

BA(HONS) SUSTAINABLE PRODUCT DESIGN WITH PLACEMENT YEAR

Dear [XXX]

Welcome to BA(Hons) Sustainable Product Design 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 some activities 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 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

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

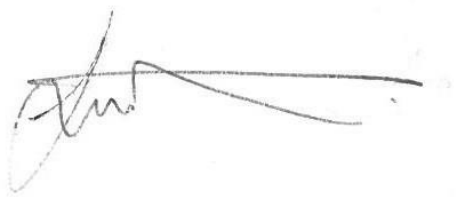
Before September, if you have any questions, you can join the Student Mentor team on Discord to talk about the course, living in Cornwall and what to expect at Falmouth. Our mentors are already studying on your course, so ask them anything you like. Find them at falmouth.ac.uk/experience/new-students/mentoring.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



Simon Andrews

Course Leader, BA (Hons) Sustainable Product Design

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

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.

Pre-course preparation

Design project title

2050: A sustainable vision of the future

Context

You are joining a talented and diverse group of designers, makers and creative thinkers on the Sustainable Product Design course in Falmouth this September. You are about to embark on a journey into the future and are mentally and physically preparing to pack; selecting objects that are both useful in terms of function, but also objects with links to the past.

Objects are often embodied with, or develop, narrative through their lifetime, acting as vessels that communicate value systems, ideas and memories. Often, we assign meaning to objects, raising their importance and elevating them in status beyond many more expensive items we purchase.

As designers we are always imagining the future and creating new ideas that aim to make it better for people and planet. Imagination is a critical tool as a creative and this project will enable you to show us your ability to imagine and forecast a future world in 2050. In the search for a more sustainable world creating a vision through text, images and objects is crucial for helping people understand how we may transition from the present to a more sustainable future.

The Brief

Consider what a future world might look like in 2050. Have we managed to solve plastic waste? Is there enough food for all? Do we eat animals? How do we move around the globe? What materials do we use and how are objects made? Do we all live in megacities, or have we fled to Mars?

- Design and illustrate an A6-sized picture postcard from your vision of 2050. This vision should help communicate what environmental and social challenges will be faced.
- Design an object from this future world that responds to your vision of how life will change. Consider the function of your object in the broadest sense and develop a reason why it would be important. Use household materials, such as paper, card, and tape, to explore your concept three dimensionally. Have some fun and be imaginative.

Send your postcards to the following address, remembering to include your name, for delivery by Monday 9 September 2024:

FAO: Stage 1 Tutor
Sustainable Product Design
Falmouth University
Falmouth Campus
Cornwall
TR11 4RH

Please have all your work from this project ready to present during induction week. You will have the opportunity to discuss your designs with tutors and peers as part of an introduction workshop.

- Aims**
- To act as an introduction topic between you and your fellow students and tutors.
 - To communicate your personal interests in design through creative thinking and making.
- Presentation Format**
- A6 postcard, posted to the address above (it's a postcard so you don't need to put it in an envelope!).
 - 3D exploration of your design (using paper, card, tape, recycled materials, found objects, etc).
 - Sketchbook to document design process including:
 - Inspirational images and research.
 - Design development through a series of sketches.

This project should cost you no more than £10 to complete, and could be much less, depending on the materials you choose and how resourceful you are. Recycling and reuse are encouraged.

Course equipment and costs

Product Design is a discipline that develops professional level vocational skillsets. In order to learn and refine these you will be required to purchase specialist equipment, digital tools and pay for access to networking and industry events. These expenses are not insignificant but will provide an excellent set of equipment and experiences that will support your three years of study with us, as well as your future career as a designer.

You may have many of the items listed already. Please refer to the information below and the equipment list before purchasing.

The materials and equipment list below is what we recommend as a starting point. Over your three years of study you will develop specific interests and you may require additional tools. We will provide you with the materials needed for workshop inductions. In some modules, you will need to purchase other materials for prototyping, but the technicians and tutors can advise on making this as cost effective as possible. A yearly materials budget of £50 to £100 is recommended. We have divided material and equipment items into essential and optional to help you manage the costs.

Personal protective equipment (PPE): Essential at start of course

Your safety is paramount, and you will need to buy compulsory PPE to use in our workshops. Please ensure the items you purchase match the specifications listed below; all items can be purchased from RS Components Ltd website:

- Safety glasses - Honeywell A800 Safety Glasses Anti-Mist, Clear or similar EN166-1F Polycarbonate Anti-Scratch safety glasses, approximately £4.50
- Face mask - 3M 4255 Half Mask Respirator, approximately £35
- Ear Defenders - RS Pro, 27dB Ear Defender with Headband or similar ANSI S3.19 NRR, CE, EN 352-1 ear defenders, approximately £7.50

Workshop equipment and drawing and model making kit: Essential at start of course

The following items can be purchased from the campus art shop:

- 5 metre metal tape measure, approximately £4.45
- Retractable craft/Stanley knife and blades, approximately £6.00
- A6 notebook and A3 sketchbook, approximately £14.49
- A3 layout pad, approximately £5.70
- 12" safety steel ruler, approximately £2.10
- A3 cutting mat, approximately £9.00
- Swann-Morton safety scalpel and 10A blades(4packs), approximately £7.55
- Graphite sketching and colour pencils, fineliner pens (0.3 mm, 0.5 mm, 0.7mm), Letraset Tria (or equivalent) marker pens (1x dark and 1x light cool grey), approximately £28.00
- 3M masking tape (25mm), approximately £1.55

Computing equipment – Essential at start of course

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).

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The 3D CAD software and digital design tools we teach are fundamental design skills that require daily practice as part of your design process. We recommend budgeting around £1000 - £2500 for a recommended laptop specification as follows:

- Operating System: Windows or Apple MacBook PRO
- Processor: Intel: 11th to 13th gen Core i5, i7 or i9, or AMD: Ryzen 5,7 or 9 series
- RAM: 16GB Minimum, 32GB or higher recommended
- Graphics: Dedicated graphics cards with 2GB RAM. (either Nvidia RTX/Quadro or AMD Radeon)
- Storage: 500GB to 1TB+ storage capacity
- Screen size: 13" or larger

Educational and refurbished discounts are available direct from companies like Apple, Dell, Asus, etc., and can save you up to 50% sometimes. We also recommend having a laptop case/bag to carry and protect your laptop (approximately £15).

Please also note Chromebooks, iPads, MacBook Airs and tablets are not suitable hardware for CAD design software but can be used for note taking and digital sketching.

If you need to contact one of our staff before buying any equipment, please get in touch with our 3D CAD Senior Technician, John Peters: john.peters@falmouth.ac.uk

Software – Essential at start of course

Students on the course become proficient in the use of industry standard software including:

- Office 365, including Word, PowerPoint and Outlook. Free through the University.
- Adobe Creative Cloud, including Acrobat, Photoshop and InDesign. Available at a discounted price through the University (For guidance, this was £67.47 in 2023/24 academic year).
- Autodesk Product Design Suite, including Fusion360 and Inventor. Provided free through educational license agreement using your Falmouth email.

Optional - Would be nice to have at start of course - Available at Falmouth/Penryn to loan subject to availability:

- A wireless or Bluetooth, 3-button computer mouse – approx. £15
- 128GB SD card for image storage – approx. £25

Study trips

Site visits to local organisations and companies will provide opportunities for real world learning, networking, and exposure to design employment and fabrication opportunities. Also, visits to local museums and culturally significant locations in Cornwall will provide a contextual understanding of the county and its significance in the industrial world. All transport costs for local field trips are covered by the course.

We aim to organise a national or international study visit every year. Study trips offer cultural and creative enrichment opportunities to your educational experience. We include visits that provide tangible examples of sustainable design in a professional context, and take advantage of museums, galleries and other important cultural venues to widen your experience.

Study trips are normally for 3 to 5 days during study block 2, and those who are interested will be asked to pay a deposit in study block 1, typically in the region of £100 - £150. The total cost of trips varies from year to year but ranges from £150 to £200 for national trips and £500 to £650 for international trips. We are unable to give an exact cost, however this is our target figure.

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.

Reading lists

Before you begin the course, we recommend that you browse the resources on the websites below. These provide a good introduction to some of the design and sustainability themes you will be exploring:

Watch Tim Brown's 'Design and the Circular Economy' video at:
<https://www.circulardesignguide.com/>

Read the 'Introduction to Circular Design' at: <https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/introduction-to-circular-design/we-need-to-radically-rethink-how-we-design>

Watch the introduction to 'Human-centred design' and explore some of the methods, at:
<https://www.designkit.org/>

A resource list is published in advance for each module on the course. Digital scans are made available for all the set readings discussed during modules. The books below are nice to own but there is no obligation to buy them as they are all available in the university libraries once you have enrolled.

Recommended initial reading:

Chick, A. & Micklethwaite, P., 2011. *Design for sustainable change: How design and designers can drive the sustainability agenda*. AVA. (RRP £37.99)

EISSEN, Koos and Roselien STEUR. 2020. *Sketching: Drawing Techniques for Product Designers*. Amsterdam: BIS. (RRP £25.00)

McDonough, W. & Braungart, M., 2009. *Cradle to cradle. Remaking the way we make things*. Vintage. (RRP £9.99)

Thackara, J., 2015. *How to thrive in the next economy: designing tomorrow's world today*. Thames and Hudson. (RRP £9.99)