

BA(HONS) Post Production & Visual Effects

Dear

Welcome to BA(Hons) Post Production & Visual Effects

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.

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 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

FALMOUTH UNIVERSITY

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

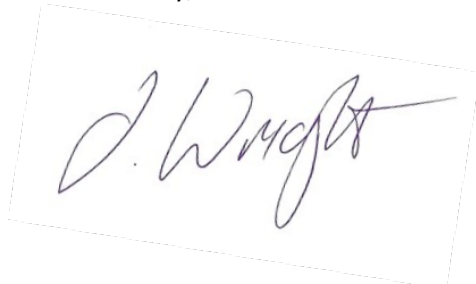
Before September, if you have any questions, you can join the Student Mentor team on Discord to talk about the course, living in Cornwall and what to expect at Falmouth. Our mentors are already studying on your course, so ask them anything you like. Find them at falmouth.ac.uk/experience/new-students/mentoring.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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Wright', enclosed in a dashed rectangular border.

Julian Wright

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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 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.

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

No doubt you will need some down time after completing your Further Education studies. But if you do find a quiet afternoon a little pre-course prep wouldn't hurt. In the First semester of the course we will be exploring several software packages, all of which you will be given full training in from the ground up.

We'll be using Avid Media composer and Pro Tools. Both have a NLE workflow and are similar the other edit packages that you may have used in the past. However, Autodesk Maya 2024 is probably the one application that will be the steepest learning curve. It may be helpful if you can have a play with it over the summer to help familiarise yourself with the interface and some of the terminology.

There is loads of online content and tutorials but these from the Autodesk website are a good start : [Maya Quick Start Guide | Autodesk](#)

You can download a trial version here – we will be using Maya 2024 - [Buy Autodesk Software | Get Prices & Buy Online | Official Autodesk Store](#)

Once you have your Uni email you will be able to upgrade to a student licence.

Watch films. Old and new. Watch stuff that you wouldn't normally watch. Look at the way sound and edits are used to add tension and pace to the story.

Lastly, don't worry or be nervous about starting Uni and if you do have any question myself or one of the academic team will be available over the summer to answer and questions be it by email or a teams /zoom call.

Course equipment and costs

As I will have said to many of you that came to an open day or at the interviews, the only thing you need to bring for the start of Uni are clean clothes and a suitcase full of enthusiasm. That said below are some answers to some frequently asked questions. If you have any other questions, please feel free to drop me an email.

Do you need a laptop / software? The short answer is no. Although having access to your own laptop can be beneficial, it is not essential. You will have access to all the software needed in the studios, which are open from 08:30 until 22:00 Monday to Friday and then Saturday mornings. There are additional PCs in the library for any late-night word processing that you might need to do.

It is also worth noting that much of the software we will be using can be heavy / demanding on the computer's resources (Processor, RAM, Graphics card etc). And although some of the software is available for free with a student licence many of the applications are not free. Oh, and to add to this we work across both mac and PC systems.

Once term starts, you will have access to and training on all the software we use. This will be from the ground up. However, if you have access to a PC or Mac and can download the trial versions it would be great to familiarise yourself with the interfaces etc. and have a play with the software over the summer.

In the first study block we will be exploring several software packages, the main ones to start being Autodesk Maya, Avid Media Composer and Avid Pro Tools. A quick internet search should bring up the relevant trial downloads.

A Hard drive? You will be given plenty of space on our PixStor and Nexus servers, as well as 1Tb of space on a cloud server (one-drive). All the studio PC, edit suites etc. have a super-fast connection to the servers which in turn have multiple failsafe backups unlike that USB stick with the only copy of your work on it...

Would be nice to get: Although we have a great stock of headphones in the stores that you can book out, your own set of decent quality headphones (not ear buds) would be useful – you'll need headphones for working in the studio. If you want to invest in your own set, ideally go for closed back headphones with a good frequency range, for example AKG, K72, K92, Sennheiser HD280 Pro or Beyerdynamic DT770 Pro.

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

We look to run several trips to festivals each year, such as FMX (a large VFX festival) in Stuttgart in May. The cost of this trip is likely to be approximately £600. We do encourage the 3rd years to attend but all years are welcome.

The trips are optional, and it is not necessary to attend them to progress through your studies. Where possible we also run trips to local southwest postproduction studios which have no additional costs attached. More info on all these trips will be shared with you once term has started.

Suggested reading

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

In the blink of an eye: A perspective on film editing Murch, W., 2001. . Silman-James Press. RRP £10.

Studying Sound: A Theory and Practice of Sound Design Collins, K., 2020. . MIT Press. RRP £33.

These are not essential to buy for your studies, but you may find them helpful. All the books on the reading lists are available from the library both as physical and online digital copies.