

## BA(HONS) POST PRODUCTION & VISUAL EFFECTS WITH INTEGRATED FOUNDATION YEAR

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Dear

Welcome to (BA)Hons Post Production & Visual Effects with Integrated Foundation Year at Falmouth.

You are now part of our vibrant, creative community here at the School of Film and Television (or 'SoFT' as we like to call it) within Falmouth University. You are joining over 800 like-minded students and staff studying in the school, and the wider community of creative arts students across Falmouth University.

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 pre course guidance and preparation that we suggest you undertake, to help you prepare for your studies.

We've also 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](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 while 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,



Roger Troup  
Pathway Lead for IFY Group 7: Film Television and Media  
Falmouth University  
Penryn Campus  
Cornwall TR10 9EZ

IFY Insta @falmouthify

## 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 [www.falmouth.ac.uk/student-regulations](http://www.falmouth.ac.uk/student-regulations)

### Tuition fees (per year)

2024-2025 full-time UK: £9,250

2024-2025 full-time International: £17,950

### Term dates

Term dates can be found at [falmouth.ac.uk/experience/term-dates/term-dates-2024-25](http://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/](http://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](http://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

We are not setting you an IFY summer project, but we would encourage you to maintain your creative practice over the summer in preparation for the course start in September.

**Additional Note:** You might also consider starting a Creative *Instagram* feed or *tumblr* blog. It's also a good idea to perhaps start collecting creative inspiration on *pinterest* boards.

- You can see the IFY Instagram feed here as an example [@falmouthify](#)

## Watch:

Watch plenty of films and television! Try different programmes, shows and content that you might not usually watch. Develop your opinion, you don't have to enjoy everything you watch to be learning a great deal. Think internationally! Have a look at television reviews and features in newspapers and online.

Within television we include:

Drama (from one-offs to high-end series and soaps!)  
Documentaries  
Branded content and commercials  
Music videos  
Online content (vloggers, Youtube, corporate etc)  
Streaming and on-demand content (such as Netflix & Amazon)  
Sports TV  
Live and factual entertainment (including events like music festivals)  
And more...!

It's also good to connect with short form work as we'll be making short form content during your time with us. Try these two to get you started:

[www.filmsshort.com](http://www.filmsshort.com)  
[vimeo.com/channels/shortoftheweek](https://vimeo.com/channels/shortoftheweek)

**Read:** We would recommend getting hold of a copy of:

Bignell, J., 2012. *An introduction to television studies*. London: Routledge. RRP £25.19.

Okun, J. A., Zwerman, S., Rafferty, K., Squires, S., 2015. *The VES handbook of visual effects: industry standard VFX practices and procedures*. Focal Press RRP £50 new or £20 second hand. An online version of this book is also available in our library.

Murch, W., 2001. *In the blink of an eye: A perspective on film editing*. Silman-James Press. RRP £10. Collins, K., 2020. *Studying Sound: A Theory and Practice of Sound Design*. MIT Press. RRP £33.

These are not essential to your studies, but you may find them helpful.

We highly recommend these texts as preparatory reading over the summer. They will help you to be best prepared for studying at university. Buying an e-book where available or 2<sup>nd</sup> hand can be more cost effective and it doesn't matter which edition you get.

Cottrell, Stella. 2019. *The Study Skills Handbook*. London: Palgrave. RRP £15.99

- Recommended by our academic skills team – this book covers everything from managing your time and taking notes to working with others and developing as an academic writer and critical thinker.

Tobin, Lucy. 2015. *A Guide to Uni Life*. Bath: Trotman. RRP £9.99

- This terrific book walks you your first day at university, through to managing your money, keeping healthy and making the transition to university life.

Phillips, Rachel. 2017. *Student Eats*. London: Ebury Press RRP £12.99

- Each year, we recommend a cookery book. Life at university is far more than just study – you've moved home, are living independently, and meeting hundreds of new people as committed to the cinematic arts as you are – life skills are important. We really like Rachel's approach to cheap, healthy ingredients – she's a recent graduate too, so speaks from experience.

Some other reading you can consider:

Block, B. (2007). *The visual story : seeing the structure of film, TV, and new media*. Oxford [etc.]: Focal Press. RRP £21.99

Find out more about how the industry works: <https://www.screenskills.com/media/3233/tv-business-a2-web.pdf>

## Driving Licence

To get work in the television and film industry it can be a real asset to have a driving licence (even if you don't have a car). If you don't have your licence yet and this is something you would consider then make a plan now on how and when you might achieve it. You don't need to be able to drive for university, although it can be useful and it may open up more professional opportunities to apply for.

## Equipment and costs

### Smartphone

Even the most basic smartphone with a working camera will be sufficient for you to experiment with expressing yourself and developing your narrative storytelling to supplement the use of the bookable resources.

## **Outdoor working**

In your Foundation year you will be expected to work in all sorts of locations and weather conditions. It is therefore highly recommended that you come fully prepared with the right sort of personal clothing to protect yourself from the elements and to meet risk assessment requirements.

This list is not exclusive, so please use it as a guide;

- Waterproof jacket
- Warm headgear
- Strong waterproof boots/shoes
- Waterproof trousers (working all day in wet jeans is particularly unpleasant!)
- Mobile phone for emergencies

## **Technology**

A laptop will be an essential piece of equipment along with a reliable broadband connection (if you are living in University accommodation you will have this).

*Note: The following technical advice relates specifically to the three-year degree that you are progressing into on successful completion of your Integrated Foundation Year (IFY), so this is a chance to get ahead of the expectations and to begin to consider purchasing an appropriate tablet and related equipment also.*

Advice in terms of spec is to get a machine with a good graphics card (for video editing/rendering), good processing speed, a minimum RAM of 16gb and SSD of 250gb at an absolute minimum.

You can use this website to research what you might need: [www.pcspecialist.co.uk/custom-laptops/](http://www.pcspecialist.co.uk/custom-laptops/). If you are a Mac person then the recommendation is for a Mac book Pro with a minimum of 256gb hard-disk space, 16gb of RAM with either the Multicore Intel processor with 64-bit support or the M1 Apple Silicon processor running on macOS Sierra (v 10.12) and later or Big Sur (Apple M1 silicon).

You will be taught on/with the platform (Windows PC or Mac) most appropriate to industry standard. Some of the software delivered on the course may not run on a Mac platform, but you will be able to access this software on campus or via remote log in to the PC studios.

We support Wacom tablets (as our computers have the drivers for the Wacom range) and you will need to have your own when you arrive. You can expect to spend between £60-£300 depending on your budget, buy the best you can afford.

Suitable models:

Wacom Intuos, Cintiq, PL Tablet Drivers/Software - 6.3.33-3

Wacom Bamboo tablet drivers/software - 5.3.5

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These support the following devices:

WacomMobileStudio Pro	DTH-W1320, W1620
Wacom Cintiq Pro	DTH-1320, 1620, DTK-2420 and DTH-2420
Wacom Cintiq 16	DTK-1660, 1661
Wacom Intuos Pro	PTH-460, 660, 860
One by Wacom	CTL-471, 472, 671, 672
Intuos	CTL and CTH-480, 490, 680, 690
Intuos 4	PTK-440, 640, 840, 1240, 540WL
Intuos 5	PTH and PTK-450, 650, 850
Intuos Pro	PTH-451, 651, 851
Wacom Intuos	CTL-4100, 4100WL, 6100, 6100WL
Cintiq 12WX	DTZ-1201W
Cintiq 13HD	DTK and DTH-1300
Cintiq 21UX 2	DTK-2100
Cintiq 22HD	DTK and DTH-2200
Cintiq 24HD	DTK and DTH-2400
Cintiq 27QHD	DTK and DTH-2700
Cintiq Companion	DTH-W1300
Cintiq Companion 2	DTH-W1310
Cintiq Companion Hybrid	DTH-A1300
WacomCintiq Pro Engine	DPM-W1000
ExpressKey Remote	EKR-100, DTU-1031, DTU-1031X, DTU-1141, DTU-1152 DTK-1651, DTK-2241, DTH-2242, DTK-2451, DTH-2452

Wacom Bamboo tablet drivers/software - 5.3.5

Bamboo Create, Capture, Connect, Splash, Bamboo CTL, Bamboo CTH, and One by Wacom

### **What you'll need to get:**

- External hard drive (minimum 1TB) for backing up your own work.
- USB memory sticks (minimum 32 GB) as a temporary storage solution.

### **Would be nice to get:**

Good quality headphones – you will need these for working in the studio and for your sound-based projects. Ideally closed back headphones with a good frequency range, for example AKG, K72, K92, Sennheiser HD280 Pro or Beyerdynamic DT770 Pro.

The price of equipment may vary, but you can expect to spend approximately £130 on these.

### **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)

## Typical Course Costs

- £250 - Recurring annual costs may include: art/creative materials and costs towards your end of year show exhibition.

## Study trips

There are several IFY field trips and you will need to allow for some costs for student contributions towards coach hire and exhibition entry. Total annual cost approx' £50

If you want to attend the planned IFY week-long residential trip to London in the Spring of 2025 then you will need to plan for a £100 deposit payment shortly after arriving on the course, to secure a place, and to budget for a total trip cost of approx' £400 - to be paid in instalments.