

MA GAME ART

Dear

Welcome to MA Game Art

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 activities that we suggest you undertake, to help you prepare for your studies.

Additionally, we've 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.

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](https://www.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 while studying can be found on the University's website here: falmouth.ac.uk/study/student-funding/how-much-does-it-cost

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

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.

FALMOUTH UNIVERSITY

We know there is a lot to think about before you start postgraduate study 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,

Brian McDonald
Head of Subject, MA Game Art

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 using the Falmouth [Applicant Portal](#)

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: £9,200

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
Study Block 1 starts on Monday 23 September for postgraduate students.

Your timetable

Your academic timetable shows all scheduled learning activities and your course timetable. It will be available 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.

After you have enrolled, your timetable will show you where you need to go and when on Monday 23 September and throughout the week.

Student Support

We know the prospect of starting postgraduate study 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 falmouth.ac.uk/experience/support

Pre-course preparation

Essential

You should download Unreal 5 (UE5) - <https://www.unrealengine.com/en-US/download> When installing an engine version, please use 5.1. We will be using that version of the engine in the upcoming session. We will be using UE5 in some of the Game Art modules, we would expect you to familiarise yourself with the Interface and some of the basic tasks in the Engine using a tutorial like the following - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k-zMkzmdugl> We will also be using the following software during the course:

We will exclusively use Photoshop for 2D Art on the programme. You can download a free trial here - <https://www.adobe-students.com/uk/creativecloud/buy/students.html>

Once you registered as a student, you will be able to sign-up to the following to receive a substantial discount: <https://softwareregistration.falmouth.ac.uk/>

For Character Art we will be using ZBrush, you can download Zbrush via the Maxon One App - <https://www.maxon.net/en/try#q2r84b1337101> and the install Zbrush. As a student you are able to receive a discount which reduced the cost of ZBrush (and other Maxon software) to \$9.99 for a 6 month subscription. Please see the following link for details: <https://maxon.onthehub.com/p/Maxonone?&pr=true>

For environment work (and other 3D work) we use Maya. You can download a free trail at the following: <https://www.autodesk.co.uk/products/maya/free-trial> Once you sign-up register as a student, you can sign-up to receive one-year free educational access to all Autodesk products including Maya. Please note, this one-year can be renewed as long as you remain a student: <https://www.autodesk.com/education/edu-software/overview?sorting=featured&filters=individual>

Other Software

We use Substance Painter & Designer to create textures and materials. A free trial of Substance Painter can be found here: <https://www.adobe.com/uk/products/substance3d-painter.html> Once you register as a student, you can sign-up for a free license of Substance3D collection (which includes Painter & Designer) via the following: <https://substance3d.adobe.com/education/>

Please note, you must use the above software (and others recommended by staff) during your time at on the Game Art Programmes at Falmouth University. All the above software is installed on the PCs at the Games Academy and Design Centre, if you can't afford the above pieces of software, we would recommend that use the PCs in our facilities.

Optional

Orientation exercise

Select three interesting objects from around your home or local area. Photograph them, sketch and draw them using any materials you feel comfortable with. Think about their shape, scale, texture, colour, material and how they interact with light. Draw them again the next day. Then, when you feel you've a good understanding of the objects' properties, take elements of each to create a new hybrid object. Name it and write a short backstory about that new hybrid object. You can do this as a written paragraph or as a comic strip or storyboard. Put all these in a portfolio, alongside the original photographs (printouts or show us the photos on your phone) and bring them along to Fresher's Week.

Additional preparation advice

We suggest that you do lots of drawing of characters and landscapes/environment studies. It's important to start getting used to drawing/painting in art software like Photoshop (£16.22/through educational licensing) or Sketchbook Pro (free).

Also, it would be beneficial to download the free trial of Autodesk Maya and work through its tutorials.

Course equipment and costs

Essential

- Pencils- Royal & Langnickel sketching pencil set – approximately £4.99
- Sketchpad- Daler-Rowney A3 series, a spiral cartridge pad – approximately £9.20
- Sketchbook- Seawhite black cloth cover sketchbook 140gsm portrait A5 – approximately £4.95
- Pencil case- Derwent Canvas pencil wrap - approximately £6.99

The latest advice about which computers we recommend you buy for your course is available here: github.com/Falmouth-Games-Academy/ga-computer-advice#readme

Headset with Microphone

You will need a headset with a microphone for some classes. We recommend purchasing a high-quality headset for your comfort. Manufacturers such as Sennheiser, Razer, HyperX and Corsair are rated highly by our current students. These can cost between £30 - £150.

Webcam

You will need a webcam in some teaching if you do not have a built-in webcam on your laptop. Manufacturers such as Logitech, Microsoft, and Razer are rated highly by our current students. These can cost between £25 - £100.

Internet Access

It is important that you secure sufficient access to the Internet as some materials are made available to you through our virtual learning environment. We recommend a fibre broadband connection if available, but a minimum of at least 5Mbps will be suitable for livestreaming content.

If you have further questions, need more detailed advice or would like us to check the suitability of a particular model, then please email games.support@falmouth.ac.uk

Optional

- Watercolour- Windsor & Newton Cotman watercolour paints-12 half pans – approximately £7.80
- Watercolour brushes- Pro Arte professional artist academy paint brushes (set of 5) – approximately £6.95
- Acrylics- Daler-Rowney system 3 acrylic paint introduction set – approximately £12.99
- Acrylic brushes- Pro Arte brush wallet series C hog – approximately £6.9

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

Essential

Robertson, S., 2013. How to draw. Titan Books. RRP £22.14 Vertex Ebooks. Free. Available at <https://gumroad.com/ryanhawkins>

Optional

- *Totten, C., 2014. An architectural approach to level design. CRC Press. RRP £32.89*
- *Hampton, M., 2010. Figure drawing: design and invention. Hampton. RRP £20.39*