](http://www.rca.ac.uk/stories)

Equality and diversity:  
[www.rca.ac.uk/diversity](http://www.rca.ac.uk/diversity)

Finding accommodation:  
[www.rca.ac.uk/housing](http://www.rca.ac.uk/housing)

Financial support:  
[www.rca.ac.uk/money](http://www.rca.ac.uk/money)

Student Support Office:  
[www.rca.ac.uk/sso](http://www.rca.ac.uk/sso)

Student Union:  
[www.rca.ac.uk/su](http://www.rca.ac.uk/su)

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