



## Programme Specification

Please note that this specification is subject to change, in line with the national guidance on the response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

### 1. General information

<b>Awarding institution:</b>	Royal College of Art
<b>Programme title:</b>	MA Fashion
<b>Award:</b>	Masters
<b>Qualification framework level:</b>	Level 7
<b>School/Department or equivalent:</b>	School of Design
<b>Programme duration:</b>	2-years
<b>Total UK credits:</b>	240 credits
<b>Mode of study:</b>	Full time
<b>Date valid from/to:</b>	2020-21

### 2. Programme Philosophy

The Fashion Masters Programme asks for a disruptive critical approach leading to new aesthetics and responses about the practice and industry of fashion both relevant and immediate.

The programme looks to create a new generation of thought leaders/designers that is needed within the Fashion Industry; future fashion designers with a combined skill-set of designer-led innovation, underpinned with that critical approach and collaboration situated within new technologies, offering specific Fashion insights and understanding of new engineering, digital and scientific paradigms.

A shift in authorship, materiality, economic structure and communication allows new patterns of work and aesthetics. Equally an integrity, ingenuity and a raw fluid play is essential within this new real that is still very much part of the Fashion practice but presents a new beginning of potentialities relevant to our times.

The programme looks to support a radical, new, brave and absolute truth. A truth where we can no longer accept the same.

### 3. Educational Aims and Outcomes of the Programme

#### **Programme Aims**

The Fashion programme aims to:

- Provide a stimulating learning environment that enables the development of aesthetic, intuitive, intellectual and critical potential
- Encourage new perspectives, resistant, risk and innovative work
- Provide discussion and understanding of individual methodologies
- Develop students' ability to communicate their ideas coherently and intelligently
- Develop students' understanding of the cultural, sociological and economic context of fashion & identity
- Assist in the student knowing their individual identity, aesthetic and system through a broad selection of work.

**What will I be expected to achieve?**

During your time at the College, you will be expected to develop and define your unique ethos, reasoning process and design values, in order to establish a professional and creative network which supports ongoing development.

You will be able to remain consciously present in your time and your practice, and will be equipped with the necessary practical and critical skills to enact your ambitions.

By the end of your programme you will be confident in realising your intuition toward well-reasoned outcomes, and will possess the ability to confidently use your creative and critical faculties in the pursuit of the extraordinary.

**Programme-Specific Learning Outcomes**

Able to:	<b>A. Intellectual Engagement</b>
A1.	Evidence an originality and innovative response in their design work.
A2.	Demonstrate an ability to critically reflect on their own and other's work.
A3.	Demonstrate a balanced critical approach to Fashion.

Able to:	<b>B. Technical Skills</b>
B1.	Experiment with materials in either an informed, sustainable or innovative way.
B2.	Develop processes through experimentation, accommodating an iterative approach.
B3.	Demonstrate an advanced knowledge of specialist skills and processes that produce a resolved outcome.

Able to:	<b>C. Professional Development</b>
C1.	Establish a personal design identity and articulate their position within the industry.

C2.	Take responsibility for directing their studies through setting goals and managing time and resources effectively.
C3.	Develop imaginative and meaningful ways of involving people in their design process.

#### 4. What will I learn?

##### First Year:

- PLATFORMS: New Perspectives, 20 credits
- MATERIALISE: New Materialisms, 20 credits
- STUDIOS: New realities, 20 credits
- Grand Design Challenge – Cross-School, 20 credits
- Critical and Historical Studies – Cross-College, 40 credits

##### Second Year:

- INITIAL PRACTICE: Abstract Dreamscape, 30 credits
- CRITICAL PRACTICE: Industry Realscape, 30 credits
- INDEPENDENT PRACTICE: Total Landscape, 60 credits

##### Curriculum Map

	THINKING		MATERIAL		PRACTICE	
	PLATFORMS - New Perspectives 20 units	School of Design GRAND CHALLENGE Inc WIP 20 units	MATERIALISE - Independent Research 20 units	STUDIOS - New Realities 20 units		
FIRST YEAR	CHS CHS FIRST DRAFT		CHS FINAL	40 units		
	INITIAL PRACTICE 30 units Abstract Dreamscape		CRITICAL PRACTICE 30 units Industry Realscape		INDEPENDENT PRACTICE 60 units Total Landscape SHOW FINAL EXAM	
SECOND YEAR						

#### 5. How will I learn?

Please note that these are subject to change, in line with the national guidance on the Covid-19 response.

##### Tutorials

Tutorials may be one-to-one or group based. They are the key teaching methods used on the programme, and through investigation and debate, aim to guide you to identify personal learning requirements for the development of your work.

You may request tutorials from other staff in the School if this is pertinent to your thinking and the person requested is available.

Tutorials can happen virtually as well as face-to-face.

## Lectures

Lectures are a key element to the programme connected about certain Platforms and Industry Partnerships. They may contain visiting practitioners, experts from a diversity of fields, platform specific from programme leaders, all to inform a socio-cultural understanding of the research landscape and technical and material potentials.

## Seminars

Sessions that discuss current thinking, debate, and research relevant to the moment in the programme and industry, that may be led by Design Tutors, Industry Professionals and/or students as a peer-led session.

## Workshops & Masterclasses

Workshops & Masterclasses will occur throughout the year, focusing more on the second term and often look towards the specialisms as lead.

Classes might cover:

- A focus on materials and textiles looking at different perspectives and uses of material from tailoring, through traditional textiles up to and beyond the additive and future materials.
- Recording form and silhouette, on to performative and sculptural practice.

## Critiques and Presentations

Group or individual critiques and presentations with staff and external visitors from industry are arranged to encourage participation in critical analysis and to enhance professional practice and communication skills.

They may vary in format from curated visual presentations, installation, lecture, performance, other displays of work and or a presentation on a 'fitting' model.

## Work Reviews

To assess your progress, depth of learning and continued development you make formal presentations of your current work to a Review Panel of staff in your final year.

This occurs in the first two terms, identifying areas of strength and those requiring focus and expansion. This then provides you with clear guidance for future direction. The advice given in agreement with you is a guide that you are responsible for following up. Your progress will be taken into consideration at successive Work Reviews.

You will present your developing language and identity as a fashion designer through a broad selection of new and continuing work completed between Work Reviews.

This would include research, design sketchbooks, a material library on-going, toiles, prototypes and finished work in the form of your specialism - garments, accessories, footwear or millinery.

In advance of the Review you need to prepare a Self-Analysis Form, which allows you to consider your progress and steer the review itself. This is part of the reflective process of self-development actively encouraged by the programme.

You may be asked to analyse and consider the points brought up in the Work Review to conclude the process. You will then receive a written report of the main points arising from the Work Review.

You may get the opportunity to participate in an exhibition of your student work, either during or at the conclusion of your studies. Your Programme Handbook should provide more information on the nature of this participation.

## 6. Assessment and feedback

### Unit assessment

#### **First Year Assessment**

Each student will be assessed after each unit against the learning outcomes, leading to summative assessments and ensuring that students have the opportunity for feedback moving from one project to the next.

At the end of the year, a formal panel will review each student's work to evaluate progress part way through his or her studies and determine progression to the second year. The interim assessment review is conducted with a board consisting of relevant staff, where students are not present, reviewing the student's summative assessment of the year.

The outcomes from this review goes to the Academic Board for Concessions & Discipline, with the recommendation that a student does or does not progress.

#### **Final Examination**

The Final Examination is the culmination of a MA degree. It is held in the summer term of students' second year, a few weeks before the Show. Prior to the Final Exam, each student submits a *design report* detailing the projects that have been agreed with the programme team to be presented for examination. The final independent project together with the body of work showing the progression of the student's work exemplifying the learning journey throughout the programme, will be assessed during the exam by a panel of academics. If a student's Design Tutor is not present at the Exam, their report contributes to the overall assessment.

The Final Examination is in two parts:

- a) A Viva-Voce, which takes place in the final term of a programme of study
- b) A School Examination Board, will be held to recommend results to the Academic Board for Concessions & Discipline for ratification.

Final Examination requires a body of investigative work.

All Fashion Students – all specialisms

A portfolio publication, either in printed hard copy or digital soft copy that presents an advanced line of enquiry demonstrating rigorous research, clear process, unique methodologies and material outcomes leading to finished hi-spec prototypes.

The portfolio should be fully edited and curated into a complete visual aesthetic language that might include all final work and other relevant projects completed during study at the RCA.

Supplementary evidence in the form of sketchbooks, notebooks, technical files, research folders and evidence of material processes, and any further evidence to support the finished work and portfolio publication should be organised and accessible, should you need to answer questions regarding your practice.

Final Examination requires a body of physical work.\*\*\*

Fashion

2 completed outfits shown on the body/ models,

Fashion Knitwear

2 completed outfits shown on the body/ models,

Fashion Footwear, Accessories, Millinery and Eyewear

2 completed objects shown against the body/ models

\*\*\*Today it is not sustainable or necessary to follow older systems. There is room to navigate and debate what is appropriate for you as a designer to make and present. In your final year, this would be clear from the beginning of that year and you would be required to discuss throughout, with your design mentor; and finally to present and evidence well in each review and assessment point.

For your final exam please have available a copy of your RCA dissertation.

**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 240 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 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 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 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 Tier 4 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.

Applications are considered chronologically by date and time of final portfolio submission. Whilst a programme still has vacancies, successful candidates will be made an offer of a place. Once a programme becomes full, subsequent successful applicants will be placed on a waiting list, and may be made a firm offer should a place become available for them.

### **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/fashion-ma/#requirements>