

MA ILLUSTRATION: AUTHORIAL PRACTICE

Dear student,

Welcome to Illustration Authorial Practice MA!

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 suggested reading. You will have access to all the reading resources and full module reading lists from the library when you arrive on campus, but if you're looking forward to getting stuck in, any of these suggestions will be 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 whilst studying can be found on the University's website here: falmouth.ac.uk/study/student-funding/how-much-does-it-cost

FALMOUTH UNIVERSITY

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.

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,

Hugh Frost
MA Illustration Authorial Practice

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: £10,200 per year
2024-2025 part-time UK: £5,100 per year
2024-2025 full-time EU/International: £19,950
2024-2025 part-time EU/International: £9,975

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

Suggested Reading

Digital Resources:

TCJ (The Comics Journal) - <https://www.tcj.com/>

It's Nice That - <https://www.itsnicethat.com/illustration>

AIGA Blog - <https://eyeondesign.aiga.org/category/design/illustration/>

High Theory (actually, accessible theory!) Podcasts - <http://hightheory.net/>

Picture Book Illustrator, Writer & Publisher Podcasts - <https://www.scbwi.org/podcasts>

Books:

Illustration Research Methods – Rachel Gannon, Bloomsbury

Drawing in the Present Tense – Claire Gilman, Thames & Hudson

Ways of Drawing – Royal Drawing School, Thames & Hudson

Drawing for Illustration, Martin Salisbury, Thames & Hudson

Children's Picture Books, Martin Salisbury, Laurence King

Making Comics – Scott McCloud

Cartooning – Ivan Brunetti

Making Comics – Lynda Barry

Magazines:

FUKT Contemporary drawing magazine

Elephant

Wrap

IDEA

Or anything from <https://magculture.com/collections/magazines>

Publishers for various theory titles:

Zero Books - <https://www.collectiveinkbooks.com/zer0-books/>

Verso Books - <https://www.versobooks.com/en-gb/collections/art-culture#pagination-target>

MIT Press - <https://mitpress.mit.edu/search-result-list/?category=ART>

Pre-course preparation

There's no pre-course preparation required however you may wish to continue developing the project proposal you submitted as part of your application, though this isn't necessary at all and many students arrive wanting to undertake a new project entirely. In the first couple of weeks we will all share a few examples of previous work, so you could begin gathering 5 pieces of previous practice you'd like to share.

If you were to do just one thing we'd also encourage you to get the habit of drawing a little each day, if you don't already, even if just for half an hour. From life, from source imagery, from your imagination, first thing in the morning or even in the evening in front of the TV (lots of good character sketch references there!) – just trying to carve out a regular rhythm of making, visual thinking, getting something down every day.

Course equipment and costs

The campus art shop has a good stock of a wide range of materials and papers, so buying things before you start won't be necessary in most cases and in print making inductions materials are provided. There are also few workshops which require you to buy specific materials, but where this is the case these can be purchased from the campus shop (eg. 2 x tubes of gouache for a colour workshop in the first term).

The various personal creative practices of MA students also tend to be varied, so all will have different requirements. Work is submitted digitally so you're also free to work on either loose sheets or in a bound sketch book, as either will be scanned when it's time to hand in.

A basic materials list might include a few of the following (starred items are not available in the campus shop):

- Pencils (I like Blackwing HB for precise drawing and a couple of softer 2B / 6B for darker areas)
- Coloured pencils, just a few Caran D'Ache single colours to start, I like the Supracolor range
- *Pentel refillable black brush pen for loose drawing
- *Pentel 'sign pen' (soft tipped but sharp marker, can make a variety of marks with these)
- *Sakura Pigma Brush pens (these are waterproof so can be overpainted)
- Charcoal pencil (a little less messy to handle when starting out)
- Windsor & Newton Gouache tubes (just 2-3 colours to start and see if you like them)
- Basic brush starter set or intermediate set 4-5 brushes various widths
- Basic pencil sharpener / ruler / soft koh-i-noor eraser (comes in a little box)
- Leuchtturm 1917 softback plain A6 sketchbook for daily drawing out and about
- A pack of basic cartridge paper, eg 500 sheets A4 seawhites 140gsm

Then larger loose sheets of paper and other printmaking materials etc can be bought as needed from the shop. All of the above are optional and the list doesn't include things like watercolour options, graphite powder etc, all things that you might like to move towards with particular projects in mind. Initially it's really helpful to keep it simple, focussing on your approach to drawing, making, layering limited colour palettes etc. So definitely no need to buy extensive paint / pencil / pen sets from the outset.

Other costs will be highly variable depending on the types of projects undertaken and particularly in the final major project – a simple beautifully illustrated and designed digitally printed book might be produced for £15 while a more elaborate installation involving digital C-type prints, 3D printed forms and a mural would be far more costly, though staff will always be able to advise on cost effective ways of approaching your work.

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 undergraduate 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

Study trips

We'll be undertaking a local study trip, most likely to Tate St Ives by coach along with one or more other MA course which is likely to cost approx £10 per student for coach travel and entry. The MA doesn't run any international trips due to the long lead times needed by travel operators, though students do often self-organise trips in small groups to eg. Bologna Book Fair to check out the picture book publishing landscape together and usually budget around £600 for a 5-day trip including travel / accommodation / fair entry etc.