

## BA(HONS) VISUAL COMMUNICATION (ONLINE)

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Dear [NAME]

Welcome to BA(Hons) Visual Communication (Online). We are very much looking forward to getting to know you in September and building our community together. We're getting in touch with some important information about your course and some things you'll need to know as you prepare to join us in September.

In this letter you will find details about the online learning environment and your student advisors, a list of resources and how you can prepare for your studies, information about your offer, term dates, costs and course enrolment.

The course is studied entirely online, which means you will need a laptop or desktop 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.

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: [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/student-loans-company](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/student-loans-company) 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](http://falmouth.ac.uk/study/student-funding/how-much-does-it-cost)

### **Online Learning Environment**

During your time studying with us you'll have access to our dedicated Online Learning Environment. This provides a space to engage with course materials and connect with your staff and fellow students. Each degree also has a 'Course Hub' which you will be able to access via the Online Learning Environment. The course hub contains information about the course, contact details, and an online community space where you can meet your peers and students in other years. Your Course Hub also contains useful information including resource lists, course toolkits and assessment guidance to help keep you on track. As well as the course hub and your modules 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**

These online workshops are designed to provide advice and guidance on settling into university life.

The live sessions are scheduled to take place across six weeks in July and August. Some of them will also be recorded so you can watch them back at a time that suits you. More information can be found at [www.falmouth.ac.uk/experience/new-students/step-into-falmouth](http://www.falmouth.ac.uk/experience/new-students/step-into-falmouth)

### **Student Advisors**

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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

Student Advisors work closely with Academic staff, Student Services and the Students' Union to support students. Student Advisors are there 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](mailto:StudentExperience@falmouth.ac.uk) or calling +44(0)1326 255251.

We know you will get a lot of information over the next few months, so please do reach out if you would like to ask any questions at all. We're here to help. If you have any questions at all, just get in touch with Applicant Services on +44(0)1326 213730, use LiveChat on our website or email [applicantsservices@falmouth.ac.uk](mailto:applicantsservices@falmouth.ac.uk).

Finally, we wish you an enjoyable and creative time before the course starts and we're really looking forward to welcoming you onto the course in September! To join our community, see what we have been up to, and look at the work and opinions of your fellow students please do follow the course Instagram [@ba\\_vis\\_com\\_online](https://www.instagram.com/ba_vis_com_online)

Yours sincerely,



**Sarah Langford**

Course Leader

BA Visual Communications (Online) Falmouth University [s.langford@falmouth.ac.uk](mailto:s.langford@falmouth.ac.uk)  
[www.falmouth.ac.uk](http://www.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.

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 [falmouth.ac.uk/student-regulations](https://falmouth.ac.uk/student-regulations)

#### Tuition fees (per year)

2024-2025 part time: £6,935

#### Term dates

Term dates can be found at [falmouth.ac.uk/experience/term-dates/term-dates-2024-25](https://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 2024 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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### Materials and equipment list, reading list and costs

As the BA Visual Communication 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.

You'll also need the Adobe Creative Cloud suite. We anticipate that there will be a discounted annual subscription available through the University before the start of your course. We will confirm this with you as soon as possible.

You should allow around £100-200 for the studio kit outlined below, which you can start to gather over the coming months ready for September. Buy materials you wish to use.

- A3/A4 sketchbooks
- Scalpel and blades such as Swan Morten (10a blades most useful)
- 12-inch metal ruler
- Selection of graphite pencils (3B to HB)
- Pritt Stick
- Masking tape
- Plastic eraser
- Glue (spray mount/PVA)
- Ink, paints, mark making materials
- Any other physical materials you wish to use for making visuals

You will also need to consider ongoing printing costs for projects and experimentation undertaken, which can be between approximately £100 and £200. This will be less should you work mainly from analogue to digital or with film or animation. Ultimately this cost is down to how you finish and produce your work and the production services you use.

#### Face-to-Face Events: optional

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.

Your first study trip will be to London and will involve visits to professional design and illustration studios, galleries and museums in March 2025 (final dates to be confirmed). The trip will last between three and seven days, although some students will want to spend more or less than the one week in London.

These trips are not mandatory trips, although they are a great opportunity to visit some of brilliant studios and really put your own emerging interests into context. You will get to meet your peers and staff in person and build connections. The trips will be curated by your course leader and module leaders. There will be an itinerary to follow, along with some suggested activities and social events.

For the trip to London, you will organise your own transport and accommodation. Costs associated with the trip are partly dependent on your own preferences: whether taking public transport, staying with friends, or in a hotel or hostel. Therefore, allow between £100 and £400 for this trip. Further information on both face-to-face events will come via your course leader.

There are two face-to-face event each year, the first always in week 7 of study block two (studio visits – location will change) and the second always week 7 study block three (on campus in

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Falmouth) so throughout the course you will have opportunity to visit different places and do not need to attend all the events.

### **Recommended reading list and costs**

Once on the course your resource list is varied including scanned in sections of books from the library, podcasts, videos and documentaries. You will be given further reading lists for the rest of the course as you progress through the course (many can be found new/used online). You may wish to buy some of these books and should allow up to £100-£200 for books and publications across the duration of the course.

### **Pre-course preparation project**

If you would like to ensure you are warmed up and ready to go, we would recommend that you keep a sketch book/visual journal of drawings, typography, collage, ephemera and so on. This process is very common for visual communicators and is something you should continue with across the course of your study at Falmouth and throughout your professional working life.

This is not compulsory, just encouraged.

A simple A4 or A5 plain sketch book will cost around £3-£10 and will allow you to record visits, observations, collections of memorabilia or graphic ephemera gathered day to day. Sketchbooks also allow you to capture ideas and aspects of the world around you that may impact on your views and understanding of visual communication and the wider world around you.