

BA(HONS) GRAPHIC DESIGN

Dear

Welcome to Graphic Design at Falmouth!

We are really looking forward to meeting you again in the Autumn, and writing with some essential information about the course that will help as you prepare to join us.

At the end of this letter, you will find a list of basic equipment that you should bring with you, as well as an overview of other costs you might incur throughout your course (that are not covered by your student loan). We have also included a short summer project that we would like you to do – simply to help you prepare for your studies (and keep your brain active over the summer)!

You will have access to all the key reading resources from the library when you arrive on campus, but we would like you to buy one book before you arrive (ideally as soon as possible, so you can spend some time exploring it before September). There is also a list of some websites we would like you to look at. Again, details of this are towards the end of the letter.

Our course is studio based and delivered in person on our Falmouth Campus, with a small amount of online teaching to support your learning. We have Mac suites on-campus (and several desktop machines in our studios), but you will hugely benefit from owning your own laptop to work on and access the platforms and software we use on the course. You will be provided with free access to the Microsoft Office suite (including Word, Excel, and PowerPoint) and receive the student discount on the industry standard Adobe Creative Suite, that includes Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator, Premiere and After Effects.

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 whilst 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 are 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 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

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If you do not 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 is 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

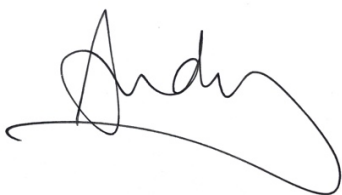
Before September, if you have any questions, you can join the Student Mentor team on Discord to talk about the course, living in Cornwall and what to expect at Falmouth. Our mentors are already studying on the course, so ask them anything you like. Find them at falmouth.ac.uk/experience/new-students/mentoring.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

Over the next few weeks, we will email you more information about the course and life at Falmouth. If you are 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 – however, we are here to help. If you have any questions, please contact our Applicant Services team 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 are very much looking forward to welcoming you to Falmouth in September.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Neal', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Andy Neal MDes FISTD FHEA

Course Leader, BA(Hons) Graphic Design

Getting started

Your offer;

If you have a conditional offer, your place is subject to meeting those conditions. This means we are 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, contact 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 will get an email two weeks before the start of term telling you how to enrol online. You will need to enrol before the first day of term to officially register as a student at Falmouth University and receive your undergraduate student loan.

When you enrol, you will 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 have 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.

This is the week when you will 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 (parts 1, 2 & 3)

Part 1: Summer project;

As part of your preparation for the new academic year, we would like you to keep a physical sketch book (A4 or A3) between now and September, and to develop a minimum of twenty-five images documenting a 'collection' of a single type of object/artifact. For example, it could be distinct types of spoons or pens, various signage arrows, different chairs...whatever you want.

We simply ask that you focus on the singularity of one subject and capture it in as many forms and ways as possible using a range of different mediums and materials (photographs, collage, drawings, prints, etc.). We are not looking for 'perfect' drawings or records of your object, we just want you to have fun recording it, and play with 'how' you do this. The project is less about the drawing itself, and more about the habit of 'looking' and the discipline of 'recording'. The more you can document, the better (try to do one a day – even just for a few minutes).

Part 2: One book;

We know that reading is not everyone's favourite past-time (especially in our tech-heavy, image-led world). However, reading (and thinking about a text) will be a central part of your journey with us. We would like you to start with the following book, written by Canadian designer Bruce Mau, as it covers many of the themes we will be considering on the course, and you can easily dip in and out of it over the summer (and beyond). Make notes as you read.

Title; MC24 (24 Principles for Designing Massive Change in your Life and Work).

Author; Bruce Mau.

Publisher; Phaidon Press (2020).

Cost; Around £35.00 (although you may find it cheaper online or used).

Part 3: Graphic Design websites;

We would also like you to spend a little time exploring the following websites. Our subject is broad, and we are keen that you begin digging a little deeper before you arrive. Keep a record of articles, examples of work or designs you are drawn to (for whatever reason).

<https://www.eyemagazine.com/>

<https://www.creativeconscience.org.uk>

<http://designobserver.com>

<https://eyeondesign.aiga.org>

<http://www.dandad.org>

<http://www.ico-d.org>

<http://blog.eyemagazine.com>

<http://www.atypi.org>

<http://www.itstnicethat.com>

<http://designweek.co.uk>

Course equipment and costs

Laptops;

As mentioned earlier, a computer is an essential piece of equipment as a Graphic Designer (although, remember it is just a tool). That said, several of our students complete the degree each year just using our university machines. If you do choose to invest, you will need either an Apple Mac or Windows machine, capable of running the Adobe Creative Suite. This is likely to be one of the bigger investments you make whilst studying design and could cost between £300 and £1800 for the computer. The system requirements to run the software can be found here:

helpx.adobe.com/uk/creative-suite/kb/cs6-system-requirements.html

You will also need a reliable broadband connection (if you are living in university accommodation you will have this already).

Studio kit;

You should allow at least £200 for the studio kit outlined below (costs run over the year). Everything is available from the University shop when you arrive, but it does get busy (so buying before you arrive can be helpful):

- Academic year diary (essential, although you may prefer a digital, online version).
- A3 layout pads or sketchbooks (you will get through these!).
- Selection of pencils (in several different weights).
- Pritt Stick.
- Masking tape.
- 12-inch metal ruler.
- A dozen-or-so packs of Sticky Notes (the cheapest you can find).

In addition, the following can also be useful:

- Scalpel and blades such as Swan Morten (10a blades most useful).
- Retractable pencil (basic).
- Plastic eraser.
- Memory stick (USB).
- A selection of coloured pencils or markers.

You will be taking part in a bookbinding workshop after Christmas in your first year. We recommend that you purchase a good basic kit, which can be picked up online for about £10. (This is optional as the course will also supply basic materials and kit for bookbinding workshops for those students who do not have their own.)

You will also need to allow for ongoing annual printing costs for projects and experimentation undertaken, which can be between approximately £150 and £350 depending in your needs.

Cameras;

If you already own a 35mm SLR or digital camera, you may find this useful. Falmouth also has a wide range of photographic equipment which can be booked free of charge from our stores, so there is no need to buy anything new (and most students use their phones for day-to-day recording of material, ideas & inspiration).

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Exhibitions & events;

Students often attend several events, exhibitions or conferences that take place both in and outside of Cornwall. These events are often organised by the students and attended at their discretion as they do not form a core requirement of the course. Whilst you can visit regional exhibitions for little expenditure, you could spend up to £500 on more visits to national or European events.

Students also sometimes visit key industry events over the summer of the second year, and more specifically in the final year. These include showcases of some of the top graduate work from the UK, across Europe and the rest of the world. This could cost between £150 and £400, depending on preference for travel and accommodation each year. Again, this is optional.

In the final year we usually run other network or portfolio events where we arrange the event itself, but students are required to make their way to London and arrange accommodation where necessary. Occasionally, students will stay on in London and make use of the time to contact agencies too. Depending on accommodation and travel choice, you may need to allow up to £250 approx. for this altogether. (Optional.)

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 from August 2024. However, the Live @ AMATA Pass is available now to book at 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.

Study trips

In the second Study Block of the second year (after Christmas) we normally run a study trip to visit professional design studios and agencies (often in London). The trip lasts approximately one week although some students spend longer to visit galleries and see exhibitions, etc. This trip is not mandatory, although it is a fantastic opportunity to visit some of the finest studios in the industry and put your own emerging design work into a professional context.

Transport and accommodation costs associated with this are partly dependent on your own preferences, the number of students going each year and whether there is an option of group travel/hotel/etc. If you are interested, you should allow between £350 –£500 for this trip. We sometimes (if numbers allow) include final year students (so you could go in either year, or twice if you were keen – although this is less common).