

## BA(HONS) ARCHITECTURE

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Dear [XXX]

Welcome to BA(Hons) Architecture.

We're getting in touch with some important information about your course that will help you as you prepare to join us.

At the end of this letter, you will find a list of equipment that you should bring with you, as well as any other costs that you might incur throughout your course that are not covered by your student loan.

We've also included some activities that we suggest you undertake, to help you prepare for your studies.

Your academic experience will be predominantly in person with some courses using some digital resources to support your learning. To engage in the digital learning activity, although you will be able to access IT suites on campus, you may find it beneficial to have a laptop to access the platforms and tools we use. You will be provided with free access to the Microsoft Office suite, (including Word, Excel and PowerPoint) while you study at Falmouth.

### **Student Finance**

If you are eligible for a loan from Student Finance and have not yet applied, please do so immediately to ensure the loan is approved before you enrol. Once you enrol you are liable for the tuition fees. You can find more information from the Student Loans Company at: [gov.uk/government/organisations/student-loans-company](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/student-loans-company) If you are paying for your tuition yourself please check out [falmouth.ac.uk/study/tuition-fees](https://falmouth.ac.uk/study/tuition-fees). Advice on managing your finances whilst studying can be found on the University's website here: [falmouth.ac.uk/study/student-funding/how-much-does-it-cost](https://falmouth.ac.uk/study/student-funding/how-much-does-it-cost)

### **Student Support**

We know the prospect of coming to university can feel overwhelming but we're here to support you every step of the way. You can find an overview of the support available to you once you get here at this link [falmouth.ac.uk/experience/support](https://falmouth.ac.uk/experience/support)

To help us provide you with the right support during your time at Falmouth, if you have a disability, health condition or Specific Learning Difference (SPLD), you should apply for an Individual Learning Plan (ILP). This document suggests simple adjustments to your academic experience, tailored to your needs. By disclosing early, we can ensure that the necessary support is in place before you begin your journey with us. Find out how to apply here [studyhub.fxplus.ac.uk/accessibility-inclusion/ilps](https://studyhub.fxplus.ac.uk/accessibility-inclusion/ilps)

If you don't have a formal diagnosis of an SPLD such as dyslexia, dyspraxia, or ADHD but think you might, our free online screening tool, the Do-It Profiler can help. It's like a quiz that helps pinpoint any areas where you might need extra support. More information and a link to the Profiler can be found here [studyhub.fxplus.ac.uk/accessibility-inclusion/spld-screening](https://studyhub.fxplus.ac.uk/accessibility-inclusion/spld-screening)

# FALMOUTH UNIVERSITY

## Step Into Falmouth

In the coming weeks, you can join our Step into Falmouth programme, designed to provide advice and guidance to help you to settle into university life. This programme includes a range of informative and supportive videos you can view at a time that suits you, followed by live online events in August where you can meet our staff, current and new students. More information can be found at [falmouth.ac.uk/experience/new-students/step-into-falmouth](https://falmouth.ac.uk/experience/new-students/step-into-falmouth)

## Student Mentors

Before September, if you have any questions, you can join the Student Mentor team on Discord to talk about the course, living in Cornwall and what to expect at Falmouth. Our mentors are already studying on your course, so ask them anything you like. Find them at [falmouth.ac.uk/experience/new-students/mentoring](https://falmouth.ac.uk/experience/new-students/mentoring). Alternatively, email your name and your course to: [studentmentors@falmouth.ac.uk](mailto:studentmentors@falmouth.ac.uk) and they will be in touch.

Over the next few weeks, we'll email you more important information about your course and life at Falmouth. If you're going to be away or out of contact, make sure you ask someone to check your emails and reply on your behalf.

We know there is a lot to think about before you start at university. So, we're here to help. If you have any questions, just get in touch with Applicant Services on +44(0)1326 213730, use LiveChat on our website or email [applicantsservices@falmouth.ac.uk](mailto:applicantsservices@falmouth.ac.uk)

Finally, we wish you an enjoyable few weeks before the start of term and we're looking forward to welcoming you to Falmouth in September.

Yours sincerely,



Tanya Griffiths  
Course Leader, BA (Hons) Architecture  
[tanya.griffiths@falmouth.ac.uk](mailto:tanya.griffiths@falmouth.ac.uk)

## Getting started

### Your offer

If you have a conditional offer, your place is subject to meeting those conditions. This means we're waiting to receive your results or some more information before your place can be finalised. You can see these conditions on your UCAS Hub <https://accounts.ucas.com/account/login>

If you need to ask us anything about your offer, get in touch with our Applicant Services team on +44(0)1326 213730, use LiveChat on our website or email [applicantsservices@falmouth.ac.uk](mailto:applicantsservices@falmouth.ac.uk)

### Enrolment and Student Terms & Conditions

You'll get an email two weeks before the start of term telling you how to enrol online. You'll need to enrol before the first day of term to officially register as a student of Falmouth University and receive your undergraduate student loan.

When you enrol, you'll need to agree to and comply with the University's Student Terms & Conditions. These Terms & Conditions are important, and we encourage you to read them carefully, before enrolling. You can find them under 'Student Terms & Conditions' on our website [www.falmouth.ac.uk/student-regulations](http://www.falmouth.ac.uk/student-regulations)

### Tuition fees (per year)

2024-2025 full-time UK: £9,250

2024-2025 full-time EU/International: £17,950

### Term dates

Term dates can be found at [falmouth.ac.uk/experience/term-dates/term-dates-2024-25](http://falmouth.ac.uk/experience/term-dates/term-dates-2024-25)

Welcome Week starts on Monday 16 September for first year students.

Study Block one begins on 23 September and teaching and assessment will be throughout the full 15 weeks of the study blocks.

### Your timetable

Your academic timetable shows all scheduled learning activities and your course timetable. It will be published from 9 September. After you've enrolled, you can view it via the Student Portal at [falmouth.myday.cloud/](http://falmouth.myday.cloud/) or the Falmouth University App. You can download the app by searching the Google Play Store or Apple Store. It will also be accessible at [mytimetable.falmouth.ac.uk](http://mytimetable.falmouth.ac.uk).

### Welcome Week

After you have enrolled, your timetable will show you where you need to go and when on Monday 16 September and throughout the week.

This is the week when you'll meet your course mates, course tutors and University staff. There will be important inductions to both your course and the wider University facilities and services, in addition to social activities organised by the University and Students' Union.

### Equipment and costs

#### Digital Equipment

A laptop will be an essential piece of equipment along with a reliable broadband connection (if you are living in University accommodation you will have this). Windows is strongly recommended, although a Mac can run Windows software through Boot Camp).

The software we use for Architecture is industry standard Autodesk AutoCad and Revit and Enscape for rendering and Macs do not handle this software well. If you are buying new equipment, Windows-based is recommended.

It should have a minimum of 16GB RAM, a large 1TB plus hard drive and be light enough for you to carry.

Buy as fast a processor as you can afford.

CPU 2.5 GHz or Higher.

Graphics Card with min 4-GB of video memory.

We also suggest that you use cloud-based back-up.

#### Computers to avoid

- Chromebooks, iPads and other tablet devices will not be able to run any of the software taught on the course (tablets are, however, a good secondary device for use in sketching, note-taking etc., but not essential).
- A laptop older than 3 years may not have the right specification to be able to run the software taught.

#### Materials/Equipment

You will also need the following items for the start of the course:

- A4 sketchbook, approx. £5.
- 2B – 4B pencils, approx. £5.
- “Tervakoski” type sketching paper roll 30cm wide, approx. £28 (will last you approximately one year).
- Architectural scale rule, approx. £20.
- Outdoor (waterproof) clothing
- Site safety footwear with steel toe and mid sole protection for field trips and visits. Type SBP Approx £30

We also suggest (but not essential in the first couple of weeks):

- Drawing tools: 0.5mm or 0.9mm automatic clutch pencil, approx.£7.

- A drafting set of pens (Pointliner Technical Drawing Fineliner or similar), approx. £9.
- Masking tape of varying widths. RRP £5.
- Swann Morton retractable safety scalpel and 10a or 11a blades (nothing else does the job), approx. £6.
- 300mm metal safety ruler ('W' section), approx. £10.
- 300mm adjustable set square, approx. £10.

Most of the above is available in the campus shop at Falmouth University, or easily found online. A sensible budget for the above items is approximately £1500, including the laptop.

There will be some ongoing expenses as the course progresses, particularly paper and other consumable materials, so budget for some expenditure each week. We suggest you allow £150 to purchase additional materials and equipment, if possible, over the year.

There will also be costs throughout the course in purchasing materials for making models. It would be sensible to allow approximately £300 per academic year for these types of materials.

## Study trips and costs

We aim to organise a study visit to a significant UK or European location every year dependent upon pandemic and government restriction guidelines. We include visits to specific sites and locations relevant to your studies and take advantage of museums, galleries and other important cultural venues to widen our experience. The study trip is optional.

Study trips are normally for two to five days during study block 2, and those who are interested will be asked to pay a deposit in study block 1, typically in the region of £100 - £150. The total cost of trips varies from year to year but ranges from £400 to £450. We are unable to give an exact cost, however this is our target figure.

## Field trips

These are also local visits organised by the course team as part of the modules. In the first study block, field trips will be kept regional to enable you to engage with our environment and region.

### Highly Recommended - the 'Live @ AMATA Pass'

AMATA is Falmouth University's arts centre, offering a diverse year-round programme of exciting performances and productions, from monthly comedy nights to fantastic live music, trailblazing new theatre and dance.

The programme complements our portfolio of degrees and enables students to experience high quality, contemporary performances on their doorstep.

Students can purchase a one year Live @ AMATA Pass which offers five tickets for £25. This represents a 50% reduction on our standard student ticket price of £10.

# FALMOUTH UNIVERSITY

You will be able to view the programme at [falmouth.ac.uk/arts-centre](https://falmouth.ac.uk/arts-centre) from August 2024. However, the Live @ AMATA Pass is available now to book at [falmouth.ac.uk/arts-centre/visit/tickets#live-pass](https://falmouth.ac.uk/arts-centre/visit/tickets#live-pass)

Please note: If a parent or guardian is purchasing on behalf of a Falmouth University student, the account should be set up in the student's name, using their email address.

## Pre-course preparation

We recommend that you engage with the following material in preparation for joining the first year of your architecture course:

- Instagram – follow us: @architecturefalmouth
- Subscribe to some of our favourite websites:
  - [www.archdaily.com](http://www.archdaily.com)
  - [www.dezeen.com/](http://www.dezeen.com/)
  - [Architecture news from the architects' favourite website - Building Design \(bdonline.co.uk\)](http://Architecture news from the architects' favourite website - Building Design (bdonline.co.uk))
- Read the essential books from our reading list

## Design Project 1

We ask for task to be completed before you arrive:

### Capturing Your Place

This is a pre-course project to help us all to get to know each other.

We invite you to interpret a space or place you are very familiar with from your home, hometown, city, or area. It could be a private room or a public space – as long as it is somewhere that means something to you.

You may use a variety of media: drawings, collage, paint, whichever you're comfortable with, to complete your interpretation. You might want to include a few key words or text (but no more than 20 words) as part of your visual interpretation.

### Presentation format

- One single A4 collage, drawing, or mixed-media piece.

### Aims

- To act as an introduction topic between you and your fellow students and tutors.
- To start a conversation about representation techniques.

Please bring the above on your first day to the Architecture Studios during induction week during which you will have the opportunity to discuss this piece with tutors and peers as part of an introduction workshop....and your first studio discussion of your architecture studies!



## Suggested reading

The following books will start to inform your learning with us, so you might want to get a head start by looking at them (they are not essential to purchase, and they will be available in our library):

- UNWIN, S., 2020. *Analysing Architecture: The universal language of place-making*. Taylor Francis.
- GEHL J., 2011. *Life Between Buildings: Using public space*. Island Press.
- TILL, J., 2009. *Architecture Depends*. MIT Press.
- UNWIN, Simon. 2015. *Twenty-Five Buildings Every Architect Should Understand*. 2nd ed. New York, N.Y: Routledge.
- PELSMAKERS, Sofie, NEWMAN, Nick. 2021. *Design Studio. Volume 1. Everything Needs to Change : Architecture and the Climate Emergency*. Edited by Sofie Pelsmakers and Nick Newman. London: RIBA Publishing.