



1. General Information

Award	Programme Title	Duration	Mode of Study
<i>Graduate Diploma</i>	<i>Art & Design</i>	<i>30 weeks</i>	<i>Full Time</i>

Awarding Institution	<i>Royal College of Art</i>
Teaching Institution	<i>Royal College of Art</i>
Professional Accreditation	<i>N/A</i>
Qualifications Framework Level	<i>FHEQ 06</i>
Date of most recent validation	<i>17 January 2017</i>
Programme Specification Date	<i>2019/20</i>

2. Philosophy of the Programme

The Graduate Diploma Art and Design will prepare students for postgraduate study in Art and Design. The programme will focus on developing proficiency in the discursive languages and independent learning methods of art and design and on introducing students to the role and influence of art and design in the world today.

Students will be immersed in a learning environment that prepares them for study at postgraduate level; one that is highly interactive and discursive and that challenges students' perceptions and exposes them to the culturally diverse world in which they situate their emerging practice.

The course aims to make its participants better informed about the study options available to them as well as the possible career paths that they might follow beyond graduation. It is divided into two parts, the first offering a broad based introduction to art and design and the various study options available in the field together with an introduction to the kinds of learning methods that students are likely to encounter in the study of art and design.

The second part of the course will enable students to focus in more depth on their chosen area of study and work towards the preparation of a body of work and portfolio.



3. Educational Aims of the Programme

The Graduate Diploma in Art and Design aims to:

- advance art and design education by supporting increased access to PG Art and Design study in a world leading environment supportive of specialist practice as well as interdisciplinary engagement and debate;
- establish a context that is responsive to local and global concerns and committed to active engagement and participation in art and design culture;
- support students in the development of a focused portfolio of work that demonstrates their technical and intellectual aptitude and their capacity for advanced study in Art and Design or further employment and professional practice;
- introduce an understanding of the interrelationship of practice and theory, and to help students become informed and conversant with relevant historical and contemporary points of reference;
- build confidence in students' abilities to speak and write about their work and to engage in discursive modes of teaching and learning through listening and interpretation.

4. Intended Learning Outcomes of the Programme

Able to:	A. Intellectual Engagement
A1.	Develop knowledge that furthers their understanding of their chosen discipline
A2.	Demonstrate, in written assignments, an understanding of historical and contemporary precedents and how they relate to their developing practice.
A3.	Demonstrate a working understanding of the principles and methods of independent research;
A4.	Clearly articulate, in written assignments and oral presentations, the intellectual and technical processes involved in the production of their work

Able to:	B. Technical Skills
B1.	Produce work that integrates independent thought, creativity and technique
B2.	Experiment with materials, processes and environments in order to make their ideas tangible in practice
B3.	Display an systemic understanding of the relevant technical skills required for the creation, display and documentation of their work;



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Able to: C. Professional Development	
C1.	Manage their time and resources effectively in order to meet their negotiated objectives
C2.	Participate as active, thoughtful and responsible members of a community
C3.	Define their professional ambitions through self-reflection and familiarity with the creative economy

5. Programme Structure and Curriculum

Graduate Diploma

The Graduate Diploma Art and Design consists of 120 credits benchmarked at UK Framework for Higher Education Qualifications Level 06. The programme is comprised of two, 15-week blocks of study (total 30 weeks) and students enter on one of five pathways of study.

A 'Learning' module a 'Portfolio' module, each 20 credits, run across the length of the programme. The 'Art Design and Practice' module' at 40 credits is delivered in the first 15-week block and the 'Independent Art and Design Practice' module at 40 credits is delivered in the second 15-week block.

Block 1 (15 weeks)	Block 2 (15 weeks)
Art Design and Practice 40 credits	Independent Art Design and Practice 40 credits
Learning 20 credits	
Portfolio 20 credits	

The **Learning** module runs throughout the programme and is designed to enhance students' ability to interpret relevant texts as well as to write and to speak clearly about their own practice and Art and Design more broadly. The module will help students to match skills required for postgraduate programmes; for example, through verbal interactions, presentations and discussions, written summaries, reflective, evaluative and critical skills. The module will be delivered in tandem with practice modules, picking up on the same thematic blocks, so that your existing language knowledge is studied and then practiced in context.

This **Art Design and Practice** module will introduce students to the advanced practice of art and design. Students will have the opportunity to work around broad project briefs, in order to initiate approaches to independent learning and practice appropriate to their prior learning and their desired future course of study.

In the **Independent Art Design and Practice** module students will experience a subtle shift from working somewhat responsively and in relation to broad themes, to a mode of



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working that will be more independently determined and focused. Starting from their own brief written at the end of the Art Design and Practice module, students will work in three, five-week blocks, each culminating in a group critique of their work, either exhibited or shown in portfolio mode, and involving students and staff from each strand of the project.

This **Portfolio** module runs throughout blocks 1 and 2 of the programme and supports students to build a digital portfolio designed to gain admission to further study at postgraduate level in Art and Design study. The module will draw on students' ongoing learning on the programme to help them to articulate their practical and theoretical concerns, using text and images, and demonstrating their own ability as well as their contextual awareness.

6. Learning and Teaching Methods

Tutorials
These occur either by prior appointment or informally between the tutors and their tutees in the studio workspaces. Subjects discussed can be followed up at regular intervals and will normally relate closely to the student's work in progress, leading to discussion about its development and recommendations for sources of reference and contextualisation.
Seminars
Students are invited to attend seminars that are offered by tutors and visiting lecturers who introduce current issues or project-related material. The seminar setting of smaller groups of students offers the chance for participants to engage in a dialogue about the issues being discussed.
Lectures
Lectures will be provided by tutors and visiting lecturers. Lectures generally cater for larger groups of students and are often followed by seminars where issues can be further discussed and explored.
Technical Support
Technical support is available to help students utilise specialist equipment or tools to experiment with processes and/ or materials and to help realise project work.
Critiques
Students will be invited to present their work to tutors and peers who 'critique' their work to help further the student's development.

7. Assessment

General
Regulations for assessment and progression can be found in the College Regulations.
Final Examination
Assessment at the Royal College of Art is holistic – all assessment items across all four modules of the Graduate Diploma in Art and Design lead to your final classification. The assessment for the Portfolio module may also be used to apply for further postgraduate study or employment.

8. Admissions



Programme-Specific Requirements

Prospective Diploma in Art & Design applicants are likely to be:

- Those who have the required educational background to go on to Master’s study, but who require greater proficiency in the English language.
- Those who do not have an undergraduate background in art and design, but who can demonstrate potential in their chosen discipline of study.
- Those for whom their undergraduate studies did not adequately prepare them for Master’s study at the RCA.
- Those who would like to use the programme as a diagnostic experience to help them decide which area to specialise in at Master’s level.

The first part of the Entrance Examination consists of an assessment of the application and portfolio of work. If successful at assessment stage, students will be invited to the second part of the Entrance Examination, a formal interview with the appropriate admissions board, and for some specialisms, practical tests. The programme may choose to offer a place without an interview but reserves the right to invite candidates for interview.

Students must evidence a good undergraduate degree in a related subject area and IELTS of **5.5** or equivalent.

Students will normally have obtained a good relevant undergraduate degree or equivalent qualification. The College recognises as an equivalent qualification any degree, diploma, certificate or other evidence of formal qualification awarded by another university or higher education establishment where the award is made following the successful completion of a course 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 course of upper secondary education. 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 study successfully.

Upon entry, students should be able to demonstrate:

- The potential to benefit from and contribute to the programme of study
- Prior knowledge and experience indicating the potential to achieve the independence necessary for advanced study in a specialist discipline
- Respect for cultural differences and such representations in art and design
- Openness to having ideas and notions challenged by themselves and others
- Enthusiasm and aptitude to confront the issues to be addressed in preparation for future postgraduate study or a professional career



9. Quality Indicators

Refer to the RCA Quality Handbook for more details of the College's quality and standards procedures.

- All academic programmes at the Royal College of Art are revalidated on a six-yearly cycle. Revalidations involve external subject experts and internal panel members appointed by the College's Academic Standards Committee (ASC).
- Programmes are required to submit an annual Review, the primary purpose of which is to evaluate the experience of students enrolled on both its awards.
- External Examiners are appointed for a maximum of three years to ensure that:
 - the academic standard for each award is set and maintained at an appropriate level and that student performance is properly judged against this;
 - the standards of awards are comparable with those of other UK higher education institutions;
 - the process of assessment and examination is fair and has been fairly conducted.
- An Internal Moderator is appointed by the Senate on the recommendation of ASC to ensure that there are appropriate mechanisms in place for the objective assessment of student work and to ensure comparability of examination practices between programmes within the College.

Students have the opportunity to provide feedback through regular programme-level meetings (at least one each year considers the delivery of the programme and the External Examiner report); and through an annual College-wide student survey.



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Programme Specification