



Fashion Womenswear

The department pursues regeneration and development by constantly adapting to the realities and needs of the designers of the future. We see this as a positive challenge and an inspiration to the work within all our courses. New ideas, materials, methods and design applications are continually originated and progressed by students at all levels.

Remarkable achievements continue to be made in all areas. The courses and specialisms have advanced and developed successfully, enriching the whole School of Fashion & Textiles and achieving professional recognition for its graduates. We are assured of the success of the department through the high international employment profile secured by our graduates who, as they achieve seniority in their own careers, return to the College to recruit young designers. Many of our former students also establish their own businesses in all aspects of design.

Students participate in the organisation of exhibitions generated by the courses,

in particular the annual work-in-progress exhibition. A professional practice programme, seminars and guest speakers from the design and related industries support the core curriculum.

Applying

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.

Key Dates and Contacts

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 Days

10 December 2009 and 13 January 2010, both from 3pm onwards

Enquiries

+44 (0)20 7590 4373
fashion@rca.ac.uk
www.rca.ac.uk

General admissions enquiries:

admissions@rca.ac.uk

Staff

Head of Department

Professor Wendy Dagworthy

Visiting Professor

Sarah Mower

Senior Tutors

Sarah Dallas (Knitwear); Henrietta Goodden (Womenswear); Tristan Webber

Senior Tutor Research

Clare Pajaczkowska

Tutors

Darla Gilroy (Accessory Design); Sue Saunders (Footwear Design); Julie Verhoeven

Tutor and Project Manager

Heather Holford

Tutor Accessory Design

Darla Gilroy

Tutor Footwear Design

Sue Saunders

Visiting Lecturer, Millinery

Ian Bennett

Recent Visiting Lecturers include

Bill Amberg; Wendy Baker; Barbara Baum; Manolo Blahnik; Georgina Goodman; Richard Gray; Sheilagh Hosker Brown; Richard Hultzsch; Betty Jackson; Stephen Jones; Lorraine McClymont; Erdem Moralioglu; Julian Smith

Senior Technician

Anja Huttunen

Technicians

Dominic Casey; Sheila Clark; Mark Emmett; Roger Lewis; Gary Parker; Debbie Stack; Dave Tracey; Karl Vodrey; Clio Wallington; John Yarwood

Senior Computing Technician

Richard Power

Computing Technician

Fiona MacCallum

MA Programme

Students are given the opportunity to develop their individuality and creativity through concentrating on the following subjects: research and development of design ideas, colour and fabric sourcing, dedicated technical workshops relevant to the specialism selected, drawing, and portfolio presentation. Professional presentations and portfolio development focus on communication skills and the ability to present work coherently and intelligently. The course offers one-to-one tutorials and work reviews with staff and invited guests from industry and the media.

Within the discipline there are also four separate areas of design specialisation: knitwear, footwear, accessory design and millinery. Specialism students follow the womenswear curriculum and have teaching and technical courses in their specialist area.

The course has impressive links with internationally established designers and the design industries. Their participation is both valued and essential to our curriculum. Students are encouraged to develop these professional links and to establish other contacts through which placements, sponsorship, employment and freelance design work can result. Recent projects have included Bill Amberg, Crown, Sophie Hallette, International Flavours & Fragrances, Manolo Blahnik, Marni, Missoni, Oasis, Swarovski, Umbro and UPS.

The College's end of year Show has a long-standing and prestigious reputation. In order to provide each

student with a highly visible public platform, the Fashion Department's Show is delivered five times over two days in June, culminating in a gala evening for international media, potential employers and our sponsors.

MA Entrance Requirements

- We seek to enrol students who are imaginative, self-motivated, determined, passionate about their discipline, technically curious and professionally orientated and who understand that their commitment to the course is a significant investment in their future.

Portfolio

- Recent work including sketchbooks, research and design development.
- All work should be marked with the year it was executed.
- CD-ROMs and slides will be accepted though are not considered to be an ideal way of assessing your work.
- A finished toile relating to one of your current portfolio design projects should be included.
- If applying to a specialism, your submission should contain a relevant prototype. Please state 'Fashion Womenswear' and, where appropriate, the area of specialism to which you are applying, clearly in capital letters, both on the application form and on the labels attached to your portfolio.

Interview (if invited)

- You will be required to present a portfolio of work in progress.
- A personal research proposal is also required for discussion at this stage.

Research

Research-degree students are welcomed into the School of Fashion and Textiles, which has expanded its MPhil and PhD numbers and now has a well-established history of successful graduates and leading-edge researchers in the disciplines. Research students have a school-based senior tutor, supervisor and specialist adviser. Research-specific activities form part of a wider pattern of lectures and seminars across the College, enhanced by the extensive relationships we have with world-class academic, museum and industrial institutions. The presence of MPhil and PhD students continue to stimulate the culture of research, creativity, individualism and analysis that benefit the whole of the School of Fashion and Textiles.

Current or Recent Areas of Research include: Historical and contemporary fashion cultures; The cultural meaning of clothing; Sub-cultures, identity and style.

MPhil/PhD Entrance Requirements

MPhil

- Applicants must normally have obtained a good relevant undergraduate degree or an equivalent qualification.
- Exceptionally, other qualifications may be approved, providing that the Academic Board for Concessions and Discipline (ABCD) is satisfied that the applicant has the ability to pursue the programme of research successfully.
- Applicants should normally be aged over 21 years by 1 September of the proposed year of admission.

PhD

Applicants must have a relevant research Master's degree or an equivalent qualification. The majority of successful applicants are accepted onto the MPhil register in the first instance, with a view to transferring to the PhD register following their first or second year of study.



