Research Proposal

April 2027 Entry

Applicant
Zayn Taimuri Shafiuddin

Proposed Supervisor
Professor TANAKA Tomoyuki

Programme
Architecture
English-Based Master's
@ Nishiwaseda

Current Programme
BA Fashion Accessories
Soft Goods Industrial Design
London College of Fashion
(Cordwainers Craft)
University of the Arts London

Academic Reference
Jo Kedian
Personal Tutor
Educational Developer
London College of Fashion
University of the Arts London
j.kedian@fashion.arts.ac.uk

Appendix

[1] ↰ Portfolio
https://khanate.systems/portfolio.pdf

[2] ↰ IDE Offer—RCA & Imperial College London (See next page)
https://www.imperial.ac.uk/design-engineering/study/postgraduate-taught-pgt/ide/

Ultem bespoke eyewear project [1]

Trajectory

I design technical & system oriented accessories—bags with mechanical systems, bespoke eyewear. The eyewear project in my portfolio [1] involved 3D scanning my face, going through 11 printed iterations, then CNC machining the final frame in Ultem PEI in sections before bonding them together. The frame wraps around the lens with an open underside—portfolio photos show it's unconventional form. My Modular Carry System project [1] uses expanding mechanisms and quick-release hardware, with stabiliser straps that pull oversized loads closer to the body for stability.

These are structural problems at body scale. Load distribution, transparent/ optimised form & detail oriented construction.

Architecture

I saw your lab's 2024 thesis topics—research on Kurumata Shiro, Castiglioni, Scarpa. Industrial designers studied within an architecture programme is unusual and it's what made me write to you.

I want to work at the overlap. Specifically:

Representation: My portfolio has cross-sections and exploded diagrams, but they're functional rather than considered. I'm interested in how architectural drawing methods might apply to objects—or whether they break at that scale.

Scale: I currently work at body scale. I want to practice at buildings & larger scales, because structural logic becomes clearer when you can't hold the thing in your hands.

Systems: The depth of the Kumamoto Station project developed over 16 years is benchmark worthy standard. Notice the accretion within my Modular Carry System portfolio project—mechanism built from repurposed laptop stands, then refined into a modular system. I'm interested in how complex things build up through iteration.

Background

Three years at Cordwainers—pattern cutting, sewing, leatherwork, hardware. CAD in Rhino. I was offered a place on the Innovation Design Engineering Course at RCA/Imperial [2] but declined it. Architecture felt closer to what I actually want than broad innovation methodology.

Royal College of Art

Kensington Gore

London SW7 2EU

Dear Zayn Shafiuddin,

2026/27 Entry to the Royal College of Art

I am delighted to offer you a place at the Royal College of Art on the Innovation Design Engineering (MA) programme.

Studying at the RCA is the starting point for the world's creative leaders and we can't wait to welcome you to our vibrant and inspiring community. Being offered a place to study at the world's number 1 art and design university is a significant achievement, and we hope you are excited to receive this news.

This letter outlines the details and conditions of your offer and summarises the next steps and key information.

Let's get started with a summary of your offer:

RCA Student ID	10073255
Programme	Innovation Design Engineering (MA)
Programme start date	07 September 2026
Programme duration	2 year
Award on completion of the Programme	MA (RCA)
Delivery Mode	On Campus
Campus	London You will be located at one of our three central London campuses. Confirmation of your programme's campus will be shared on the Offer Holder Hub. Please check regularly for more information. Further details will be provided when the timetable for your programme is released.
Study Mode	Full-Time
Fees Status	Home
Programme Fee	£19,400.00
Deposit Payable (deductible from programme fee)	£1,000.00