



Programme Specification

1. General Information

Programme title:	Textiles
Award:	Masters
Qualification Framework level:	Level 7
School/Department or equivalent:	School of Design
Campus location(s):	Kensington
Total UK credits:	180
Date valid from/to:	2023-24

2. Programme Philosophy

Textiles at the the RCA operates at the intersection of design, craft and fine art, and we encourage this mix of thinking to collectively challenge the role of the 21st century Textiles practitioner. Practice-led research is a fundamental intellectual framework for how we develop textiles and materials; conceived and created by 'thinking through making', we are uncovering new insights through material and process exploration in the physical and digital domains.

Diverse practice across the programme unites commercial designers, individual craft and gallery-based practitioners and smart textiles innovators fostering a vibrant community culture where this range of practice stimulates critical questioning of the discipline.

Our MA Programme enables the development of a personal creative identity through a combination of individual, personally driven initiatives, collaborative work, industry-orientated and interdisciplinary projects.

With a focus on radical experimentation, material exploration and transformation, we encourage an exploratory, non-linear approach that embraces the conceptual, allowing a space for the incidental and accidental processes of discovery that foster a culture of research through physical and digital making.

At Textiles RCA we critically engage with all aspects of the discipline to demonstrate our creative capability. We value all approaches and promote responsibility and ethical values.

3. Educational Aims and Outcomes of the Programme

Programme aims

- You will develop innovative ideas that challenge the role of the 21st Century Textiles practitioner;
- You will critically engage with appropriate methods and processes for practice-led research;
- You will engage with responsibility and ethical values in relation to the discipline;
- You will develop appropriate technical knowledge and specialist skills and techniques to develop work that tests the boundaries of the practice;
- You will engage in an advanced level of critical thinking and analysis;
- You will develop your ability to communicate your ideas coherently and intelligently.

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:

- Develop a body of practical work demonstrating creative and original ideas that conceptually challenge your practice *and* the discipline of Textiles;
- Critically analyse and evaluate your work and explain your concepts through appropriate methods of visual and verbal communication;
- Assess and direct your acquisition of appropriate skills, processes and research methodologies necessary to create the practical work;
- Experiment and demonstrate a creative and environmentally responsible understanding of the use of colour and/or materials;

- Develop and define a personal creative identity and position yourself in, or in relation to, the textile field;
- Take responsibility for directing your studies through autonomous working, setting goals and managing time and resources effectively.

4. What will I learn?

Curriculum Map

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Textiles Alchemy (45 credits)	Grand Challenge (15 credits)	Independent Research Project (60 credits)
	School-wide Elective (15 credits)	
	Textiles Make (15 credits)	
AcrossRCA (30 credits)		

Programme Structure

Unit Title	Term	Credit Value	Core or Elective?
Textiles Alchemy	1	45 credits	Core
AcrossRCA	1&2	30 credits	Core
Textiles Make	2	15 credits	Core
Grand Challenge	2	15 credits	Core
School-wide Elective	2	15 credits	Elective
Independent Research Project	3	60 credits	Core

The programme is divided into 3 terms and comprises 4 discipline-specific units, with additional School-wide and College-wide units in terms 1 and two.

Term 1

Textile Alchemy (45 credits)

This unit will enable you to develop a strong foundation for establishing your practice through

research, experimentation and exploration of colour, material and process. You are asked to identify and evaluate the most appropriate skills and techniques for your project and to critically engage with your choice and use of materials and processes. You will be expected to engage with and contribute to the studio culture of the programme. The unit starts with an ice-breaker colour project that is assessed at the end of the unit.

AcrossRCA (30 credits)

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.

Term 2

Textile Make (15 credits)

This unit enables you to develop a deeper understanding and skill capability within your chosen area of practice and is delivered through a series of masterclasses, workshops, technical negotiated learning and independent study. You will concentrate your study in a selection of available areas and develop your making skills alongside your critical development.

Grand Challenge (15 credits)

In **term 2** all School of Design students will participate in the **Grand Challenge**, School-wide unit. The aim of this unit is to connect and challenge all students in the School through the introduction of a 'wicked' design problem that requires a cross disciplinary approach to problem solving involving an external international scientific or industry partner (or both). This unit and lecture series has been hugely successful in connecting and disrupting disciplines, people, philosophies and approaches to design thinking whilst providing our student body with very unique networking opportunities.

Term 3

Independent Research Project (60 credits)

This is the final Masters unit and asks students to identify, develop and present a cohesive body of work that encapsulates and demonstrates their Masters level expertise.

You are responsible for setting your own scope of work, and managing your time and resources effectively. You must be able to demonstrate a sustained trajectory of progression through the unit that encompasses creativity, critical analysis, consolidation and resolution of your ideas. Your development will be supported by individual and group tutorials, seminars, workshops and technical negotiated learning.

All students will take part in a collective Textiles Festival that includes public dissemination and enables the students to critique their work in relation to others and the wider discipline of Textiles.

5. How will I learn?

Textiles Alchemy

This unit involves the following teaching typologies:

Briefing, orientation, technical inductions, technical workshops, negotiated technical learning, lectures, individual and group tutorials, group critique, independent study and summative assessment.

Textiles Make

This unit involves the following teaching typologies:

Briefing, technical workshops, negotiated technical learning, workshops, seminars, critiques, individual and group tutorials, independent study and summative assessment.

Independent Research Project

This unit involves the following teaching typologies:

Briefing, workshops, seminars, negotiated technical learning, individual and group tutorials, exhibition, independent study and summative assessment (Textiles Festival).

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

The Programme will use formative assessment methods including, but not limited to:

- Presentations
- Group tutorials and critiques
- Peer-to-peer learning

The Programme will use summative assessment methods including, but not limited to:

- Presentations of completed practical work
- Reflective statements
- Public dissemination of work
- Participation in the Textiles Festival.

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/textiles-ma/#requirements>