Accepting Your Offer

Academic Year 2024/25

# CONGRATULATIONS

We are delighted to be able to offer you a place at the Royal College of Art for Academic Year 2024/25. Every year the RCA attracts many thousands of applications for postgraduate study, so your offer is a testament to the quality of your submission - well done!

Studying at the RCA is the starting point for the world’s creative leaders. With more than 20,000 RCA alumni across the globe, the RCA’s graduates form a unique international network of artists, designers, creators and innovators. Every year, RCA alumni are recognised as leaders in their discipline, making national and international headlines for their work, which shapes the world we live in.

We have over 2,500 students spread across four schools, four research centres and two Directorates – Architecture, Arts & Humanities, Communication and Design - studying at Graduate Diploma, MA, MPhil, MRes and PhD level. The College’s mix of professionalism and creative freedom, together with its renowned academic community and rigorous academic framework provides the ecosystem in which students flourish and achieve their highest potential.

We're looking forward to welcoming you to our vibrant and inspiring community and in this document, we'll be guiding you through the process of accepting your offer before you join us at the Royal College of Art for Academic Year 24/25.

# CHECKLIST

The process of accepting your offer and getting started at the College is simple and we'll be guiding you through the process and making sure you have all of the support that you need.

Below you will find a helpful checklist overview of your next steps and in the following pages, detailed instructions on each action. It's important that you work through these steps as soon as possible so we can get everything organised and ready for you to join us in September 2025.

## Essential steps

* Accept your offer - within 5 weeks of your offer
* Pay your deposit to reserve your place - within 5 weeks of your offer
* Upload your acceptance documents - as early as possible, but no later than one month prior to the start of your programme
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* Fee questionnaire (if your fees status is not confirmed) - within 5 weeks of your offer
* Input CAS information
* Pay your fees in full - 1 month prior to starting your course

## Getting ready to start your programme

* Log in to Moodle and check out your pre-arrival course
* Summer reading
* Follow the college on social media
* Join us on campus for welcome events
* Stay up to date with the College at [www.rca.ac.uk](http://www.rca.ac.uk)

# ACCEPTING YOUR OFFER

You will have received your official offer letter by email from the RCA Admissions mailbox. It will be titled “Royal College of Art: Offer Notification – 2024 Entry". Please read the offer carefully before making your decision. If you haven't received it, please contact us at admissions@rca.ac.uk.

It’s important that you respond to your offer as soon as possible so we can reserve your place. To get started, log into the portal using the username and password you set up when you made your application. You can access the portal [here](https://sm-portal-rca.thesiscloud.com).

You will be able to see your applications and their current status in the ‘My Applications’ section of the portal. This is where you can respond to your offer.

To do so, click on the arrow button to see a drop down list if you have more than one application, ensuring that the programme has the suffix ‘-2425’ (eg Sculpture (MA) 2425).

To respond to your offer, please click on the relevant button, either Accept or Decline. You will receive an email confirming your choice.

Once you have clicked Accept, you will be able to access the Applicant Checklist where you can upload supporting documents as well as the My RCA section where you can see your financial account and make your deposit payment.

After accepting your offer, be sure to logout of the system and log back in. This refreshes the account so that you can fully access all sections.

# PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

To get started on paying your deposit, click on the My RCA button at the top right-hand side of the screen.

Then choose My Account from the menu.

In the section called Payment Status, click on the Make Payment button.

In the 'Payment for' section, choose Deposit Payment and then add the amount that is stated in your offer letter before clicking on the Make Payment button.

This will take you to the secure WorldPay site to make your payment. Once completed, you will see the payment details in the Payment Status section of your account.

# PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT - THIRD PARTY PAYMENTS

You are welcome to have someone pay your deposit on your behalf. It’s important that you keep your login details private so be sure to follow the steps above except use [this link](https://forms.rca.ac.uk/forms/applicant-deposit-payment) to access WorldPay and follow the onscreen instructions to make the payment.

The person paying will need your key information so make sure they have to hand:

* Your name
* RCA Student / Applicant ID
* Programme

Once the payment is complete, they will be given a payment reference number and receive a receipt to their email address so please make sure this is entered correctly.

We are committed to ensuring that financial need is not a barrier to studying at the RCA, and any student unable to secure their place through a deposit can apply for deposit exemption status by clicking [here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScQuQGpmzOga7w8sNYtnPOgvN38HcAj9CEsZ2HS0EF8gTtV2g/viewform).

# UPLOADING YOUR SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Once you have accepted your offer, you will need to provide some documents in advance of registration and, if applicable, your visa application. Not all document types are relevant to every student, so please check your offer letter to ensure you upload what is required.

Before uploading your documents, please double check to make sure that any text is clear, legible and that the document contains all the relevant pages.

Click on the arrow to the right of the item to expand the relevant section then on the icon Upload Document and select the document you wish to upload.

Please repeat this process for all relevant document types.

**Here's a helpful overview of what documentation you need to upload depending on your individual circumstances.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Student Category (Fee Status)** |
| **Document Type Required** | **Home** | **Overseas** |
| Copy of Passport | Essential | Essential |
| Copy of Visa/Right of Residence | Essential, unless UK national | Essential if currently in the UK |
| Copy of Degree Certificate (when completed) | Essential | Essential |
| Copy of English Language Certificate (when completed)Please note, this does not apply to holders of a 2:1 degree from majority English language country, if awarded in last 2 years. | Essential, unless national of majority English-speaking country | Essential, unless national of majority English-speaking country |
| Copy of Degree Transcript (when completed) | Essential for MA/MSc IDE only | Essential for MA/MSc IDE only |
| CAS Checklist | n/a | Essential if visa is required |

We will review your documents over the coming months and mark them as 'Confirmed' once fully checked. If there are any issues with your documents, we will get in touch. For example, if the document is not clear and details cannot be read, you would be asked to upload a new copy.

Please contact international@rca.ac.uk if you have any queries.

# COMPLETING KEY FORMS

Throughout this Offer Holder Pack and in your Offer Holder Letter, there are a number of key forms that the College will require you to complete. Here's a summary of what's needed below.

## Forms to complete

(1) [CAS number checklist](https://www.rca.ac.uk/CASNumberChecklist)

You can access the CAS number checklist on our Offer Holder Hub on our website by clicking [here](https://www.rca.ac.uk/study/application-process/information-for-offer-holders/) or download it directly by clicking [here](https://rca-media2.rca.ac.uk/documents/CAS_Number_Checklist_Form.pdf). Once completed, please update your form and supporting documents to the [Admissions Portal](https://sm-portal-rca.thesiscloud.com/).

(2)[Fees status questionnaire](https://rca-media2.rca.ac.uk/documents/Fees_Status_Questionnaire_2023_24_cmsR7C1.pdf)

Please complete this questionnaire if your fee status is 'Undetermined' or if you are currently categorised as an 'Overseas' student and believe you should be categorised as a 'Home' student.

You can access the questionnaire on our Offer Holder Hub by clicking [here](https://www.rca.ac.uk/study/application-process/information-for-offer-holders/) or download it directly by clicking [here](https://rca-media2.rca.ac.uk/documents/RCA_Fees_Status_Questionnaire.pdf). Please then email the completed form to admissions@rca.ac.uk.

(3) [Confirmation of previous qualifications](https://rca-production.herokuapp.com/documents2/544/Confirmation_of_Qualifications_Form_2023_24.docx)

Please note, this form is only required if you are unable to provide a translated degree certificate.

You can access the Confirmation of Previous qualifications form on our Offer Holder Hub by clicking [here](https://www.rca.ac.uk/study/application-process/information-for-offer-holders/) or download it directly by clicking [here](https://rca-production.herokuapp.com/documents2/544/Confirmation_of_Qualifications_Form_2023_24.docx). You can find instructions on confirming your previous qualifications within the form.

# PLANNING FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2024/25

We very much hope - and are planning on the basis - that all of our students will be able to join us in London in person for their studies.

The Covid-19 pandemic is of course still ongoing globally and it is something that we have to be mindful of in our planning.

Whilst we are currently operating without any UK government restrictions, it is not possible to predict if our campuses, and our studio and workshop spaces, will be fully operational, safe, and able to function ‘normally’ during the 24/25 academic year.

## Face-to-face teaching and learning

Currently, we are able to undertake face-to-face teaching and learning for all our programmes in our College buildings as well as continue to enrich the student learning experience through the use of digital technology, and elements of flexible learning.

While we believe it is unlikely that the UK government will place restrictions on access to campus unless the situation changes dramatically, we must stress that we will only be able to allow our students and staff to enter our buildings and engage in College teaching onsite if UK Government guidance allows this - and it is safe to do so.

If the situation at any point does not permit face-to-face learning, we are fully prepared and will be able to continue to support you to participate in our teaching and learning online. Timetabling will take into account the international nature of our community and the many geographies of our students, with events being offered ‘live’ online, re-run, recorded or pre-recorded where appropriate and feasible, and with access to support and inductions available through a comprehensive booking system.

We will continue to keep students up to date with any changes on our website which you can access by clicking here.

In the meantime, if you would like any further information, please contact us at international@rca.ac.uk.

# STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The RCA is committed to celebrating diversity and supporting and helping all of our 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.

Our Disability Advisor and Dyslexia Team, part of the Student Support team, are here and available to assist with all aspects of your support requirements. This includes, but is not limited to, students with:

* Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, ADHD
* Mental Health concerns
* Autism Spectrum Disorder
* Long-term health conditions
* Sensory or mobility impairments

The Student Support Team will get in touch with all offer holders outlining how they can confidently disclose any support needs they may have that were not shared at the application stage.

Enrolled offer holders who have declared a disability will be contacted directly by the Student Support Team ahead of their arrival at the College for the Disability Team to proactively understand the day-to-day impact of their condition/s, and any concerns they may have, based on their medical evidence.

Enrolled offer holders will have the option to develop an Inclusion Plan in partnership with the Disability Advisor, setting out how the college will support them throughout their time with us.

Any disclosed information related to a disability is confidential, and we will not pass any information on to an offer-holders course unless given permission by the student.

The more time the Disability Team has to prepare, the quicker they will be able to put in place support. Late disclosure of a disability may limit the support we can offer if preparation is needed. As a small postgraduate institution, there are sometimes limits in the resourcing that we have available, which is why it’s important to explore potential adjustments as early as practical.

We urge offer holders to disclose any disabilities or health conditions as soon as possible. If offer holders would like any further information, or would like a confidential chat with a member of the team, please email our Disability Advisor at student-support@rca.ac.uk. Phone and Zoom appointments are also available.

You can find more information here on support for students with disabilities by clicking [here](https://www.rca.ac.uk/study/the-rca-experience/disability-support/#more-information).

# FUNDING AND SCHOLARSHIPS

If your tuition fees are partly or fully sponsored by an external body other than the Student Loan Company (including a Career Development Loan or a United Kingdom Research & Innovation Award), then you must provide a valid sponsor letter. You are responsible for any fee sponsorship payments to the RCA, together with any balance of fees not covered by external funding or loans.

You can find the most up to date details of the RCA scholarship offer for 2024/25 by clicking [here](https://www.rca.ac.uk/study/application-process/funding-your-studies/rca-scholarships-and-awards/).

There are two routes to obtaining a scholarship to study at the RCA.

**Academic merit:**
A number of scholarships will be awarded to high-scoring students on the basis of academic merit. Round 1 and 2 programme applications for MA, MFA, MDes, MRes, MArch, and MEd will be automatically assessed for one of these scholarships, and if you receive an academic merit scholarship, you will be told about this at the same time as receiving your RCA offer.
 **Financial need or being part of an under-represented group in higher education:**
Round 1 and 2 MA, MFA, MDes, MRes, MArch, MEd and MPhil offer holders will receive an email with an invitation to complete a scholarship application. Applicants will then be marked against the criteria for the different scholarships that are available and matched to a scholarship based on their score. If you are a Round 3 offer holder, there may be a limited number of scholarships still available but they are likely to be for specific programmes or specific personal circumstances, and mostly for UK students – the majority of scholarships will be awarded to Round 1 and Round 2 applicants. We will add more information to the website if any further opportunities become available.

Scholarships are extremely competitive and limited in number and meeting the eligibility criteria for a scholarship does not guarantee that you will receive one. We recommend that you look into [external funding options](https://www.rca.ac.uk/study/application-process/funding-your-studies/) and apply for any other sources of funding available to you.

# PAYING YOUR FEES

Before you join us, you will receive an invoice identifying the fee for your programme. You can find details of your fees status in your offer letter.

In order to be enrolled at the College please pay 50% of your fees (100% for Graduate Diploma students), minus the deposit that you paid to secure your place. You can find payment instructions on your invoice and payment can be made via the secure payment service which you can access by clicking [here](https://forms.rca.ac.uk/forms/student-fee-payment). Alternative payment methods, including bank transfer, are possible and you can find the details in your invoice.

If you have any queries about your invoice, please contact us via email at accounts-receivable@rca.ac.uk.

Please note, if your student status outlined on your invoice is incorrect, please email admissions@rca.ac.uk and include 'Incorrect student status' alongside your programme name, your student ID and your surname in the subject line.

‘Undetermined’ Fees Status and/or Offer-Holders Appealing their Initial Fees Status

An offer-holder’s fees status would be listed as ‘Undetermined’ when we do not have enough information from their RCA application to enable us to make a confirmed fees status assessment.

If your fees status is listed as ‘Undetermined’, or you would like to appeal the fees status listed in your offer, it's important that you complete a 'Fees Status Questionnaire' within 5 weeks of the date of your offer to ensure that you are allocated the correct student fees status. You can complete the questionnaire by clicking [here](https://www.rca.ac.uk/FeesStatus).

Whilst we assess your fees status, you should still accept your offer, including making a £1,000 deposit payment, within 5 weeks of the date of your offer.

If you are assessed as a ‘Home’, ‘EU-Low’, ‘ELQ’ or ‘Islands’ (lower fees rate) student for fees purposes, no further action is required and we will confirm the decision to you in writing.

If you are assessed as an ‘Overseas’ or ‘EU-High’ (higher fees rate) student for fees purposes, we will confirm this in writing and you will have a further two weeks in which to decide if you would like to continue with your acceptance. If you decide to proceed, you will be required to pay an additional £1,000 deposit within two weeks to ensure you have paid the full £2,000 deposit amount in total.

If you no longer wish to accept your offer due to a higher fees rate assessment, please notify us by emailing admissions@rca.ac.uk within 2 weeks of the confirmation of your fees status otherwise we will automatically refund any deposit payment you have made.

# GET READY

Once you have completed the required steps in this Offer Holder Pack and meeting the conditions in your Offer Holder Letter, it's time to get excited about joining the Royal College of Art.

To get your time at the College off to an amazing start, check out our RCA Orientation Course on Moodle by clicking [here](https://moodle.rca.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=185). This will provide you all the information you will need to begin your studies at the RCA as well as give you access to college lectures and an overview of the services available for students.

Be sure to keep an eye on our website by clicking [here](https://www.rca.ac.uk/news-and-events/news/) as well as view some of exciting things going on at the College and beyond on our social media channels. You can follow the RCA on Instagram by clicking [here](https://www.instagram.com/royalcollegeofart), on Twitter by clicking [here](https://twitter.com/RCA), on LinkedIn by clicking [here](https://www.linkedin.com/school/royal-college-of-art) and on Facebook by clicking [here](https://en-gb.facebook.com/RCA.London/).