

## BA(HONS) FASHION PHOTOGRAPHY

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Dear

Welcome to BA(Hons) Fashion Photography.

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.

Also included are some activities that we suggest you undertake, to help you prepare for your studies.

We've also included a reading list. This is just a selection for the first term of your first-year - you are not expected to read everything before you join us, but if you're looking forward to getting stuck in, this is a good place to start. Please also note that all the resources listed will be available in the library after you enrol. Also set out are some useful and inspiring online resources.

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](http://gov.uk/government/organisations/student-loans-company).

If you are paying for your tuition yourself please check out [falmouth.ac.uk/study/tuition-fees](http://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](http://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](http://falmouth.ac.uk/experience/support).

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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).

## **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 [applicantservices@falmouth.ac.uk](mailto:applicantservices@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,



**Jonathan Simms** FHEA  
Course Leader, BA(Hons) Fashion Photography

## 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 [falmouth.ac.uk/student-regulations](https://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](https://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/](https://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](https://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.

## Pre-course preparation

As an introductory task and to develop your research practice of fashion, both historical and contemporary fashion design. In advance we would like you to come with two reference images.

As an 'icebreaker' activity we will ask you to present via PowerPoint or similar app your:

- **1 x Favourite image you have made.** Explain why the image is your favourite; the story behind the image; and the techniques of how the image was made.
- **1 x Favourite image from an inspirational photographer.** Explain why the photographer is so inspirational; the story behind the image; and the techniques you think are being used as to how the image was made.

### Course equipment and costs

At the start of term, you will be introduced to your first project. While you will be immediately encouraged to use the professional cameras available in our Institute of Photography (IoP) Resource Centre, it is important that you have access to your own camera equipment. We would recommend holding off from immediately buying a new camera. The equipment listed below is an outline with some items deemed as essential, whilst others are desirable:

#### Essential

- **Digital DSLR/Mirrorless camera.** You will be working with this on a regular basis so please ensure that it is in good working order. (Further guidance is set out below if you are considering purchasing a 'full-frame' sensor camera.)
- **Camera Memory Card** 16Gb (minimum) good quality high speed memory card specific to your camera is recommended along with a USB 3.0 Card Reader – approximate cost £25. As guidance it's better to have 2 x smaller sized SD or CF cards than one larger memory card. Cards can get corrupted, so a back-up, spare card is an important factor to consider.
- **USB Flash Memory:** 1 x USB 3.0 - Flash memory stick (minimum 8Gb recommended) – These can be really useful in transferring files and are approximate cost £10. An example would be a SanDisk Ultra 64 GB USB Flash Drive USB 3.0.
- **External Hard Drive:**
  - 1 x (Post-Production HD) Portable Hard Drive SSD (*fast*) are preferable for video editing (Adobe Premier) and working with photography databases (Adobe Lightroom). Example model: Samsung T7 Shield Portable (1Tb) USB-C, approximate cost £97.29. (Amazon)
  - 1 x (Back-Up HD) Portable external hard drive (2Tb recommended) USB 3.0 - approximate cost £60.

#### Desirable

- **Laptop:** whilst you will have access to university computers, you may be considering purchasing your own machine to allow more flexibility. For longevity, we recommend that it has minimum 512Gb, ideally 1Tb SSD and has 16Gb+ RAM, USB-C and that it is capable of running Adobe Creative Cloud (e.g. Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator) (N.B. workshops are delivered using Apple computers). See [UNiDAYS](#) for discounts.
- Not essential, but desirable is an **Adobe Creative Cloud Suite** subscription c.£64 per year arranged through the University portal on arrival.
- Having your own camera is always preferable. In the IoP Photography Centre we carry Canon, Nikon equipment and some Sony A-series models. However, if you are considering purchasing a camera, we'd recommend one with a **full-frame** (24mm x 36mm) sensor. The sensor size is more important than the megapixel count. For example, a second-hand Canon 5D Mk3, or a Canon 6D Mk.2 can be purchased from a reputable source (see below) for approximately £750.
- In regard to lenses; a *prime/fixed*, 50mm lens is recommended over a zoom. The discipline of working with a prime lens really helps when developing one's compositional skills. The added benefit, these are good value items.

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- Light meters are used in the industry; a second-hand Sekonic 308 Flash meter, is a good choice and will measure both ambient and professional studio flash lighting set-ups.
- Blower brush or sensor cleaning kit and lens cloth – approximate cost £10.
- Print Box/Film Negative sleeve (Film) Folder – approximate cost £15.

There are a couple of online stores to look at but take care with warranty and shop reputability. As a reference see these stores:

- [www.mpb.com/en-uk](http://www.mpb.com/en-uk)
- [www.ffordes.com/](http://www.ffordes.com/)

## Materials and equipment list and costs

You will have a number of recurring annual costs for materials, as indicated below:

- General printing costs – approximately £150 (based on colour page printing at 26p per sheet for contact-sheets, image selection, reports and essays)
- Image printing and film costs – between £180 - £400
- Publication / Zine Printing, between £30 - £250+

## Year 3 – Final major project

- As a culmination of your degree, you will create an extensive, resolved body of work which needs to have professional exhibition and presentation strategies; to this end 3rd year students can expect to invest up to £1000. It should be noted that this is in part an investment in a professional portfolio.

## Optional costs

You may choose to undertake various independent research trips for the course duration.

Students may choose to undertake a non-essential self-funded work placement/internship across the summer break between stages two and three. It is worth considering what the cost implications of this may be if you are required to live and work in London or another location outside of Cornwall.

You should expect to budget no more than £1,000 for these.

There will be additional costs for attending exhibitions and final year graduate shows. This will vary depending upon the travel and accommodation you choose, alongside the presentation format you decide on for your work.

## Optional study trips and costs

We aim to run study visits from time to time in the second and third years of the course. Recent industry facing trips saw Fashion Photography students visit photographic studios and agencies that have coincided with important publishing fairs such as OffPrint and Peckham24 in London. Trips such as this are optional, and we work hard to secure the best deals for accommodation and travel.

Prices will vary at the time we organise the trips but as a guide, the 2024 trip cost approximately £300, including travel from London and accommodation, but not food.

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## **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.

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.

## Selected reading list for your first term's modules

All available via the Falmouth University Library after you enrol.

To help the transition to the world of higher education we would recommend some preliminary reading before you start the course. Though I do prefer the physicality of a book, I'd recommend finding second-hand, or online sources, to keep finance in check. Below are links to key websites, documentaries and texts that will help. The theory text is quite dense, so give yourself time and make notes. We shall be referring to these texts so your awareness of this would be really helpful. Your classes will clarify and reinforce:

- Berger J., 2006. *Ways of Seeing*, Penguin Modern Classics. (Key text surrounding issues and debates around representation. Watching the 4-part [BBC documentary series on YouTube](#) will help to give insight into debates around image analysis.)
- London, B., Upton, J., 1998. *Photography (6th Edition)*. Pearson (We'd only recommend buying a used copy via Amazon. The older 6th, 7th or 8th editions are especially good as they also cover analogue processes).

## Selected 'online' research sources:

The online resources below are excellent touch points not just at the start of the course but throughout your studies.

**SHOWstudio:** The Home of Fashion Film (In-depth interviews with leading cultural figures from the world of/Fashion) - fantastic online resource to keep up to date with contemporary fashion design and image-making. Excellent content, interviews, round table critical discussions and debates.

<https://www.showstudio.com/recommended-playlists>

Collections and Show Reviews

<https://www.showstudio.com/collections>

**Models.com:** this is an excellent website to extend your awareness of contemporary fashion publications. The online resource gives limited access to current editorials from magazines such as **Re-Edition**, **Dazed**, **Beauty Papers** and **Document Journal**. (You will need to register for a 'free' account).

[www.models.com](http://www.models.com)