BA(HONS) INTERIOR DESIGN (ONLINE)

Dear [XXX]

Welcome to BA(Hons) Interior Design (Online).

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 have ready, as well as any other costs that you might incur throughout your course that are not covered by your student loan. The course is studied wholly online, which means you will need a laptop to complete your studies. You will be provided with free access to the Microsoft Office suite (including Word, Excel, and PowerPoint) while you study at Falmouth.

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

We've also included some suggested reading at the end of the letter. 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.

Virtual Learning Environment
During your time studying with us you'll have access to our dedicated Virtual Learning Environment. This provides a space to engage with course materials and connect with your lecturers and fellow students. Each degree has a 'Course Hub' which you will be able to access via the Virtual Learning Environment. From there, you will be able to use our online forums to discuss your work with other students. Your Course Hub also contains useful information regarding resource lists, course toolkits and assessment guidance to help keep you on track. You will also have access to a 'Student Hub' which covers support, regulations and study skills for your time at Falmouth.

Step into Falmouth induction sessions
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 Advisors
During your studies at Falmouth, you will be assigned a Student Advisor, who will be your first point of contact for non-academic questions or queries. These may include:
- Study-life balance
- The academic calendar
- Applying for Extenuating Circumstances (EC)
- Face-to-face events

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Student Advisors work closely with Academic staff, Student Services and the Students' Union to support students.

Student Advisors are here to improve your student experience. Do not hesitate to get in touch with them - they will be happy to hear from you. The team operates a shared inbox to ensure all queries are responded to within 24hrs, Monday to Friday. You can get in touch with the Student Advisor team by emailing: StudentExperience@falmouth.ac.uk or calling +44(0)1326 255251.

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

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,

Amanda Losasso
Course Leader, BA (Hons) Interior Design Online

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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.

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 falmouth.ac.uk/student-regulations

Tuition fees (per year)
2024-2025 full time: £10,400

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.

Welcome Week
You'll begin your course on Monday 16 September 2023 and this first week is a welcome week. This is your opportunity to familiarise yourself with the online platform. You'll be invited to meet your course mates, course tutors and the University staff. This week is about you navigating the online space, meeting your peers, and staff, and setting yourself up.

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Pre-course preparation

To help you get warmed up before the course starts, get drawing in your sketchbooks.
Aim for 10 minutes of drawing from observation every day. Buildings, parts of interior spaces, or everyday objects are all good practice. Try a range of drawing equipment - pencil or pen, charcoal etc, and different techniques i.e. single line drawing, using light and shade, pattern making etc.

Sign up to receive newsletters from dezeen.com, archdaily.com and designboom.com to get up to speed with current global design trends.

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Course equipment and costs

The BA Interior Design Online degree course is studied wholly online. As well as a computer or laptop, you will need a reliable broadband connection. You may wish to investigate the cost of a broadband plug-in dongle if you travel a lot or are worried about your internet usage or connection.

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 processing power, especially Revit. We recommend one with as fast a processor as you can afford, 16GB of RAM minimum and a reasonably sized screen (15" is minimum), plus the following absolute bare minimum computer specifications:

Windows:
- Operating System - Windows 10 64-bit or Windows 11
- CPU type - Multi-Core Intel Xeon, or i-Series processor or AMD equivalent with SSE2 technology. Highest affordable CPU speed rating recommended.
- Memory - No less than 32GB 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! (For Revit DirectX 11 capable graphics card with Shader Model 5)
- 512GB hard drive space minimum - bigger = better!
- 1920 x 1080 display resolution or higher. Ideally 4K.
- Mouse with a scroll wheel and two buttons

You will be required to use Windows only software on the course, so an Apple computer will not be suitable for all of your studies. Chromebooks and iPads will not run the software you require for your studies. An iPad however, can be a useful secondary tool for digital notetaking, sketching and for creating digital sketchbooks, but is not mandatory.

Other digital equipment/software:
- Adobe Creative Cloud. We anticipate being able to offer a discount for this and will inform you as soon as possible.
- Sketchup pro - approx. £70
- 16 -32 GB memory stick - approx. £10-20. You will need to be able to back up and save work regularly.
- Wireless or Bluetooth mouse - approx. £15
- Access to either an A3 printer/copier/scanner or photocopying services (Approx £20 printing costs for A3 photocopies)

Process, Drawing and Modelmaking - Materials and Equipment - approx. £150 pa
Essentials -
- Sketchbook(s) - A5, A4 or A3 depending on your preference
- Scale ruler
- A3/2 layout pad
- A range of pencils – e.g. 4B, HB, 2H 4H
- A range of technical drawing pens e.g. 0.05mm, 0.4, 0.7, 1.0 mm UniPIN or similar make
- Eraser

- Cutting mat – A2/3
- Metal safety cutting edge ie a Maun Safety Ruler
- Retractable craft knife or scalpel and replacement blades
- Masking tape
- Pins (dressmakers steel)
- Spray mount
- Foamboard - 3mm or 5mm thick or corrugated card for model making (available from Amazon in 10xA3 sheets or larger format sizes from your local art supplier)
- An assortment of different coloured cartridge paper for model making and experimentation

Nice to have -

- Adjustable set square and T square
- Coloured pencils
- A few marker pens in greys, beige, pale blue etc
- Highlighters

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Study trips

As an online student you will be given the opportunity to attend up to two events per academic year to meet your classmates and tutors in person. Dates and location of the events will vary.

These trips are not mandatory, although they are a great opportunity to meet your peers and staff in person and build connections.

Costs of the events themselves are covered, however you will need to cover your own costs for travel, accommodation, food and drink. More information about these events will be given to you when you start your course, but you should expect them to cost approximately £500-800.

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Reading list

If you're looking forward to getting stuck in to some reading, this is a good place to start.

GODFREY, Jeanne. 2022. *Writing for University*. 3rd edn. London Bloomsbury Academic
GRIMMLEY, Chris & LOVE Mimi. (2018) *The Interior Design Reference and Specification Book.* Rockport Mass.
TRAVIS, Stephanie. (2015) *Sketching for Architecture + Interior Design*, Laurence King Publishing.
HETREED, J & ROSS, A. (2012). *Architect's Pocket Book*. United Kingdom: Taylor & Francis.

Nice to have: -
CHING, Frank. (2015). *Architecture: Form, Space, & Order*. Fourth edition. Hoboken, New Jersey: Wiley.