



Research at the RCA

The Royal College of Art (RCA) is a world leader in Research degrees by practice and thesis in Art, Design and the Humanities. We currently have over 120 full- and part-time research students who are part of a cohesive staff and student body, sharing studios and workshops with MA students, and participating in seminars and other departmental activities. Research takes place within the 20 departments of the College, each of which has its own specific research areas and strengths. More details can be found in the individual department sections and in *Research RCA* (2007), a book showcasing the diverse work of RCA research students, which is available to purchase from the Research Office (research@rca.ac.uk).

Why the RCA?

We offer:

- MPhil and PhD by Project or by Thesis
- supervision by leading international specialists at the RCA and placements with world-class academic, museum, business and industrial partners
- world-leading research staff, as highlighted in the government's 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE2008)
- collaborative research training funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) with leading London universities, including Imperial College London
- a Research Methods Course (RMC), cited as a national example of good practice by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education
- collaborative and individually funded AHRC and Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) research studentships

Departmental Research Coordinators

Each department has a designated Research Coordinator, who is normally the first point of contact for prospective research students.

School of Applied Art

Ceramics & Glass

Alison Britton: alison.britton@rca.ac.uk

Goldsmithing, Silversmithing, Metalwork & Jewellery

Hans Stofer: hans.stofer@rca.ac.uk

School of Architecture & Design

Architecture

Roberto Bottazzi: roberto.bottazzi@rca.ac.uk

Design Products

Hilary French: hilary.french@rca.ac.uk

Design Interactions

Anthony Dunne: anthony.dunne@rca.ac.uk

School of Design for Production

Innovation Design Engineering

Derek Freeman: derek.freeman@rca.ac.uk

Vehicle Design

Andrew Nahum: andrew.nahum@rca.ac.uk

School of Communications

Animation

Joan Ashworth: joan.ashworth@rca.ac.uk

Communication Art & Design

Al Rees: al.rees@rca.ac.uk

School of Fashion & Textiles

Fashion & Textiles

Claire Pajaczkowska:
claire.pajaczkowska@rca.ac.uk

School of Fine Art

Painting

Elizabeth Price: elizabeth.price@rca.ac.uk

Photography

Yve Lomax: yve.lomax@rca.ac.uk

Printmaking

Jo Stockham: jo.stockham@rca.ac.uk

Sculpture

Elizabeth Price: elizabeth.price@rca.ac.uk

School of Humanities

Curating Contemporary Art

Mark Nash: mark.nash@rca.ac.uk

Ros Gray: ros.gray@rca.ac.uk

RCA/V&A History of Design

Sarah Teasley: sarah.teasley@rca.ac.uk

Critical and Historical Studies

Martina Margetts: martina.margetts@rca.ac.uk

Research Contacts

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Website

www.rca.ac.uk/research



Current Research

See the individual department sections for an overview of each department's research interests. Further details can also be found on the main College website: www.rca.ac.uk/research.

Applying to the RCA

If you are interested in applying to do a research degree at the RCA, first contact the relevant departmental Research Coordinator to discuss your research ideas (see list of contacts at the end of this document). You will be asked to submit a research proposal, which should consider the following issues:

- What is your particular research question, argument or hypothesis?
- How do you propose to address this question or to develop the field (what is your methodology?)
- How do you see your work in the wider context of the discipline? How does it relate to existing work in the area?
- For a research degree by project, how will the studio and written work relate to each other?
- For a PhD, what is the original contribution to knowledge and understanding?
- How do you propose to reflect upon or analyse critically your approach to the project?

The research proposal should be a maximum of 1,000 words and include an indicative bibliography to add further

context. Some departments may require extra information at the proposal stage, so it is important to liaise directly with the relevant departmental research coordinator to ensure you meet all of their requirements.

MPhil or PhD, Project or Thesis?

A research degree is an independent programme of work involving the thorough study of a research topic. At the RCA you have the choice of MPhil or PhD, by Project or by Thesis. For both options, you have to complete a piece of written work. For the by Project option, you submit a body of practical or studio work along with a written report. The practical and written elements should be conceived as a whole, with each element complementing and informing upon the other.

Students are normally accepted onto the MPhil register for at least one year of full-time study, prior to successful transfer onto the PhD register. All MPhil and PhD students are required to complete the mandatory Research Methods Course in order to progress to their second year.



Registration Periods for Research Degrees

The maximum registration periods for the degrees of MPhil, MPhil followed by subsequent transfer to PhD, and PhD are:

MPhil

Full-time – 2 academic years

Part-time – 4 academic years

MPhil/PhD

Full-time – 4 academic years

Part-time – 6 academic years

PhD*

Full-time – 3 academic years

Part-time – 4 academic years

Candidates will submit their work within the registration period.

*Only students who have already completed a research degree (e.g. MPhil) in a related subject will be considered for entry directly on to the PhD programme.

Submission Requirements for Research Degrees

MPhil by Thesis

The submission for the degree MPhil by Thesis (MPhil (RCA)) consists of a written thesis, supported, where appropriate, by practical work related to the research. The required length of the thesis is between 30,000 and 40,000 words (inclusive of footnotes but excluding appendices and bibliography)

MPhil by Project

The submission for the degree of MPhil by Project (MPhil (RCA)) consists of studio work together with a piece of written work in English, defining the purpose of the work, the factors taken into account in its conception and development, and explaining the results. The length of the report and other written work is between 5,000 and 20,000 words (inclusive of footnotes but excluding appendices and bibliography). The textual and practical elements of the project should be conceived as a whole, with both aspects reaching the required standard of MPhil.

PhD by Thesis

The submission for the degree PhD by Thesis (PhD (RCA)) consists of a written thesis, supported, where appropriate, by practical work related to the research. The required length of the thesis is between 60,000 and 80,000 words (inclusive of footnotes but excluding appendices and bibliography)

PhD by Project

The submission for the degree of PhD by Project (PhD(RCA)) consists of studio work together with a piece of written work in English, defining the purpose of the work, the factors taken into account in its conception and development, and explaining the results. The length of the report and other written work is between 25,000 and 40,000 words (inclusive of footnotes but excluding appendices and bibliography). The textual and practical elements of the project should be conceived as a whole, with both aspects reaching the required standard of PhD.

