



## Critical Writing in Art & Design

In October 2010\* the RCA will launch a new MA programme in Critical Writing in Art & Design. The postgraduate programme has been designed to develop the literary and intellectual skills required for art and design criticism in an age of rapid technological and cultural change. More new books, magazines and journals – online and in print – are being published than ever before, many exploring experimental and new approaches to writing about art and design. At the same time, media, the gallery, the studio and the practice of writing itself are being transformed by the deep penetration of new technologies into all aspects of our lives.

This full-time, two-year MA explores different aspects of writing about and for contemporary art and design. On joining the programme, successful candidates will be encouraged to develop specialist knowledge of a field of art, design, architecture, fashion or the applied arts. They will also follow a common programme of classes

designed to develop their skills as writers, editors and thinkers.

\* Subject to formal validation and approval of the course in mid-February 2010.

### 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.

The College is introducing an online application process for 2010/11 admissions. The usual deadline for application to the College has been extended to 1 March 2010 for this new programme. Full details of the MA Application Process and Entry Requirements are available at [www.rca.ac.uk/admissions](http://www.rca.ac.uk/admissions).

## MA Programme

Students on this Master's programme will benefit from working amongst artists, designers, architects and applied artists studying in Britain's only postgraduate university of art and design. The Royal College of Art is a major centre of the arts, with a distinguished history as a publisher of books under the Lion and Unicorn imprint and Arc magazine. It is a stimulating and intellectually provocative setting; world-leading artists, critics and designers exhibit, lecture and teach here.

Drawing on the teaching methods of the art school, this programme makes full use of the 'crit' (group reviews of student work), briefs and writing workshops. Breaking the isolation that characterises much writing practice, it will form a lively environment for intellectual exchange and collaboration.

Alongside a strong emphasis on criticality, expertise and theory, this programme views writing as a practice in its own right. Writing is strongly shaped by the contexts in which it is practised and where it appears. The programme will offer the opportunity to develop writing skills in a variety of contexts including radio and the Internet.

Students on the programme will publish their work – interviews, reviews, polemics, sustained critical essays and scripts – online and in print. Working alongside graphic designers and other postgraduates in the College, students will produce a major print publication in the second year of their studies.

On graduating, students will have a portfolio of different kinds of writing, editing skills and critical understanding as well as membership of a formidable network of RCA graduates. This MA will enhance their opportunities to pursue a career in the arts and the cultural industries.

### The MA programme includes

- Media Contexts seminars – these classes will examine writing in different media fields including radio and television, print- and web-based media. They will be taught by leading professionals working in the field today.
- Critical Theory seminars – Good writers are keen readers and critical thinkers. This seminar will explore philosophical debates with high currency in contemporary art and design.
- Critical & Historical Studies – these lecture and seminar series will introduce students to major contemporary issues in different fields of art and design.
- Writing Workshops – students will be set more than a dozen projects over two years to explore the potential of the interview; the polemic; the 'borders of fact and fiction' and many other themes.
- Masterclasses – prominent visiting writers and critics will set briefs and lead crits of students' work.

## MA Entrance Requirements

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Applications are encouraged from anyone with a good BA degree in a humanities / arts subject (including studio courses in art and design). Applicants will need to demonstrate a commitment to writing and a strong interest in contemporary art-and-design practice. Applicants are encouraged to submit a sample of writing (published or unpublished) when applying. Prior to interview, applicants will be asked to write a review of a current exhibition.

## MPhil/PhD Entrance Requirements

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The programme welcomes applications from potential research students who would like to undertake an MPhil or PhD in an aspect of critical writing for art and design. The Royal College of Art has a large community of research students in most fields of contemporary art and design, as well as history and criticism. Please contact programme leader David Crowley – details below – to discuss opportunities to join the programme as a research student.

## Interviews

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Interviews for both MA and Research applications will take place in and after March 2010. Please note that the RCA's usual deadline for applications has been extended for this new programme. The course is scheduled to commence in October this year, subject to validation in February 2010.

## Funding

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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

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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

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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

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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)

## Key Dates and Contacts

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**1 March 2010**  
closing date for receipt of applications

**Enquiries**  
For further details or queries please contact programme leader David Crowley:

[david.crowley@rca.ac.uk](mailto:david.crowley@rca.ac.uk)  
+44 (0)207 590 4485

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



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