Royal College of Art
Postgraduate Art and Design

REF: UArctic Application

February 7th, 2024

Dear University of the Arctic Secretariat,

We are pleased to submit our application for membership of the University of the Arctic. The Royal College of Art is a wholly postgraduate Art & Design institution with STEAM (putting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics into art institutions) developments in robotics, computer science and materials science that bring cross-cutting and interdisciplinary research and teaching insights. In terms of our academic reputation, we have been ranked #1 in the world in Art & Design (2015-2023) in the QS World University Rankings and are the world's oldest continually operating art and design school since 1837. InnovationRCA our creative industries incubator is one of the country's top performing. The RCA offers over 37 postgraduate qualifications in MA, MRes, MDes, MArch, MFA, MPhil and PhD and extensive outreach and executive education activities.

There are several reasons for our application. In February 2023 we were awarded a UNESCO ocean decade implementation partnership (DIP) for our NEMO design research initiative developing co-design and research projects to tackle ocean related issues and improve future ocean economy. Part of this work involved field trips and collaborative research in Kangerlussuaq, Nuuk and Narsaq in Greenland that we continue to explore alongside a relationship with Ilisimatusarfik University in Nuuk. Our other UNESCO work currently involves supporting a global cities with the ocean platform with a focus on co-design, knowledge exchange for resilience and applied action. We recognise that the arctic is crucial to the future of the oceans and have committed our long-term school research strategy to design resilience of which a substantial effort is concerned with the oceans and coastal citizen resilience.

The RCA has a thriving research and teaching community with exchanges and strategic partnerships across industry, research, academic, the global north and south. We hope to be able to network, exchange and research with other UArctic partners. Initially our application is made through our NEMO project, and we hope this will expand and develop over time as we get to know each other and begin developing relationship and fruitful collaborations.

Yours Sincerely

Prof Paul Anderson
Dean - School of Design
Director - New Economic Model for the Oceans

2024 UARCTIC MEMBERSHIP APPLICANT - PROFILE

Applicant: Royal College of Art

Country: United Kingdom

Membership Category: Non-Arctic

Membership Type: HEI

Profile Description:

The Royal College of Art (RCA) is a public research university-level institution under Royal Charter located in London, United Kingdom. It is the world's oldest art and design institution in continuous operation, with a tradition of innovation and excellence in creative education and recognised as the leading educational institution in the world for art and design.

Founded in 1837 as the Government School of Design, it was given the mission to progress the theory and best practice of art, design and industrial technology. Today, 185 years later, the RCA is ranked as the world's #1 art and design university, and has been every year since the prestigious QS World University Rankings by Subject began in 2015. The RCA ranks at 100% for academic excellence, and 96.2% for employability.

The RCA brings together traditional and new disciplines, challenges social and cultural perspectives, and through interdisciplinary collaboration between staff, students, researchers and the communities around it, collectively creates new knowledge, insights and innovations in art, design and technology. This puts the RCA at the heart of tackling some of the world's most pressing issues, from climate change, to rapid urbanisation, mobility, health and ageing populations.

As the world's most influential postgraduate university of art, design and innovation engineering, the RCA focuses foremost on excellence and global impact. It offers 37 taught and research programmes awarding Graduate Diploma, MA, MRes, and MPhil/PhD degrees. The RCA consists of four Schools – the School of Architecture, the School of Arts & Humanities, the School of Communication, and the School of Design, providing a unique and transformative experience to 2,700 students across three campuses located in London's Kensington, Battersea and White City. We champion the value of collaborative and interdisciplinary learning and implement a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Design and Maths) vision.

Strategic/Thematic Focus Areas:

- Design resilience
- Health, wellbeing and care
- Tackling climate change via circular economy, citizen science and regenerative design

- Designing New Economic Models for the Ocean
- Co-design