**Template C4**



**Programme Specification**

**Title of Course: BA (Hons) Hand Embroidery**

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| **Date first produced** | April 2022 |
| **Date last revised** |  |
| **Date of implementation of current version** | September 2022 |
| **Version number** | ONE |
| **Faculty** | Kingston School of Art |
| **School** | Design School |
| **Department** | Fashion |
| **Delivery Institution** | Royal School of Needlework |

This Programme Specification is designed for prospective students, current students, academic staff and employers. It provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes and content of each module can be found in the course VLE site and in individual Module Descriptors.

**SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION**

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| --- | --- |
| **Award(s) and Title(s):** | **BA (Hons) Hand Embroidery** |
| **Intermediate Awards(s) and Title(s):** | **Certificate in Higher Education**  **Diploma in Higher Education** |
| **FHEQ Level for the Final Award:** | **Honours degree Level 6** |
| **Awarding Institution:** | **Kingston University** |
| **Teaching Institution:** | **Royal School of Needlework** |
| **Location:** | **Hampton Court Palace**  **East Molesey**  **Surrey**  **KT8 9AU** |
| **Language of Delivery:** | **English** |
| **Modes of Delivery:** | **Full time** |
| **Available as:** | **Full field** |
| **Minimum period of registration:** | 3 years Full time |
| **Maximum period of registration:** | 5 years Full time |
| **Entry Requirements:** | The minimum entry qualifications for the programme are:  From A levels: 112 new UCAS tariff points  Foundation Diploma: Pass (Level; 3 or 4)  BTEC Extended National: Distinction / Merit  Access to HE Diploma: Distinction / Merit  Plus: and Four GCSE passes at grade A\*-C and/or grade 4-9 including English (or Functional Skills English/Key Skills Communication Level 2).  A minimum IELTS score of \*\*\*, TOEFL \*\*\* or equivalent is required for those for whom English is not their first language.  Entry is normally at Level 4 with A-level or equivalent qualifications (See section D).  All applicants to the course are guaranteed an interview – either onsite or online with their portfolio of work. This is a formal application requirement to the course.  **\*\*\* Transfer from a similar course is NOT possible due to the specialist nature of the course and specialist teaching undertaken in Level 4.**  Intake is in September of each academic year. |
| **Programme Accredited by:** | Royal School of Needlework |
| **QAA Subject Benchmark Statements:** | <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-art-and-design-17.pdf?sfvrsn=71eef781_22> |
| **Approved Variants:** | None |
| **UCAS Code:** | **W237** |

**SECTION 2: THE COURSE**

**Royal School of Needlework**

The early history of the Royal School of Needlework (RSN) is closely aligned with the social, cultural and political history of Victorian and Edwardian Britain. Founded by Lady Victoria Welby, the Royal School of Needlework began life as the School of Art Needlework in 1872. The RSN’s first President was Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, third daughter of Queen Victoria and known to the Royal School of Needlework as Princess Helena. Today the RSN is the *international centre of excellence in the art of hand embroidery*. It has a high reputation and public acknowledgement of the standard of work produced by those who graduate from it.

The RSN has delivered Higher Education programmes since 2009. BA (Hons) Hand Embroidery is delivered solely by the academic faculty of the Royal School of Needlework (RSN), in dedicated studios at Hampton Court Palace, King Henry VIII’s residence on the banks of the river Thames in south-west London.

1. **Aims of the Course**
2. to engage in the study of the contemporary and historical context of hand embroidery
3. to create an adaptive and stimulating learning environment which accommodates a range of learning styles in a range of varied learning activities, both formal and informal
4. to nurture and develop discipline-specific expertise in hand embroidery as taught by the Royal School of Needlework
5. to equip students with analytical and critical skills using enquiry-based learning from a wide range of academic and technical sources
6. to stimulate and incentivise curiosity, enquiry, experimentation, and creative-risk-taking through visual and written means, as applied to the context of hand embroidery
7. to provide opportunities for students to explore and challenge the conventions of hand embroidery and contribute to the future development of the discipline
8. to provide opportunities for students to expand their discipline-specific knowledge through set projects, live projects and industry competitions
9. to enable students to create contemporary hand embroidered works within a defined context and to the professional standard of the Royal School of Needlework
10. To enable confident and articulate graduates able to define their career profession and follow their employment of choice
11. **Intended Learning Outcomes**

The course outcomes are referenced to the relevant QAA subject benchmarks indicated and the Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014), and relate to the typical student. The course provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding specific to the subject, key skills and graduate attributes in the following areas:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Programme Learning Outcomes** | | | | | |
|  | **Knowledge and Understanding**  On completion of the course students will be able to: |  | **Intellectual Skills**  On completion of the course students will be able to |  | **Subject Practical Skills**  On completion of the course students will be able to |
| A1 | demonstrate an understanding of  the contemporary and historical  context of hand embroidery | B1 | be creative and adaptive in their approach to their learning and be open to exploring a wide range of learning styles | C1 | demonstrate discipline-specific expertise in  hand embroidery as taught by the Royal  School of Needlework |
| A2 | apply analytical and critical skills from enquiry-based learning using a wide range of academic and technical sources | B2 | apply their learning through visual and written means to the context of hand embroidery | C2 | to explore and challenge the conventions of hand embroidery and contribute to the future development of the discipline |
| A3 | Apply discipline-specific knowledge through set projects, live projects and industry competitions | B3 | to define their career profession and follow their employment of choice | C3 | create contemporary hand embroidered works within a defined context and to the professional standard of the Royal School of Needlework |

In addition to the programme learning outcomes identified overleaf, the programme of study defined in this programme specification will allow students to develop a range of key skills as listed in the following Graduate and Academic Success Framework:

| **Key Skills** | | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Self-Awareness Skills** | **Communication Skills** | **Digital and numerical skills** | **Interpersonal skills** | **Research Skills** | **Management and Leadership** | **Creativity and problem-solving skills** |
| Take responsibility for own learning and plan for and record own personal development | Synthesise information to express ideas clearly in writing and the spoken word to diverse and multiple audiences | Handle and understand number as required for context | Work well with others in a group or team | Identify and use effective ways to search and validate information | Seek opportunities to initiate and determine the scope of a task/project | View problems from a diverse range of perspectives to find solutions |
| Recognise own academic strengths and weaknesses, reflect on performance and progress and respond to feedback | Present, challenge and defend ideas effectively | Summarise and visualise numerical data | Work flexibly and respond to change | Critically evaluate information and use it appropriately | Seek opportunities to identify and secure resources needed to undertake the task/project; efficiently schedule and manage the resources | Seek opportunities to address global and long-term challenges |
| Organise self effectively, agreeing and setting realistic targets, accessing support where appropriate and managing time to achieve targets | Actively listen to ideas of others in an unbiased way | Navigate, interact and contribute effectively, safely and legally with various digital platforms, including the web | Discuss and debate with others and make concessions to reach agreement | Apply the ethical requirements in both the access and use of information | Seek opportunities to set the direction, successfully complete and evaluate a task/project, revising the plan where necessary | Imagine, create and exploit solutions and more abstract ideas, including experimentation and risk-taking |
| Work effectively without supervision in unfamiliar contexts |  | Use personal and professional digital tools and environments | Give, accept and respond to constructive feedback | Comply with legal requirements in both the access and use of information | Seek opportunities to motivate and direct others to enable an effective contribution from all diverse participants | Work with complex ideas and problems, making evidence-based recommendations |
|  |  | Use technologies to effectively communicate and collaborate across dispersed/global teams. | Show sensitivity and respect for diverse values and beliefs | Accurately cite and reference information Sources |  | Enterprise skills (ability to anticipate, identify, and grasp opportunities) |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | Commercial acumen |

1. **Outline Programme Structure**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| ***LEVEL FOUR*** | ***LEVEL FIVE*** | ***LEVEL SIX*** |
| **Drawing for Design**  **FN4011**  **30 Credits** | **Advanced Drawing for Design**  **FN5013**  **30 Credits Hand** | **Research for**  **RSN Graduate Collection**  **FN6014**  **30 Credits** |
| **Hand Embroidery Practice**  **FN4012**  **30 Credits** | **Advanced Hand Embroidery Practice**  **FN5011**  **30 Credits** | **RSN Graduate**  **Collection**  **FN6013**  **30 Credits** |
| **RSN Hand Embroidery**  **FN4013**  **30 Credits** | **Advanced RSN Hand Embroidery**  **FN5014**  **30 Credits** | **RSN Graduate Portfolio**  **FN6011**  **30 Credits** |
| **Contextual Studies: Hand Embroidery**  **FN4014**  **30 Credits** | **Contextual Studies: Textiles**  **FN5012**  **30 Credits** | **Professional Practice in Context**  **FN6012**  **30 Credits** |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Level 4** (all core) | | | | |
| **Core modules** | **Module code** | **Credit**  **Value** | **Level** | **Teaching Block** |
| **Drawing for Design** | **FN4011** | 30 | 4 | ONE & TWO |
| **Hand Embroidery Practice** | **FN4012** | 30 | 4 | ONE & TWO |
| **RSN Hand Embroidery** | **FN4013** | 30 | 4 | ONE & TWO |
| **Contextual Studies: Hand Embroidery** | **FN4014** | 30 | 4 | ONE & TWO |

**Progression to Level 5 requires passes in ALL CORE MODULES**

Students exiting the programme at this point who have successfully completed 120 credits at level 4 or above are eligible for the award of Certificate of Higher Education in Hand Embroidery

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| **Level 5** (at least 60 credits = core) | | | | | |
| **Core modules** | **Module code** | **Credit**  **Value** | **Level** | **Teaching Block** | **Pre-requisites** |
| **Advanced Drawing for Design** | **FN5013** | 30 | 5 | ONE & TWO | **none** |
| **Advanced Hand Embroidery Practice** | **FN5011** | 30 | 5 | ONE & TWO | **none** |
| **Advanced RSN Hand Embroidery** | **FN5014** | 30 | 5 | ONE & TWO | **RSN Hand Embroidery** |
| **Contextual Studies: Textiles** | **FN5012** | 30 | 5 | ONE & TWO | **none** |

**Progression to Level 6 requires passes in ALL CORE MODULES**

Students exiting the programme at this point who have successfully completed 120 credits at level 5 or above are eligible for the award of Diploma of Higher Education in Hand Embroidery

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Level 6** (at least 60 credits = core) | | | | | |
| **Core modules** | **Module code** | **Credit**  **Value** | **Level** | **Teaching Block** | **Pre-requisites** |
| **Research for RSN Graduate Collection** | **FN6014** | 30 | 6 | ONE | **none** |
| **RSN Graduate Collection** | **FN6013** | 30 | 6 | TWO | **none** |
| **RSN Graduate :**  **Portfolio** | **FN6011** | 30 | 6 | ONE & TWO | **none** |
| **Professional Practice in Context** | **FN6012** | 30 | 6 | ONE & TWO | **none** |

**Level 6 requires the completion of the compulsory modules.**

1. **Principles of Teaching, Learning and Assessment**

With an international reputation, the BA (Hons) course has current students and alumni from around the world. The RSN issues its own Confirmation for Acceptance of Studies (CAS) to international Higher Education students and is fully accountable to the Office for Students through its annual returns and quality monitoring procedures. The course offers a unique educational experience due to the location, setting and small cohort size.

**The course is taught by a specialist team of experienced academics, comprising:**

* Course Leader and Embroidery specialist - Full time
* Senior Lecturer in Design – Full time
* Senior Lecturer – Contextual Studies 0.6 FTE
* RSN Trained Hand Embroidery Tutors
* Specialist Visiting Lecturers - Studio Practice, Professional Practice and Digital design
* Visiting Speakers for Contextual Studies and Studio Practice
* Textile Technician (0.6 FTE)
* Hand Embroidery Technician (0.6FTE)

Study on this highly specialist course is in small year groups with an intake averaging 20 students per year, enabling a high level of student / tutor contact time. Attendance is full time and all students may be required to engage with weekend and evening work throughout their academic year.

Hand embroidery techniques taught in the first and second year at the RSN, are unique; no other provider in the world offers such teaching and learning. Students are expected to engage with experimental approaches to visual research and design, which underpins and informs all hand embroidery practice.

The course aims to provide a learning environment where the knowledge, views and values of all students help to shape the learning environment.

Studio based learning is by project with individual and group tutorials and reviews enabling the individual views and knowledge of each student to be valued equally. Students are encouraged to challenge their creative ideas and individual outcomes through our supportive tutorial feedback process.

We encourage students to become creative problem-solvers and to share their knowledge and expertise through participation in external enhancement projects.

Students are expected to engage with experimentation and enquiry to inform their theoretical and creative practice. The design of the curriculum connects the theoretical and practice-based learning through thematic projects and learning opportunities.

A programme of tutorials, lectures and seminars, facilitates experiential learning through the investigation of objects, materials, making and creative risk-taking.

Our specialist technical team guide students through the materials, processes and equipment necessary to build their specialist knowledge throughout the course.

**Curriculum**

The curriculum is inclusive and outward facing, adaptive to external opportunities which build connections with clients through live projects and competitons. The design of the curriculum connects the theoretical and practice-based learning through thematic projects and learning opportunities.

**Learning through making**

The course encourages students to explore a kinesthetic learning methodology across theory and practice. Students engage with and ‘learn through’ materials; to become independent and confident practitioners, writers and creative thinkers – exploring and researching through objects and materials.

**Context**

As a specialist course, students engage with opportunities to explore a variety of contexts for hand embroidery. Projects briefs, competitions and live projects enable students to experience potential career routes in fashion, interiors, textile art, costume, design and illustration and surface pattern.

The course design offers a holistic approach to learning where students are able to make direct connections between theory and practice. Students learn through objects and develop a direct tacit knowledge of materials and textiles.

Learning the traditional techniques of hand embroidery and then understanding the historical and contemporary context of the stitch through contextual studies and studio practice.

Students are able to develop as researcher/practitioners by developing their own identity and context for their practice. The course offers opportunities for students to compile project proposals which meet the learning outcomes of the module.

**Group work**

Working as part of a team is a key transferable skill introduced at key points within the programme – students may work in small seminar groups for both practice and theory sessions.

Small cohort sizes enable group working to evolve in a very holistic way, as part of the everyday studio practice.

Students have been involved in the co-curation and display of works as part of exhibitions and events during their study.

We host an annual student conference as part of contextual studies with guest speakers whereby each student is invited to present their research on a specific theme.

Studio led enhancement projects enable a client to work with students, staff and graduates. This type of working enables the group to co-create commissioned works which build from the skill set of the team. This methodology mirrors the RSN philosophy of ‘*never a seat goes cold’* where a piece of hand embroidery looks like the hand of one person; but is in fact the hands of many.

The specialist teaching stategy of the RSN ensures that each student is equipped with the same skill set to the standard of the Royal School of Needlework.

**The curriculum introduces the students to:**

* Visual research, drawing and mixed media approaches
* Design methodologies and digital design processes
* Specialist hand embroidery skills as taught by the Royal School of Needlework
* Contemporary approaches to hand embroidery, exploring making and reflective writing
* Theoretical frameworks of sustainability, gender, globalisation and well-being
* Professional / transferable skills and graduate attributes
* Employability and career routes within the creative sector

**Contextual Studies**

Contextual Studies enrich creative practice, with the opportunity to engage with the material culture of hand embroidery through workshop sessions, lectures and seminars. The programme utilises the RSN Textile handling collection and main RSN Collection and Archive.

Contextual Studies nurtures the student as practitioner-researcher, through building academic skills in research, writing, presentation and curatorial practices.

A programme of external speakers, as well as museum and gallery visits, is scheduled each year and made available to all year groups.

As a specialist course, the BA (Hons) Hand Embroidery programme teaches students in small groups to enhance the quality of their educational experience. An experiential learning and teaching strategy is applied across all modules.

**ASSESSMENT**

Students are introduced to a range of formative and summative assessment practices in Level Four, Five and Six across all Studio, Technical and Theoretical modules. These practices range from portfolio and written evaluation submisisons; essays and reports; curation projects; visual and verbal presentations and personal development portfolios.

Module tutors work with students to support them to prepare for assessment and develop portfolio presentation submissions, use of Turnitin and uploading digital portfolios.

**Formative Assessment:** Feedback is dialogic and enables the student to benefit from ‘feed forward’ feedback, through the creation of an agreed Action Plan. All students receive written feedback at the Formative Assessment point within a module with an indicative grade for that stage of the module.

**Summative Assessment:** students are required to submit work for summative assessment at the end of each module. The components for assessment are outlined in module handbooks and all students will be supported in their preparation for summative assessment by module staff. Students may be required to submit digital portfolios which will be uploaded to CANVAS and physical portfolios / collections / artefacts which will be required to be presented visually in a studio context. Students may be required to make verbal / visual presentations as part of their summative assessment. Essay and theory components will be required to be uploaded to Turnitin prior to summative assessment. Students will be inducted into this process and must submit an originality report along with their written assignment for assessment.

The course follows all KSA guidelines for principles and procedures of assessment.

All modules are internally verified by KSA and students receive written summative feedback.

**LEVEL FOUR, FIVE and SIX**

**Pre-induction**

Students are presented with a summer project prior to enrolment. This forms part of their induction / welcome week activities. This project enables students to showcase their creativity through the production of a designed and embroidered artefact, which is presented to their peer group.

**Induction**

Students are introduced to the course team, course timetables, module handbooks. course handbook, health & safety procedures, and professional studio culture. There is an introduction to the onsite art and design library / IT Suite at the Royal School of Needlework.

There will also be an induction visit to Kingston University / School of Design campus.

Personal Tutor meetings will be scheduled.

**LEVEL FOUR**

First year study is both diagnostic and experiential; building upon skills and processes to equip the student with the vocabulary to develop their own personal creative voice.

Teaching and learning styles are specific to the module, however thematic projects ensure that skills learned are transferable across modules.

All modules have a Formative and Summative Assessment point. Feedback and feed forward take place using a diverse range of formats. Students are introduced to working with weekly tutorial forms as part of their studio practice. This enables the student to become a reflective practitioner and develop key time management skills.

RSN Hand Embroidery, is taught by a team of RSN trained Tutors plus a Hand embroidery Technician. All students develop the knowledge, vocabulary and skills of hand embroidery through thematic projects, developing discipline-specific skills of RSN hand embroidery techniques.

Practical studio modules are delivered through thematic projects and workshops which are tailored to each specific group.

Project themes are reviewed annually to ensure the programme maintains a contemporary approach. Projects allow individual students to explore their own creative response to a specific question or theme of enquiry.

Students are introduced to methods of reflective practice and critical analysis. Contextual studies are taught through a critical engagement with the material culture of hand embroidery, through workshop sessions, lectures and seminars.

Onsite teaching takes place in studio spaces utilising the RSN specialist art and design library, IT Suite and handling collection. Offsite learning occurs through a bespoke series of visits to galleries, exhibitions and collections, KSA library services

Students have the unique opportunity to access and engage with the RSN’s extensive collection of historic textiles and paper-based materials. As an adjunct to the physical collection, students engage with digital collections as part of their learning to make comparative analyses of objects.

All level four students undertake a workshop in social media etiquette and developing online profiles. They are encouraged to create their own professional social media accounts to document and showcase their practice throughout the course. This allows the course and RSN social media accounts to share and promote the work of the students during the course. The RSN Marketing Manager works closely with the students throughout their course and attends the Board of Study. Student news stories and profiles are shared via the RSN professional accounts.

Personal Development Planning forms a component of the Hand Embroidery Practice module.

Live Projects at Level four have included: The Worshipful Company of Glovers, Glove Competition; Miniature Textile Competition, Austria; Society of Dyers and Colourists, Colour Competition; Helena Gavshon hand embroidery for Premier Vision, Paris.

Personal Tutor meetings will be scheduled at key points throughout the academic year.

**LEVEL FIVE**

Practical studio modules explore more complex drawing, design and hand embroidery techniques and are delivered through advanced projects and workshops tailored to the individual and to small groups. There are further opportunities to work on external projects and to industry set briefs. These are schedules throughout the academic year. Students are supported and encouraged to apply for sponsorship in preparation for their Level six study.

The weekly tutorial feedback form is a key element of the feed forward mode of learning / feedback. Each student engages with written reflective practice to compile an agreed action plan with their tutor.

**Peer Feedback**

All students are encouraged to immerse themselves in the professional studio culture to gain valuable experience of differing learning methods. Peer feedback occurs in formal and informal settings during the course. By working together in the studio setting, discussing work, processes and outcomes, individuals build their confidence and specialist vocabulary, develop skills in critical analysis and a deepr understanding of levels of attainment. Group learning occurs as part of group reviews, group curation sessions, textile handling sessions and by working as part of a team for an external project / enhancement project. These key transferable / graduate skills support the emerging career of an RSN undergraduate student.

Contextual studies are taught through a critical engagement with the material culture of hand embroidery and textiles, through workshop sessions, lectures, and seminars.

Onsite teaching takes place in studio spaces utilising the RSN specialist art and design library, IT Suite, and handling collection. Offsite learning occurs through a bespoke series of visits to galleries, exhibitions, and collections, KSA library services

Students access and engage with the RSN Collection of historic textiles and paper-based materials. As an adjunct to the physical collection, students engage with digital collections as part of their learning to make comparative analyses of objects.

We are proud to offer an annual lecture programme of visiting speakers which contribute to the expanding contextual learning environment.

Professional / tranferable skills are further developed during Level five through specific industry and design led projects and as part of the advancement of each students own practice. The opportunity to develop work to an exhibitable standard during level five will prepare students to embark on Level six as confident practitioners with a clear understanding of the context of their practice.

Personal Tutor meetings will be scheduled at key points throughout the academic year.

Live projects at Level five have included: Bradford Textile Society Competition; The Worshipful Company of Glovers, Glove Competition; ‘Out of the Frame’ - Devon Guild of Craftsmen, Bovey Tracy; ‘What do I do to make it OK’ - Craft Study Centre, Farnham; Hanbok – Stanley Picker Gallery with KSA Design School – Fashion students; Musson+Retallick – Fields of EveryWhen – embroidery for a Hot Air Balloon. Sheme Shoe design competition, China.

**LEVEL SIX**

Practical studio modules are delivered through independent, student-led projects, culminating in an RSN Graduate Collection. The weekly tutorial feedback form is a key element of the feed forward mode of learning / feedback. Each student engages with written illustrated reflective practice to compile a student led agreed action plan with their tutor.

Professional Practice in Context is taught through a critical engagement with the material culture of hand embroidery and its practitioners. through critical writing taught through workshop sessions, lectures and seminars. This module also enables each student to identify their intended employment direction and create their own bespoke graduate employment plan / PDP.

Onsite teaching takes place in studio spaces using the RSN specialist art and design library, IT Suite and handling collection. Offsite learning occurs through a bespoke series of visits to galleries, exhibitions, and collections. At this level, students will also be expected to undertake their own relevant visits alongside course specific visits.

Students continue to have the opportunity to access and engage with the RSN Collection of historic textiles and paper-based materials as appropriate to their area of exploration, but will also be encouraged to find other sources as part of their self-directed study such as engaging with digital collections as part of their learning to make comparative analyses of objects.

Personal Tutor meetings will be scheduled at key points throughout the academic year.

We are proud to offer an annual lecture programme of visiting speakers which contribute to the expanding contextual learning environment.

**Employability and Personal Development Portfolios**

Employability and professional standing is embedded within the modules throughout Level Four, Five and Six. Through the delivery of projects and the opportunity to engage with the practice of visiting tutors and the professional experience of the academic team.

Professional / transferable skills are introduced from level four to level six. Students develop professional studio skills in relation to the practice of hand embroidery. Working with specialist materials and equipment, students learn the vocabulary of the discipline.

An understanding of the professional context of the discipline is delivered through taught projects across all modules. Students develop the knowledge of their specialist subject, build their own network of materials and suppliers and learn time management skills integrated within each project.

Professional skills are gained through the participation in national competitions, examples include: The Worshipful Company of Glovers Annual competition and the Society for Dyers and Colourists student competition. Towards the end of teachning block two, students prepare their CV and artist statement to enable them to apply for internships, employment over the summer period.

During Level five, students become more confident in the context of their own practice. They have moved on from the diagnostic learning experience of Level four and now have a more focussed personal identity to their work. This is further development through a more advanced skill set of hand embroidery and the opportunity to engage with competitions and live projects. Students are taught tambour embroidery which is a key industry level skill to equip them with freelance positions.

Level five students are introduced to professional skills of interpreting an external project brief, time management and creating work to an exhibitiable and professional standard. This learning supports the student in preparation for their RSN Graduate collections at Level six.

During Teaching block two within the module Hand Embroidery Practice, students undertake taught sessions in professional practice. They learn to compile their CV and skills profile as an illustrated digital portfolio to send to prospective employers for summer internships.

Level six modules support students to work holistically to create their professional portfolio and graduate collection; underpinned by a rigorous study into the context of their practice. Professional practice skills are taught to enable the student to create a bespoke portfolio of professional outcomes to launch their career.

Personal Tutor meetings will be scheduled at key points throughout the academic year.

Visiting speakers introduce students to the professional context for hand embroidery and the diverse career routes available. The RSN guest lecture online programme is open to all students. All students tour the Royal School of Needlework professional Studio and gain an understanding of professional studio culture from the RSN team.

1. **Support for Students and their Learning**

**Bursaries**

The Royal School of Needlework is proud to be able to support students through a number of Bursaries each academic year. Students are eligible to apply for these in teaching block one of each year. All students engage with a bursary writing workshop to support them to compile an application. Successful recipients are required to submit two reports to the Bursary donors at a mid and summative point of the year. This formal illustrated report communicates to the Donor, how the Bursary has supported the student through their studies. Livery Companies will also invite the Bursary recipient to formal events to showcase and promote their work to a wider audience. Bursaries for this academic year total around £30K with an average Bursary of £1000 per person. This is not a one off payment and a student may apply for a Bursary in every year of the course.

**Livery Companies**

The RSN has a longstanding connection with the Livery companies of the City. Livery companies support students through Bursaries and competitons. Many RSN students have progressed to become Freemen of the City and represented their Livery at national events.

* Worshipful Company of Broderers
* Woshipful Company of Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers
* Worshipful Company of Girdlers
* Worshipful Company of Needlemakers
* Worshipful Company of Glovers

**Galleries and Exhibitions/events**

The course has developed strong connections with galleries and events including:

New Designers, Business Design Centre

Graduate Fashion Week

Hand & Lock International Prize for Embroidery

Fashion and Textile Museum

Devon Guild of Craftsmen

Craft Study Centre

Hampton Court Palace

Ely Cathedral

**Students are supported by:**

* Academic staff team
* Technical staff team
* RSN Student Support Mentor p/t
* Administrative staff
* RSN Personal Tutors: Level 4,5,6
* Access to LinkedIn Learning
* All technical taught sessions are filmed and uploaded to a secure portal for students to access for future reference
* Onsite RSN specialist art and design library; RSN Stitch Bank
* Onsite RSN IT Suite, Scanners and copiers
* Access to the RSN public online and onsite lecture programme
* Opportunity to participate in all RSN events and activities including exhibitions and events
* KSA shared learning experiences as part of the School of Design

1. **Ensuring and Enhancing the Quality of the Course**

The University has several methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of its provision. These include:

* External Examiners
* Boards of Study with Course Representation
* Annual Monitoring and Enhancement
* Periodic review undertaken at subject level
* Student evaluation including Module Evaluation Questionnaires (MEQs), level surveys and the National Student Survey (NSS)
* Moderation policies
* Feedback from employers

1. **Employability and work-based learning**

Employability and work-based learning is embedded within the programme. Students learn from established practitioners and from their first day onsite, embroidery becomes their future career. Personal Development Planning is integrated into modules from Level four – six.

**Potential career routes include:**

* Freelance embroiderer for Couture
* Freelance embroiderer for Interiors
* Freelance embroiderer for Costume, Film and Television
* Owner / Director SME
* Designer maker Embroidered jewellery
* Designers for Couture embroidery
* Tutor – Further and Higher Education
* Teacher – Primary and Secondary
* Postgraduate researcher
* Textile Artist
* Interior Designer/ Maker
* Buyers for retail
* Bridal wear Embroiderer
* Product Development manager
* Theorist / Writer / Author
* Artist in Residence
* Gallery / Curator
* Artist craftsperson in heritage craft skills
* Restoration embroiderer

**Competitions**

**Level Four**, students have the opportunity to participate in external competitions to build their awareness of the potential application of embroidery to design. they develop transferable skills and learn the challenges of working to an external timescale and design brief. Previous examples have included, The Worshipful Company of Glovers – Glove Competition and working with artists Musson+Retallick to create embroidered illustrations for a hot air balloon installation in Thamesmead. Level Four students have also worked to create bespoke embroideries for London Fashion Week for E.Tautz menswear.

Students work to create digital portfolios throughout the programme to showcase their practice and level of attainment. At level Four, students start to compile their own CV and prepare an introductory letter to potential employers for summer placement opportunities. By working with our technical team, students develop an awareness of materials, suppliers and costings. Supply chains, cost analysis, milestones, working to commission are all explored within the **Professional Practice** taught sessions, to enhance employability skills working as a freelance embroiderer.

**Level Five**, students develop more advanced professional skills through working on high profile design competitions and with external clients. The opportunity for live projects are embedded in the curriculum when possible. Recent examples include Bradford Textile Society and Society of Dyers and Colourists where students have received named awards and commendations. Students have also had the opportunity to make work for external exhibitions including the Fashion & Textile Museum for the Royal School of Needlework 150th Anniversary and the Devon Guild of Craftsmen. This advanced level of practice supports the student to make informed choices as to the potential direction of their practice at Level Six as well as reinforcing transferable skills such as time-keeping and quality of finish.

**Level Six**, students are directing their practice towards a defined context as indicated by their proposal and outcomes for the ‘RSN Graduate Collection’ module. The module ‘RSN Graduate Portfolio’ is focussed on their intended career route; through the creation of an expanded portfolio of experimental and technical hand embroidery sampling. This outcome provides the student with a showcase of their creative ability and in a format to present to a future employer. The theoretical module, ‘Professional Practice in Context’, enables the student to present an in-depth body of research exploring the context for their practice alongside the preparation of a bespoke graduate employment plan / PDP Report with artist statement, costing and pricing, business models and the development of professional communication skills to prepare them for interviews and presenting their work to a new audience.

RSN students will also have access to the wider support network of the *Careers and Employability Service team at Kingston School of Art.*

***Work-based learning, including sandwich courses and higher or degree apprenticeships***

Work placements are actively encouraged but are not mandatory. It is the responsibility of individual students to source and secure such placements at times which do not impact on their learning. Through participation in this **professional context**, students are encouraged to reflect upon their own personal experience of working in an applied setting and to focus on key aspects of this experience to inform both their theory and practice.

1. **Other sources of information that you may wish to consult**

* **QAA Subject Benchmark Statements** [*subject benchmark statements*](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/assuring-standards-and-quality/the-quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements)
* **OfS website**
* **FHEQ Benchmark statements**
* **Royal School of Needlework website royal-nedlework.org.uk**
* **Kingston School of Art website**
* **Royal School of Needlework Instagram @royalneedlework**
* **RSN Degree course Instagram @rsndegree**

1. **Development of Course Learning Outcomes in Modules**

This table maps where course learning outcomes are **summatively** assessed across the modules for this course. It provides an aid to academic staff in understanding how individual modules contribute to the course aims, a means to help students monitor their own learning, personal and professional development as the course progresses and a checklist for quality assurance purposes.

**Students will be provided with formative assessment opportunities throughout the course to practise and develop their proficiency in the range of assessment methods utilised.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Module code** |  | **Level 4** | | | | **Level 5** | | | | **Level 6** | | | |
|  | **Drawing for Design FN4001** | **Hand Embroidery: Practice FN4012** | **RSN Hand Embroidery FN4013** | **Contextual Studies: Hand Embroidery FN4014** | **Advanced Drawing for Design FN5013** | **Advanced Hand Embroidery: Practice FN1011** | **Advanced RSN Hand Embroidery FN5014** | **Contextual Studies: Textiles FN5012** | **Research for RSN Graduate Collection FN6014** | **RSN Graduate Collection FN6013** | **RSN Hand Embroidery: Portfolio FN6011** | **Professional Practice in Context FN6012** |
| **Knowledge & Understanding** | A1 |  | \* | \* | \* |  | \* | \* | \* | \* | \* | \* | \* |
| A2 | \* | \* | \* | \* | \* | \* | \* | \* | \* | \* | \* | \* |
| A3 |  | \* | \* |  |  | \* | \* |  | \* | \* | \* | \* |
|
| **Intellectual Skills** | B1 | \* | \* | \* | \* | \* | \* | \* | \* | \* | \* | \* | \* |
| B2 | \* | \* | \* | \* | \* | \* | \* | \* | \* | \* | \* | \* |
| B3 |  |  |  |  | \* | \* | \* |  | \* | \* | \* | \* |
|
| **Practical Skills** | C1 |  | \* | \* |  | \* | \* | \* |  | \* | \* | \* | \* |
| C2 | \* | \* | \* | \* | \* | \* | \* | \* | \* | \* | \* | \* |
| C3 |  | \* | \* |  |  | \* | \* |  | \* | \* | \* |  |