

GRADUATE STUDY

Textiles

Graduate Program Coordinator

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Textiles Department

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About the Program

RISD's MFA program in Textiles focuses on the design of textiles for interiors and apparel. Working from a foundation of solid technical skills and a proficient design process, students are encouraged to develop their own vision. Through research they gain an understanding of design as an expression of a continually evolving culture. This serves them well as they go on to become professional problem solvers who are responsive to global human needs at both the individual and community level.

This two-year program focuses on the design of fabrics for industrial or hand production. Geared towards those who have a background in textiles, along with experience in visual studies from an undergraduate program or professional practice, it helps students to broaden and sharpen their skills, develop an individual design process and hone their artistic identity. The program enables students to become well versed in the technical and creative potential of their chosen medium and its context, whether it be interior space, apparel or another option. It also emphasizes studies in drawing and color as well as participation in graduate seminars as a means of building analytical and critical thinking skills along with a foundation for individual expression.

The first year of the program focuses on enriching students' creative background and expanding their skills, including the use of digital technology in design. The second year allows for more individual direction, with the final semester culminating in a thesis project that entails both studio work and writing. Students are encouraged to create design collections that reflect a depth of research and a well-developed material and visual language, while also breaking new ground.

Graduate students have access to both full- and part-time faculty with expertise in the multi-faceted field, from digital technology to complex woven structures, including jacquard weaving. They work actively in their studios to design woven and printed fabrics and knits or to create one-of-a-kind pieces for galleries and commissions.

A close connection to the professional field is maintained through a required internship, seminar speakers, field trips, visiting critics and communications with experts in the field. Specialized facilities accommodate advanced work and include multi-harness handlooms, computer-interfaced looms, an electronic jacquard loom, an industrial Stoll

knitting machine, and a Husqvarna embroidery machine, as well as a fully equipped dye lab, a digital printer and fabric silkscreen studios. Furnished with professional software, the department's computer lab facilitates the design of printed, woven and knitted fabrics. Valuable resources outside the department include a strong textiles collection in The RISD Museum of Art and equally inspiring textiles resource materials in the Fleet Library at RISD.

Enrollment

of currently enrolled graduate students: 12

of currently enrolled undergraduates: 90

Frequently Asked Questions

What kind of career options do I have after finishing the program?

The textiles field is very versatile. One can work as a designer of interior or apparel fabrics in a studio connected to a manufacturing plant; for a company that contracts out manufacturing; for an apparel company; or as a freelancer with one's own studio. Many RISD alumni start their own businesses, producing textiles from their own studios or teaming up with mills to produce industrially made fabrics. Quite a few of our graduates have also gone into teaching.

Does the department have a strong connection to the professional field, and are collaborative projects with the textiles industry integrated into the curriculum?

Our alumni working in the field almost function as part of an extended department. They provide a direct link to the professional world, as do faculty and the department's long-term supporters in the industry. All of these contacts help us in finding jobs, internships, speakers, visiting faculty and critics. In the past few years, students in the department have worked on collaborative projects with textiles companies, partnering with DesignTex and Wearbest, for instance, to design a collection of contract fabrics. A recent collaboration with the Italian Trade Commission had RISD students from Apparel and Textiles working together in teams.

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Application Requirements

Application Form + Fee

The graduate application form must be filled in completely and accompanied by a \$60 application fee (non-refundable).

Academic Transcripts

You must submit official transcripts (displaying the registrar's signature and school seal) of all undergraduate and/or graduate study indicating satisfactory completion or evidence of anticipated completion of an undergraduate degree program from an accredited college or university.

If you are an international student completing requirements for a diploma, rather than a degree, before your application can be reviewed you must submit a written statement prepared by an appropriate official at the school you are attending verifying the status of the diploma to be the equivalent of a baccalaureate degree in the United States. All academic credentials must be translated into English.

Letters of Recommendation

Applicants should arrange to have three letters of recommendation written by professors, instructors or professionals with whom you have recently worked or studied. These letters are required. We strongly suggest that your recommenders use our form (pdf), which you may →[download here](#). (Recommenders may also use their own stationery, but it is critical that they include your full name in their letter.) Each person who writes a recommendation should send it directly to the Admissions Office in time to meet the deadline of January 21, 2009.

Portfolio

Applicants are required to submit 10 to 20 examples of their work, reproduced as 35mm slides or as digital image files on a CD or DVD.

Slides should be arranged in a plastic slide-holder page. If you choose to send your portfolio as digital files, each image should be submitted as a separate file in .jpg format. Individual file sizes should not exceed 3MB. Do not combine images in a prepared presentation or slideshow of any type (i.e. PowerPoint) and please do not affix any adhesive labels to your CD or DVD. You should also include a printed contact sheet/thumbnailed page of the images on your disk.

Time-based work or performance pieces may be submitted in video format or as QuickTime files on a CD or DVD.

Whichever format you select, include a work description sheet. Number the examples you are submitting and on your description page list the corresponding number, medium, size, date of completion and title for each work. It is very important that your full name and address are clearly noted on your individual slides or CD/DVD and on your description sheet and thumbnail pages.

CDs and DVDs will not be returned, but slide portfolios will be sent back if you include a self-addressed envelope or mailer with the correct amount of postage. International students should send postal coupons to cover return postage. Portfolios will be returned before May 15. *Please note: All portfolio materials will be handled with great care, but neither RISD nor the Admissions Office takes responsibility for loss or damage.*

Statement of Purpose

Please submit a written statement (500-750 words) outlining your interest in graduate study. Please be certain to include your full name and address on your statement form.

TESTS

Graduate Record Exam (GRE)

Results from the Graduate Record Examination are not required for admission to this department.

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)

If English is not your native language, you must submit results from the TOEFL. Proficiency in English is a prerequisite for acceptance and applicants must attain an acceptable score on this test.

On the Internet-Based TOEFL (IBT), which is becoming more widely available, we expect a minimum score of 93. On the paper-based version, which is still in use in some testing centers, we expect a score of 580. Finally, some applicants may have taken the Computer-Based TOEFL (CBT), which uses a different scoring scale; we expect a result of at least 237 if you used this version of the test.

You should schedule to take the TOEFL well in advance of the application deadline you have chosen, as it may take (depending on the test center location and the test format) six weeks for your scores to be sent to RISD. Further information about TOEFL is available at →www.toefl.org.

International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

Students may choose to submit their result from IELTS in place of TOEFL. RISD expects a minimum score of 6.5 from an IELTS examination. Further information is available at →www.ielts.org.

Summer Program in English Language Studies

The Summer Program in English Language Studies is recommended for non-native speakers of English who either need or would like to increase their fluency in listening, reading and/or writing formal English. The program runs for six weeks and prepares students for the regular RISD curriculum with a rich mix of classes.

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Students who successfully complete the summer program will receive three Liberal Arts elective credits.

During these classes, students listen to and write English, focusing on the specifics of art and design studies. In the reading and writing course, they develop critical reading and writing skills, whereas in the studio class they focus on the language of art critiques and develop self-confidence in speaking in front of their peers. Students in the summer program live on-campus in RISD's residence halls, make use of the collections of The RISD Museum of Art and the Fleet Library at RISD, travel as a group to New York City and visit the many art galleries and smaller museums in and around Providence. During the six-week program, which begins in late June, students have the opportunity to practice both formal and informal English within the larger community of students who study at RISD during the summer months.

In rare circumstances, a student may be required to attend and successfully complete this program as a condition of their acceptance to RISD.

Curriculum

1st year	2nd year
Graduate Studio	Graduate Seminar
Graduate Seminar	Graduate Studio
Textiles Seminar	Textiles Seminar
From an Idea to Meaning	Drawing or Color Elective(s)
Drawing or Color Elective(s)	Thesis Project
CAD in Textiles	Thesis Writing
Wintersession	Wintersession

Thesis

The final semester culminates in a thesis project that entails both studio work and writing. Working from a particular context, students prepare design collections that are imbued with a sense of depth, of well-developed material and visual language, and that – it is hoped – break new ground. The theses are reviewed by both the department faculty and other RISD faculty who have served as advisors on the projects.

Equipment + Facilities

2 computer labs with 14 Dell PCs, equipped with assorted peripherals and software

Digital Print Room

Dell PC with 15" flat monitor, Windows operating system, Ergosoft Textprint program

Mimaki Textile Jet TX2-1600 60" printer- prints yardage of large format images from design files on various types of fabrics

Industrial Knitting Machine Studio

Stoll CMS 303 compact flat knitting machine, 3 systems, operating width of 50", rapid carrier reverse system, independent 6" cam systems, split stitch, spring loaded latch needles, hold down platines, 16 yarn control units.

M1 Pattern Preparation Unit Hardware: Processors 2Xpentium III, 1000 MHz. Graphic card (3200x1200) for hookup of two monitors. Hard disk 1X9 GB and 1X18 GB capacity. Main memory 1024 MB backup: DVD –RAM 9.4 GB. Floppy disk drive: 1.4 MB. 21" monitors. Keyboard and mouse. Software: M1. Microsoft Windows 2000ML operating system. This knitting machine is a top of the line industrial production-knitting machine.

Knitting Studio

(8) Flying tiger knitting machines- used in factory production of various types of knitted fabrics. These machines are operated manually and we have a variety of different gauge needles.

(20) Brother home knitting machines with stands, ribber and various other attachments used to perform a variety of knitting techniques

(18) New Saddle seats by Humanscale on order

(3) Linkers- belt driven knit linkers of different gauges.

Dye Lab 328

ventilation system and electronic scale

(12) Electric burners

(2) stainless steel sinks with stainless steel storage cabinets
Maytag washer and dryer

White Banner industrial strength spinner

60" bullet steamer- for steam setting dyes to fabric

HIX Corp. HT-600 18"X24" heat press, a number of irons and ironing boards, all the equipment and ingredients needed to mix batches of dye (pots, pans, measuring and mixing implements)

Weaving Room

(32)-Macomber Add-A-Harness Looms 8 harnesses up to 48" of hand weaving

(32) loom benches and individual shelving units

(7) warping boards

RHODE ISLAND

SCHOOL OF DESIGN

GRADUATE STUDY

Yarn Room/Finishing Room

Merrow Industrial Serger
 Consew straight stitch Industrial Sewing Machine
 Pfaff walking foot Industrial Sewing Machine
 (10) Standard Sewing Machines
 (8) industrial shelving units for yarn storage
 (10) built in yarn storage shelves, a variety of yarn spinning wheels
 and winders
 Husqvarna electronic Designer 1 Embroidery Machine

Dobby Loom Room

(11) 24-Harness Dobby Looms with AVL Compu Dobby Interface
 each loom is set up with a Dell computer and a mounted 15" hp
 flat screen

Jacquard Room 102

(1) Dell computer CPU with 17" screen set up to run the same
 programs as in the CAD Lab. Pointcarre files are downloaded onto this
 computer, which is then sent to the Staubli JC5.
 (1) Jacquard CX 870 -Staubli Lyon JC5 computer interface.

This system is mounted on a platform above the loom. Its purpose is to
 translate Pointcarre files to JC5 files which then sequences lifting the
 warp of the Somet Therma 11 Super Excel Computerized Loom (1999).
 The Somet Loom is equipped with a Socos computer display and
 keyboard, which runs the looms functions as, translated from the
 Staubli JC5. There are 8 Savitec B3 weft feeders, feeding a constant
 flow of yarn through the warp as the loom is in operation.

Grad Studio

(4) 8 harness 48" Macomber Add-A-Harness hand looms
 (2) 24 harness Dobby Looms with AVL Compu Dobby Interface
 capable of weaving 20"
 Industrial Sewing Machine
 Dell Computer Stations with scanner
 Epson 4000 large format color printer
 Brother Home Knitting Machines

Grad Print Studio

Full screenprinting set-up shared with Printmaking Department

Campus Locations

College Building
 Two College Street

Center for Integrative Technologies, 4th floor
 169 Weybosset Street

Metcalf Building
 9 North Main Street

Faculty

department head

→ **Anais Missakian**

Professor
 BFA, Rhode Island School
 of Design

full-time

→ **Liz Collins**

Assistant Professor
 BFA, MFA, Rhode Island School
 of Design

Maria Tulokas

Professor
 Diploma of Textile Design, University
 of Art and Design, Helsinki, Finland
 MFA, Rhode Island School of Design

adjunct faculty

Sally Barker

BFA, Rhode Island School
 of Design
 BA, Colby College
 MFA, University of Kansas

Anne Emlein

BFA, California College of Art
 and Crafts
 MFA, Rhode Island School of Design

Regina Gregorio

BFA, Rhode Island School of Design

Brooks Hagan

BA, University of North Carolina,
 Chapel Hill
 MFA, Rhode Island School of Design

Douglas Johnston

BFA, Rhode Island School
 of Design

Harel Kedem

BFA, BArch, Rhode Island School
 of Design
 MAAS, Massachusetts Institute
 of Technology

Chunghie Lee

BFA, MFA, Hongik University, Seoul,
 Korea

Angie Rockett

BFA, Massachusetts College of Art

Lisa Scull

BA, Middlebury College
 BFA, Rhode Island School of Design

Susan Sklarek

BA, University of California, Berkeley
 MFA, Rhode Island School of Design

Recent Visiting Artists, Critics + Lecturers

Geraldine Blanchot

Sheila Hicks

Michael Koch

Clay McLaurin

→ **Marcia Patmos**

→ **Mark Pollack**

Daniel Tetteh

→ **Suzanne Tick**