



Programme Specification

1. General Information

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

2. Programme Philosophy

The programme positions Print as an expanded field which situates the printing press as the prehistory of computing and the web. We collectively explore the many ways technically mediated images alter and expand the world. You work from a range of positions, some working *through* print, making prints directly and others work *with* print, using archives, broadcast media, collage and installation to explore the rich cultural legacies of printed matter. We aim to develop the potential of each student in ways appropriate to their concerns and consciously select an extremely diverse group of students to creatively expand the field.

Seminars, visiting artists, publishing projects and the wider environment of the School, College and London help to provide a critical framework to question the nature of expanded Print practices. The multiplication of images always raises questions of originality, authenticity and value. Print includes industrial production and craft processes. Its history is inextricably linked to commerce, entertainment and education. As the demand increases for all Fine Art practices to be replicated and transmitted digitally, the difference between hard copy and screen-based images grows ever more complex as evidenced by current debates about NFTs and the role of social media. How do shifts in the registers of different media affect our lives, ways of communicating and the stories we tell? Engaging with a wide range of artists and archives places debates within the programme in a state of dynamic flux.

The faculty is made up of practicing artists working in a wide range of media who share a fascination with the centrality of print and replication to contemporary culture. You have access to well-equipped technical workshops across the college. However, the programme is not primarily about technical skills, but about how technologies are used to communicate and distribute images, ideas and understandings.

3. Educational Aims and Outcomes of the Programme

Programme aims

The MA Print programme aims:

- to provide a learning environment which privileges experimentation and self-reflexivity to enable you to develop a personal vocabulary and advanced practice;
- to advance the practice of different forms and combinations of print-media within an artistic context, developing your understanding of the links and conflicts between material and virtual forms of image multiplication;
- to place the histories of print within a critical and historical context, enabling you to identify your own areas of interest and the potential for development of the field practically and intellectually;
- to facilitate your independence through the demand that you research, plan and execute ambitious works where technical and conceptual aspects are integrated;
- to help you establish a dialogue between theory and practice enabling you to write and speak about your work challenging received theories and engaging with new audiences;
- to build professional practice skills founded on an understanding of equality, diversity and sustainability enabling students to tackle a range of opportunities, residencies, commissions and collaborations on leaving the programme.

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

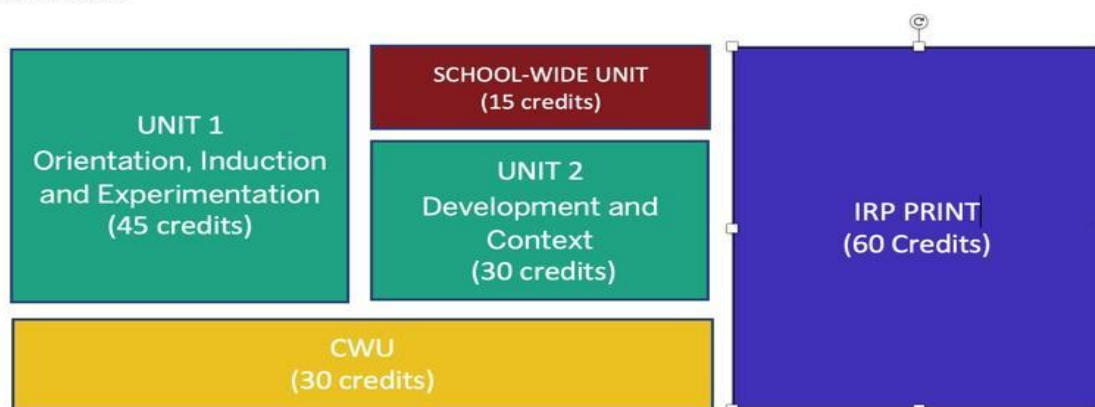
You should be able to:

- Translate your ideas into an original and ambitious art practice, synthesizing and experimenting with whatever media suits your ideas and intentions;
- Demonstrate an ability to articulate and critique your current artistic practice in relation to print and/or digital processes, concepts and histories;
- Demonstrate the development and production of self-initiated studio/workshop outcomes, adapting your use of technology and techniques to make work for the exhibition project and publication opportunities;
- Establish a critical context for your work by identifying good practice in other students/artist practitioners and both talk and write about your observations;
- Demonstrate independence and clear decision making, through the development of a resolved and coherent body of work and appropriate methods of display, presentation and dissemination;
- Demonstrate and articulate a comprehensive understanding of your position as an artist, identifying your critical concerns within the field of contemporary Fine Art Print.

4. What will I learn?

Curriculum Map

MA PRINT



Programme Structure

Unit Title	Term	Credit Value	Core or Elective?
Orientation, Induction and Experimentation	1	45	Core
Development and Context	2	30	Core
Urgency of the Arts (School-wide Unit)	2	15	Core

AcrossRCA (College-wide Unit)	1 & 2	30	Core
Independent Research Project	3	60	Core

Orientation, Induction and Experimentation (45 credits)

We begin with the notion of orientation, a term originating from 'Orient'.

'a person's basic attitude, beliefs, or feelings in relation to a particular subject or issue'

- Where do I begin?
- What is my current practice/interest /skill set?
- What interests me in the wider field?
- What work by other artists/writers is relevant to my practice?
- How do I describe/speak about what I do?

You will begin the programme with a series of orientation sessions and technical inductions. Seminars and external visits to exhibitions and archives will help you understand the expanded field of Print in the context of the broad field of contemporary art. You will be encouraged to experiment with new ways of making to challenge existing models of thinking and demonstrate this through studio practice.

Development and Context (30 credits)

The aim of this unit is to focus on deepening an engagement with both producing work and through discussion, understanding the ways in which it might be read, displayed and contextualised. To this end the holding of a group exhibition/event, and a publication project give you deadlines and experience of professional contexts.

Urgency of the Arts - School-wide unit (15 credits)

In term 2, School of Arts and Humanities Masters' students will participate in a School-wide unit called "The Urgency of the Arts." In this unit we ask how arts and humanities research and practice can engage with our current socio-political climate, and how might it shape, be necessary and essential in contemporary cultural debates.

The unit introduces students to a diverse range of perspectives, approaches and methods relevant to contemporary practice and thought in the arts and humanities. The delivery, predominantly based on workshops and featuring specialist presentations by leading artists, aims to assist students in recognizing, questioning, expanding, and reevaluating their own artistic practices and disciplinary assumptions. Through interactions with staff and students from across the School, as well as through a variety of methodological approaches, students will develop an understanding of the contemporary concerns that shape and influence artistic practice.

Students will be supported in understanding the possibilities, complexities and impact of their own work. They will be encouraged to contextualise it within broad cultural landscapes to recognise and emphasise its potential and also the complex ways in which their work may be received and understood.

AcrossRCA - College-wide unit (15 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.

Independent Research Project (60 credits)

The 60-credit Independent Research Project (IRP) is an opportunity to build a body of work that addresses the key ambitions of your research and practice. You will work towards presenting a work or works in the IRP Public Exhibition, which enables you to explore how you can activate your work in a public context, experiment with the most appropriate forms of realising your ideas and gain critical feedback. The IRP exhibition takes place mid-way through the unit and will be followed by a period of reflection and further development, which emphasises planning for continued practice and research post-graduation.

The IRP emphasises the sharing of work with an audience. The focus is on completing work which synthesizes and builds upon the work of the last two terms. You will be expected to make, curate and exhibit in the context of a group exhibition. Most Print students would work in exhibition, though a few may choose publication as the principal form. You will have submitted a plan for your independent research project at the end of the second unit based on the experience of the exhibition and publications projects in unit 2.

In the closing weeks of term, professional development activities, applying for grants, setting up studios, self-employment and residency applications are the focus of School-wide events. You are required to participate in a public 'Print Out' panel discussion with invited guests.

5. How will I learn?

Learning and teaching activity on the programme may include, but may not be limited to:

- Briefing presentation of key information at beginning of each unit.
- Personal tutorial - a one-to-one meeting of a student and staff to review progress.
- Exhibition of student work - a public presentation of the student outcomes of a programme or unit of study.
- Group Tutorial - discussion of work-in-progress;
- Lectures – presentation delivered to an audience of students;
- Critiques – group review of student work;
- Orientation;
- Technical Inductions – scheduled inductions to enable students to access technical facilities;
- Studio Practice/ project work – independently developed practice;
- Offsite Projects - field trips and archive visits;
- Seminar - a themed discussion between staff and a group of students;
- Workshops which introduce a particular process or project – sign-up or voluntary;
- Negotiated technical learning.

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

Orientation, Induction and Experimentation continuous assessment

This is a summative assessment in the form of a written unit report with attached images.

Assessed by oral/visual presentation

Presentation of an IRP plan to a tutor and a small group of peers.

School Unit: Critical Reflection

Critical Reflection: you will be required to produce a critical reflection on their learning from the SoAH School-wide unit. The critical reflection should contextualise your work in relation to contemporary debates and needs to include:

- a reference to at least one speaker from the SoAH Urgency of the Arts assemblies;
- a reference to a text / concept / theme that was covered during the SoAH MA School Group;
- up to 3 images relating to participation in the School Group Crit with some evaluative commentary.

Independent Research Project

To be assessed by exhibition and portfolio of practice presented via a viva voce. This will include exhibited work, critical reflection and contextual material.

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/print-ma/#requirements>