



**Royal College of Art**

Postgraduate Art & Design

# PROGRAMME FAQs

Thank you for joining our online Programme Talks. We hope the sessions gave you all the information you need to begin your application.

[Visit our application portal.](#)

## **Is there an application deadline for entry in 2021?**

Applications are still open for the September 2021 intake and July intake for Graduate Diploma. As our main application deadlines have now passed, please note that your application will be subject to the availability of places once our academics have finished reviewing applications. We would encourage you to submit your application as soon as possible for the best chance of securing a place if you want to start study in 2021.

## **I would like to start studying in 2022. Can I apply now?**

Applications for entry in 2022 will open in autumn 2021. Please keep an eye on our [website](#) for updated information or [sign up to our mailing list](#) to be notified.

## **What are the entry requirements? May I apply from any educational background, do I need a relevant undergraduate degree?**

Students come to the College from across the globe and bring with them a wide range of backgrounds, educational approaches and experiences. Some transfer straight from undergraduate degree to postgraduate study, while others have spent time practising their craft or working in industry before returning to education to focus their interests or refine their skills. Candidates are selected entirely on merit and applications are welcomed from all over the world. The selection process will consider creativity, imagination and innovation which should be demonstrated in your portfolio, as well as your potential to benefit from the programme and to achieve high standards overall.

For College-wide entry requirements visit:

[www.rca.ac.uk/study/apply/entrance-requirements](http://www.rca.ac.uk/study/apply/entrance-requirements)

In addition to Cross-College Requirements, you will also need to fulfill the entrance requirements of the programme to which you are applying, details of which can be found by clicking on the relevant [Programme page](#).

## **Where can I get advice on what I should include in my portfolio?**

Each programme is looking for different things in a portfolio and each Head of Programme provides specific advice on portfolio requirements in our online application system. To access this advice, we recommend creating an account in our application portal and completing [stage 1 of the application form](#) (your details and education). You'll then be sent a link to login to Pebblepad - our digital portfolio platform. You might also find it helpful to re-watch our [Portfolio Q&A webinar](#) from February 2021.

Our Short Courses team are also running an online Art & Design Portfolio Development Short Course, starting on 13 May 2021. For more info and to book please [click here](#)

## **Will any teaching take place online in 2021/22?**

Our approach throughout the Covid-19 pandemic continues to put the health, safety and well-being of our students and staff at the centre of all our decisions. Like other universities in the UK and overseas, teaching and learning at the RCA during the pandemic has been blended - a combination of online learning and assessment and, where safe, face-to-face making and community-building activities.

Should there be further relaxation of UK Government social-distancing and health and safety requirements, we will review delivery arrangements with a view to increasing on-campus activities. We must emphasise that we will only be able to increase and/or relax access arrangements to our campuses when it is safe to do so.

Should the Government's requirements remain as they are currently, we will continue to offer a blended teaching model, with a combination of online and physical activities where safe. This will continue to be the default position for delivery.

### **Where can I find info about funding and scholarships?**

The RCA website outlines some external funding options for UK and International students including Government loans, charitable funding and external scholarships. You might also find it useful to join our [Student Support and International Student Advice talk](#) which will include advice on funding options.

### **Do I need to prove that I meet English Language Requirements when I apply?**

You do not need to have met the College's English language requirements at the point of application; however, if you do receive an offer you will need to meet the requirements prior to enrolment or, if you would require a visa to study in the UK – before the RCA can support your Student Visa application. For more details and information on what English Language tests we are currently accepting, [please visit our website](#). You might also find it useful to join our [Student Support and International Student Advice](#) talk which will cover English Language Requirements, as well as information about our [English for Academic Purposes](#) Pre-Sessional Courses - which are intended for offer holders who have not reached the required IELTS level before they start their Programme.

### **Do I need a Visa before applying?**

You only need to arrange a Visa once you have an offer of a place. The RCA will support this process by issuing a 'Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies' (CAS) to accepted students. Students must have also met all conditions of their offer, including passing an accepted English language test, before we can issue a CAS. You can find out more about the [Student Visa route](#) on our website. The [UK Council for International Student Affairs](#) website also has lots of useful information for international students.

### **How does the RCA support students in finding employment after graduation?**

The Royal College of Art is committed to ensuring that our students are equipped with the skills they need to succeed. Advice and practical workshops on all aspects of business and creative careers are built into the curriculum of all our MA degrees, and upon graduating many alumni continue to be supported by a business aftercare scheme.

[More details about professional development is available on our website.](#)

### **Can I work whilst studying?**

Many students work [part-time whilst studying however if you are an overseas student on a Student Visa Route](#), this will depend on the conditions of your Visa. Most students can work up to 20 hours a week during term time. See the [UKCISA](#) website for more information.

### **What support do you offer to students with disabilities?**

The RCA is committed to celebrating diversity and supporting and helping all of its students to reach their full potential. Comprehensive support exists for students with disabilities, and we encourage disabled students who will be studying at the College to contact us at the earliest opportunity to discuss their requirements. [Find out more on our website.](#)

### **I have already submitted an application, when can I expect to hear about the outcome?**

If you submitted an application by 3 February deadline, you will receive notification of the outcome of your application from Wednesday 24 March 2021. If you are invited to interview, interview week is 8–12 March 2021. If you do receive an offer, the deadline for accepting your offer is Wednesday 14 April 2021. Applications submitted after midday on 3 February will be considered from mid-April, subject to the availability of places on the programme.

### **Where can I see student work?**

Prospective students are encouraged to explore work by current students and recent graduates. You can explore the work of last year's graduating students at [RCA2020](#). Our recent [Work in Progress](#) showcase which took place in February 2021 offers a glimpse into our current students' working methods and thinking processes.

### **Useful Links**

[Application Process](#)

[Entrance Requirements](#)

[English Language Requirements](#)

[RCA Application Portal](#)

[UK Council for International Student Affairs](#)

[Student Support](#)

[Living in London/Accommodation](#)