

FuelRCA

FuelRCA is the Royal College of Art's professional development self-help service. It was founded in 2005 to help students prepare for life after graduation, and to support alumni as they set up their own practices and gain employment in the creative industries. It complements the discipline-specific support given by RCA Schools and programmes.

The College commissioned an independent review of FuelRCA in 2011/12, focused on the value of its enterprise, entrepreneurship and employability services. This revealed that an exceptional 35 per cent of all students voluntarily participate in Fuel's events, while the RCA's commitment to professional development and employability was identified as one of two areas of 'best practice' in the 2012 Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Review.

Adding to established Fuel seminars on time management, presentation skills, funding and so on, support for students and graduates seeking employment in the creative industries was expanded in 2011/12. International recruiter Antoinette Lemens gave an inspiring presentation on 'How to Get Your Dream Job', complemented by practical tips on CV writing from The Writer. This and other FuelRCA events were video-streamed and tweeted, enabling students and alumni around the world to participate live, or catch up later via Fuel's growing online archive and social media presence.

Top lawyers from Stephenson Harwood regularly provided generous 'pro bono' advice and one-to-one mentoring on intellectual property and other legal matters, while in-depth mentoring by business consultants from PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) helped several RCA graduates start new creative businesses.

Elsewhere, Fuel's mentoring partnership with the RSA's Faculty of Royal Designers for Industry (RDIs) was strengthened by a special RDI Show Tour involving Faculty Manager Melanie Andrews, George Hardie RDI and Robin Levien RDI. This generated considerable interest among graduating students keen to obtain guidance on their next steps after College.

'A highly regarded service that is delivering real value and benefits to those who engage.'

Independent Review of FuelRCA, 2011/12

Students and Alumni at FuelRCA's 'How to Get Your Dream Job' Event