

BA(HONS) GAME DEVELOPMENT: WRITING

Dear

Welcome to BA(Hons) Game Development: Writing!

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.

Additionally we've included some suggested reading. You will have access to all the reading resources from the library when you arrive on campus, but if you're looking forward to getting stuck in, this is a good place to start.

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. Advice on managing your finances while studying can be found on the University's website here: 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

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

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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

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

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

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. Alternatively, email your name and your course to: 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

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,



Dr William H Huber

Course Leader, BA(Hons) Game Development: Writing

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

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

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

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/ 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.

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.

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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

At this stage many students want to know what we'd recommend they do to be properly prepared for the course in September. The primary tool we will be using for game-making in the first term is Unity. The version we are using in the coming session, can be downloaded below:

<https://unity.com/kr/releases/editor/whats-new/2023.2.20>

Please begin to familiarise yourself with this software as soon as you can. It's free and the tutorials are located at <https://learn.unity.com/tutorials>

We'll be expecting students to have undertaken several of the beginner level Unity tutorials, in order to hit the ground running with the software in September. The more familiar you are with this software, the easier you will find the course. Developing and keeping up to date with the software is something we never stop expecting students to do.

Do not neglect learning Unity. The 'Fungus' unity plugin can help you familiarise yourself with the engine while also allowing you to produce narrative games with little coding experience. You should also download text-based game engine 'Twine' (free) - <https://twinery.org/>, you can create interactive stories which have similar challenges as creating narrative in video games.

Pre-course preparation Writing - Delve into as many story-based games as you can. Try to read and play broadly. Try AAA games like The Last of Us (approximately £15), looking at the differences between the structural delivery of heavily authored linear and non-linear games; to narrative indie games like Disco Elysium (approximately £20), and Firewatch, (approximately £7 to £14). Also look at The Stanley Parable (approximately £2 to £10) and the Beginner's Guide (£3 to £7), to understand how writing can be used to effect within smaller budgets. Play games that champion visual storytelling practices without using text, such as Journey (approximately £12 to £20). Play text-based games, like A Dark Room (approximately £0.79) to see how literary practices can inform games writing craft

Course equipment and costs

Essential

The latest advice about which computers we recommend you buy for your course is available here: link.falmouth.games/computer-advice

Headset with Microphone

You will need a headset with a microphone for some classes. We recommend purchasing a high-quality headset for your comfort. Manufacturers such as Sennheiser, SteelSeries, Razer, HyperX and Corsair are rated highly by our current students. These can cost between £30 - £150.

Webcam

You will need a webcam in some teaching. Manufacturers such as Logitech, Microsoft, and Razer are rated highly by our current students. These can cost between £25 - £100.

Internet Access

It is important that you secure sufficient access to the Internet as some materials are made available to you through our virtual learning environment. We recommend a fibre broadband connection if available, but a minimum of at least 5Mbps will be suitable for livestreaming content.

If you have further questions, need more detailed advice or would like us to check the suitability of a particular model, then please email games.support@falmouth.ac.uk

Reading lists

As we'll be studying games and the theory of games studies as well as making them, these books are relevant:

Keogh, B., 2023. The videogame industry does not exist: why we should think beyond commercial game production. The MIT Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts. £28.29

Lemarchand, R., 2021. A Playful Production Process: For Game Designers. MIT Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts. £33.25

Fullerton, T., 2024. Game design workshop: a playcentric approach to creating innovative games, Fifth edition. ed, An A K Peters book. CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group, London £48.85

Suits, B., 1978. The Grasshopper: games, life and utopia. Broadview Press. RRP £15. (Get the 2005 edition with the green cover if you can, it has lovely illustrations)

Keith, Clinton., 2020. Agile Game Development with SCRUM. £37.99

We recommend familiarising yourself with these websites, often used in the wider game development world:

- Gamesindustry.biz: www.gamesindustry.biz/
- Well Played Journal: <http://press.etc.cmu.edu/wellplayed>
- Game Developer: <https://www.gamedeveloper.com>
- GDC Vault: www.gdcvault.com/