



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

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

2. Programme Philosophy

Students are encouraged to situate their practice within the social, political and economic conditions of the contemporary world; identifying what sculpture can contribute to ongoing material, critical, technological, and philosophical debates. Research and experimentation through the production of concepts and arrangements for new types of space, technological advances in production techniques and the impact of social change on the way we live, are some of the ways in which students will develop their practice and enquiry in Sculpture at the RCA.

Our approach to teaching is premised on an understanding that artists, makers, writers, curators, critics and historians today are neither constrained by their discipline, the medium they use nor by a sense of what content their work should address. Practitioners in the Arts & Humanities are valued for their contribution to culture and the broader economy because they test and reflect upon the way in which we try to engage with our rapidly changing world; exploit the possibilities of new technologies while also engaging with the value of traditional approaches; they enact new philosophical positions as well as reflecting upon how our thinking has led us to where we are. And they often adopt stances informed significantly by the past to antagonise our assumptions about society.

We also conceive of the Arts & Humanities as a range of subjects that are accessible to collaboration with other fields and disciplines; subjects that celebrate the deployment of diverse methods of research and production that are invented, borrowed and even stolen. At the Royal College of Art, we enjoy an environment that is supportive of the varied research enquiries that the Arts & Humanities can enable. We support customary methods and processes whilst enabling others that we cannot even anticipate. We are committed to examining and researching both the means by which enquiries in the Arts & Humanities

emerge – the rich array of positions, techniques, methods and materials used by practitioners to develop their research – as well as the subjects, ideas and issues that are successfully articulated, with a view to understanding a broader cultural, societal and economic impact.

Teaching in the school is organised around programmes that provide specific material and historical coordinates as points of reference from which students are encouraged to consider the development of their own work. Regardless of their programme of study, students interact across the broad area of the Arts & Humanities and are also encouraged to engage with other areas of the College.

Research in the School of Arts & Humanities often leads staff and students to less immediately cognate fields of the Arts & Humanities as well as the sciences, and the school works with a range of significant partners such as the V&A and Imperial College to further its ambitions in this regard.

We therefore view all our programmes in the School of Arts & Humanities as useful pedagogical structures, in that they focus specific areas of activity within an ever expanding field. The programmes enable directed study within an environment that is ambitious not to proliferate and perpetuate what we know but to generate new practices and insights.

3. Educational Aims and Outcomes of the Programme

Programme Aims

The programme aims to support the production of artworks that demonstrate the ability to develop a creative, imaginative and innovative practice.

- To provide an environment for experimentation in the use of materials, processes and contexts in order to translate ideas into practice.
- To facilitate the skills and abilities necessary to articulate clearly the intentions of the work produced and the approaches, knowledge, skills and reasoning employed in its production.
- To aid the understanding of historical and contemporary contexts and how they relate to the development of a students practice.
- To encourage an advanced understanding of the principles and methods of research and apply them effectively to individual and collaborative practice.
- Support and encourage self-reflection and a critical understanding of professional contexts.

What will I be expected to achieve?

The Sculpture programme aims to provide students with an environment for exploring, in practical and theoretical ways, approaches, knowledge(s), skills and reasoning employed in the production of sculpture. We see our role as challenging norms and questioning conventions, interrogating the role and purpose of sculpture through the development of a personal, critical and experimental approach to researching and making.

Students are expected to test and discuss individual and collective works organised, conceived and produced through object making, installation, video, publication, performance, AI, animation, digital technologies of communication, exhibition making and participatory practice. You will consider a broad range of approaches to making and understanding sculpture by drawing from live projects that embody an ethos of experimentation and criticality. Students can expect to create physical and speculative works which will aid them in developing a final collection of work which will help define

their future career path as an artist.

Programme-Specific Learning Outcomes

Able to:	A. Intellectual Engagement
A1.	INNOVATION: Develop innovative ideas that challenge the understanding of their practice and discipline
A2.	CONTEXT: Demonstrate an advanced understanding of historical and contemporary debate and how it relates to their practice
A3.	RESEARCH: Demonstrate an advanced understanding of the principles and methods of research and apply them effectively to their own practice
A4.	COMMUNICATION: Effectively articulate and debate the intellectual and technical processes involved in the production of their work

Able to:	B. Technical Skills
B1.	PRODUCTION: Produce work at an advanced level that integrates thought, creativity and technique
B2.	EXPERIMENTATION: Experiment in their use of materials, processes and environments in order to translate ideas into practice
B3.	SKILLS: Display a mastery of the technical skills required in the creation, display and documentation of their work

Able to:	C. Professional Development
C1.	INDEPENDENCE: Take responsibility for directing their studies through setting goals and managing time and resources effectively
C2.	COLLABORATION: Participate as an active, thoughtful and responsible member of a community
C3.	IDENTITY: Define their professional identity through self-reflection and an understanding of the creative economy

4. What will I learn?

Year One

In their first year of study students undertake three units of study: Unit 1A, Unit 1B and CHS. These Units are each worth 40 credits and assessed through a combination of continuous and summative assessment methods.

To support each students progress through Unit 1a and Unit 1b they are assigned a Personal Tutors who supervise academic progress throughout their year in consultation with the wider tutoring team. Each student will receive five one-to-one tutorials with their personal tutor throughout the year. In addition to this each term the students will have the opportunity to join

groups and have the ability to request tutorials with the wider programme team and with tutors across the college.

The first term focuses on engendering social cohesiveness, respect and collaboration among the year group, and a sharing of expertise and experience. At the beginning of the second term first year students take part in the Work in Progress show. It is not expected for the work to be resolved however the student should see this as an opportunity to take risks with how they engage in a public environment.

Each unit is assessed in full at its conclusion as per the following:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unit 1A: ● 40 Credits ● Self-assessment then progress feedback from programme unit assessment meeting (staff double marking meeting) (continuous assessment) ● Assessment: December. ● Learning Outcomes: A2, A3, A4, B2, C1, C2, C3 	<p>Unit 1B:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 40 Credits ● Self-assessment (Continuous assessment) and Exam feedback (Summative assessment) from 1B exam panel. ● Assessment: May. ● Learning Outcomes: A1. A2. A4. B2. B3. C1. C2. 	<p>CHS: <i>40 Credits</i></p>
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Year Two

During the second year of the programme students undertake three units of study: Unit 2A (40 credits), Unit 2B (60 Credits) and SoAH School Unit (20 Credits). These units are assessed through a combination of continuous and summative assessment methods.

In the first term students will continue to work with a Personal Tutor who helps direct their progress through Unit 2A, participating in the first term activities (seminars, panel discussions, tutorials), whilst being mindful of the development of their studio practice. This is supported by tutorials and crits from programme staff and visiting lecturers.

In the second and third terms, while experimentation continues to be encouraged, work also becomes much more concentrated on production for the final show as part of the assessment of Unit 2B - the Independent Research Project. This consists of the undertaking of a major project that should demonstrate how the student is able to research, develop and realise an artwork to a Masters level. The Student works should have a clear direction and resolution, which is thoroughly researched through the students' own initiative.

Alongside their participation in programme based units, students will also participate in the SoAH School unit, which, through study groups, lectures, symposia, crits and tutorials will support students in discussing and evolving their work against a broader frame of reference.

Each unit is assessed in full at its conclusion as per the following table:

<p>Unit 2A: 40 Credits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-assessment then progress feedback from programme unit assessment meeting (staff double marking meeting) (continuous assessment) • Assessment: December • Learning Outcomes: A1, A2, A3, A4, B1, B2, C1, C2 	<p>Unit 2B: 60 Credits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-assessment (continuous assessment) and Exam feedback (Final Examination) from 2B/School Unit Joint Panel. • Assessment: June. • Learning Outcomes: A2. A3. A4. B1. B2. B3. C1. C2, C3. 	<p>SoAH School Unit: 20 Credits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessed Portfolio at 2B/School Unit Joint Panel. (Final Examination). • Assessment: May • School Exam Board then reviews marks from all units and recommends pass or fail. • Learning Outcomes: B2. C2. C3.
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CHS Information

Critical & Historical Studies is the cross-College platform that delivers teaching and activities aimed at enabling critical engagement to take place within, and between, the different disciplines at the RCA.

All studio-based first year MA students have a CHS unit as a core part of their programme of study, designed to enable this critical dialogue and enhance each student's development. Led by a team of dedicated, highly skilled and deeply engaged staff, CHS delivers a programme of lectures, seminars, workshops and tutorials (both small group and one-to-one). Students will be encouraged to engage with vital and challenging ideas that relate to their practices. This both enriches and provides a broader intellectual framework within which to establish a coherent inter-relationship between theoretical and practice-based approaches to art and design.

As a team, our disciplinary interests span the fine and applied arts, architecture, design (including fashion, graphics, interior and product design), craft, communication, film, humanities, photography, digital media, science and technology.

CHS provides:

- contemporary, thought-provoking lectures by CHS staff and visiting tutors
- the opportunity for students to explore the theoretical background of their chosen discipline through a taught dissertation process
- individual and group tutorial support from our Programme's team of expert tutors

The CHS Handbook sets out the broad principles of CHS at the RCA. It outlines what you can expect of us and what we require of you to engage and produce work to your best ability. On the Moodle pages you will find details of the scheduled programme and the broad areas to be covered in each term, details about the tuition and assessment of your CHS dissertation, and information on resources that will help you during your studies.

Your main points of contact for CHS will be your group tutor and your School Liaison Tutor for your School. You will be assigned your group tutor at start of the Autumn Term.

We hope that you will enjoy working with the CHS team and use all the opportunities offered to you as a student at the Royal College of Art.

Curriculum Map

MA Sculpture Year 1		
Term One	Term Two	Term Three
Unit 1A Studio (40 Credits)	Unit 1B Studio (40 Credits)	
Critical Historical Studies (CHS) – (40 credits)		
MA Sculpture Year 2		
Term One	Term Two	Term Three
Studio Unit 2A Studio (40 Credits)	Studio Unit 2B Independent Research Project (60 Credits)	
Portfolio (20 credits)		

5. How will I learn?

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

General
Teaching consists of individual and group tutorials, group crits, external projects, workshops and lectures by leading artists and theorists
Tutorials
Students are allocated a Personal Tutor who will meet with them a 5 times during the year for a 45-minute tutorial. These tutorials will be scheduled by the programme administrator. In addition students will be provided with 3 sign up tutorials during the year where the students are able to elect which tutors they wish to meet with from the existing Visiting Lecturer list.
Group Discussion
Group discussion is a vital part of the programme. This takes various forms including crits in both studio conditions and exhibition conditions; workshops for which students have to prepare material for discussion; cross programme discussions.

6. Assessment and feedback

Assessment

Continuous Assessment

Continuous assessment enables the student's performance and progress to be understood and accounted for through a wide variety of academic contact points, recognising that students are able to perform in different ways and through different means and aspects of the curriculum while still achieving the requisite performance standards.

All studio-based units (1A, 1B, 2A & 2B) are assessed wholly or in part through a process of continuous assessment. This relies on staff who have had experience of the student coming together at the end of the unit in a Unit Assessment Meeting, chaired by the Head of Programme or a Senior Tutor, to review the student's self-evaluation and to share their experience of the student in relation to the relevant learning outcomes

Final Assessment

Final Examination examines the students' ability to synthesise their learning and to express it in a formal exam context, either through their performance in a live event, such as the viva voce examinations (previously interim and final exams) at the conclusion of Units 1B and 2B, or through the submission of a formal assessed element such as a dissertation or portfolio at the conclusion of the SoAH School Unit and CHS.

Unit 1B

The Final Examination for Unit 1B is held at the beginning of the third term as a Viva Voce. A Unit Assessment Meeting chaired by the Head of Programme or a Senior Tutor reviews the work produced by the student on the Unit. Students will be asked to demonstrate that their practice is evolving and that they are able to position your work within the context of contemporary art practice and theory, as per the relevant Learning Outcomes.

Unit 2 B

The Final Examination for Unit 2B is held at the beginning of the third term as a Viva Voce. A Unit Assessment Meeting chaired by the Head of Programme or a Senior Tutor reviews the work produced by the student on the Unit. Students will be asked to demonstrate that their practice is evolving and that they are able to position their work within the context of contemporary art practice and theory, as per the relevant Learning Outcomes.

SoAH School-Wide Unit

Assessment: Critical Reflection

Students will be required to produce a 1000-2000-word critical reflection on their learning from the School Unit. This written response offers the opportunity to consider the question of The Urgency of the Arts in relation to your own thinking and practice. 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 School Unit Lecture Series

- A reference to a text / concept / theme that was covered during the MA School Group that you attended
- Up to 3 images (max. 5mb each) relating to your participation in the School Crit with some evaluative commentary

This will be submitted to the joint assessment panel for the Joint Unit 2B / School Unit Exam, taking place toward the end of academic year.

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/schools/school-of-arts-humanities/sculpture/ma-entrance/>