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BA(HONS) INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE WITH PLACEMENT YEAR

Dear [XXX]

Welcome to BA(Hons) Interior Architecture with Placement Year.

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 included suggested activities to help you prepare for your studies, as well as a reading list for your first year. While not required before joining, these resources can help you get a head start. All materials will also be available in the library after enrolment.

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 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'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 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

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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 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,

Fay Freeman and the rest of the course team
Course Leader, Interior Design
School of Architecture Design and Interiors
fay.freeman@falmouth.ac.uk

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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 applicantservices@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
Professional placement year full-time UK & EU/international: £1,850

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.

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.

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Pre-course preparation

To prepare for your first year of Interior Design, we recommend engaging with the following materials.

Bookmark some of our favourite websites. Spend some time exploring the projects featured on these websites and start building your own Pinterest board:

- https://www.archdaily.com
- https://biid.org.uk/
- https://www.dezeen.com/
- https://www.designboom.com/
- https://www.architonic.com/en

If you haven't already, follow our official Instagram, it'll be your home very soon – **@interiors_falmouth**

Read the essential books from our *reading list* (further detail below).

Once your Falmouth email is activated, please install the Outlook and Teams apps on your devices, as these will be our official communication channels and must be checked regularly throughout the academic year.

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Pre-Course Design Challenge: Matchbox Magic!

Get ready to showcase your design skills with a fun and creative pre-course project! Your task is to interpret a space or place and represent it inside a matchbox. This could be:

- A place you've visited and found inspiring
- Something you've read about or seen in a magazine
- An entirely imaginary space

Guidelines:

1. Diverse Spaces: Choose a space with a variety of volumes and scales. It can be urban or rural, natural or man-made, indoors or outdoors.
2. Mixed Media: Use different media and physically alter your matchbox to capture the essence of your chosen space (e.g., re-use existing objects you already have at home).
3. Include Humans: Add a human figure to show scale. These figures can be hand-drawn, collaged, or 2D cut-outs placed in the model.

Presentation:

- Physical 3D Model: Bring your matchbox model on the first day of Welcome Week. You'll get to discuss your designs with tutors and peers during an introduction workshop.

Be bold and creative with your creation, we want to see your creativity in action!

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Course equipment and costs

Sketching by hand represents a core part of our work and therefore all students are expected to have their own physical notepad or sketchbook. The size is up to you, but we'd like to recommend a minimum A5 size, plus, any drawing tools you are familiar with (pencils, pens, markers etc).

Materials and tools for the development and experimentation of your projects in the studio and workshops will cost between £100-£200 per year. For model-making, it is estimated that you will spend £40-£80 per year on foam board and cardboard materials.

There are open-access networked computers available across the University, plus laptops available to loan. However, we strongly recommend you have your own laptop which you can use around campus and in halls of residences. Free WiFi is available on each of the campuses.

You might want to invest in a high-spec Windows-based laptop (think gaming computer), which can range from £400 to £3,000, depending on your course needs. While Mac laptops are also acceptable, we've found that a Windows laptop tends to work better with the required software.

When considering the specs of your equipment, the most important things to look out for are the CPU/RAM/Graphics Card, as we use software that needs a large amount of power, especially Revit. We recommend one with as fast a processor as you can afford, 16GB of RAM minimum. and a reasonably sized screen, plus the following absolute bare minimum computer specifications:

Windows:

- Windows 10
- At least an i7 processor
- No less than 16GB Ram - more is better!
- Graphics Card (Nvidia 1050 minimum - not Intel Iris or XE integrated graphics) with at least 2GB - the bigger the memory the better!
- 512GB hard drive space minimum - bigger = better!
- 1920 x 1080 display resolution or higher. Ideally 4K.
- Mouse with a scroll wheel and two buttons

Mostly, you will be required to use Windows-only software on the course, so an Apple computer might not be suitable. Chromebooks and iPads will not run the software you require for your studies, although they are very useful secondary machines for digital notetaking and sketching.

Other digital equipment/software:

- Adobe Creative Cloud (Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator)
- SketchUp - approx. £55
- Wireless or Bluetooth mouse - approx. £15
- Access to either an A3 printer/copier/scanner or photocopying services
- For presentations and end of the year shows, large formats can be printed on campus at a cost – A0 (£22), A1 (£12), A2 (£9) – however, you are also free to print large formats elsewhere if you choose to

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Study trips

Local trips across Cornwall
Trips to London (or other UK locations outside Cornwall)
Study trip in Europe (major design exhibition or event)

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.

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Reading lists

These are some of the essential readings for your upcoming studies, so we recommend getting familiar with them. Don't worry, you don't need to read them all before day one!

- *The Fundamentals of Interior Architecture* by John Coles

- *Interior Design Reference & Specification Book Updated & Revised: Everything Interior Designers Need to Know Every Day* by Chris Grimley Mimi Love

- *Interior Design Illustrated*, Francis D. K. Ching, Corky Binggeli, John Wiley & Sons, 20 Feb 2012

- *Metric Handbook: Planning and Design Data* by Pamela Buxton (Editor)

- *Creating Interior Atmosphere* by Jean Whitehead (one of your lecturers…)