

# FALMOUTH

## UNIVERSITY

### FASHION PHOTOGRAPHY BA(HONS) WITH PLACEMENT YEAR

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Dear [NAME]

Welcome to Fashion Photography with Placement Year at Falmouth.

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.

Your academic experience will be predominantly in person with some courses using a small amount of 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 will benefit from 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: [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)

Over the summer, you can join our Step into Falmouth Sessions. These online workshops are designed to provide advice and guidance on settling into university life.

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

Over the summer, 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](http://falmouth.ac.uk/experience/new-students/mentoring). Alternatively, email your name and your course to: [studentmentors@falmouth.ac.uk](mailto: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](mailto:applicantsservices@falmouth.ac.uk)

Finally, we wish you an enjoyable summer and we're looking forward to welcoming you to Falmouth in September.

Yours sincerely,

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**Jonathan Simms**

Course Leader, BA(Hons) Fashion Photography

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

### Tuition fees (per year)

2023-2024 full-time UK: £9,250

2023-2024 full-time International: £17,460

2023-24 placement year: £1,850

### Term dates

You can find our term dates on the website at [falmouth.ac.uk/experience/term-dates/term-dates-2023-24](http://falmouth.ac.uk/experience/term-dates/term-dates-2023-24)

Study Block 1 starts on Monday 18 September.

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 in early September. After you've enrolled, you can view it via the Student Portal at [falmouth.myday.cloud/](http://falmouth.myday.cloud/) or the Falmouth University App. You can download the app by searching the Google Play Store or Apple Store.

### Welcome Week

Your timetable will show you where you need to go and when on Monday 18 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.

## Materials and equipment list

At the start of term, you will be introduced to your first project. Whilst you will be immediately encouraged to use the professional cameras available in the IoP Photography Resource Centre, it is important that you have access to your own camera equipment. We would recommend holding off from immediately buying a new camera. The equipment listed below is an outline with some items deemed as essential, whilst others are desirable:

### Essential

- **Digital DSLR/Mirrorless camera.** You will be working with this on a regular basis so please ensure that it is in good working order. (Further guidance is set out below if you are considering purchasing a 'full-frame' sensor camera.)
- **Camera Memory Card** 16Gb (minimum) good quality high speed memory card specific to your camera is recommended along with a USB 3.0 Card Reader – approximate cost £25. As guidance it's better to have 2 x smaller sized SD or CF cards than one larger memory card. Cards can get corrupted, so a back-up, spare card is an important factor to consider.
- **USB Flash Memory:** 1 x USB 3.0 - Flash memory stick (minimum 8Gb recommended) – These can be really useful in transferring files and are approximate cost £10. An example would be a SanDisk Ultra 64 GB USB Flash Drive USB 3.0.
- **External Hard Drive:**
  - 1 x (Post-Production HD) Portable Hard Drive SSD (*fast*) are preferable for video editing (Adobe Premier) and working with photography databases (Adobe Lightroom). Example model: Samsung T5 (1Tb or greater) USB-C.
  - 1 x (Content | Back-Up HD) Portable external hard drive (2Tb recommended) USB 3.0 - approximate cost £60. If budget permits an SSD are preferable for image editing and working with photography databases (Adobe Lightroom).

### Desirable

- You will have access to University computers and laptop, but if you are considering purchasing your own machine to allow more flexibility, we recommend that it has minimum 512Gb, ideally 1Tb SSD and has 16Gb RAM, USB-C and that it is capable of running Adobe Creative Cloud (e.g. Photoshop, InDesign) (N.B. workshops are delivered using Apple computers)
- Having your own camera is always preferable. In our Photography Centre we carry Canon, Nikon equipment and some Sony A-series models. However, if you are considering purchasing a camera, we'd recommend one with a **full-frame** (24mm x 36mm) sensor. The sensor size is more important than the megapixel count. For example, a second-hand Canon 5D Mk3, or a Canon 6D Mk.2 can be purchased from a reputable source (see below) for approximately £750.

- In regard to lenses; a *prime/fixed*, 50mm lens is recommended over a zoom. The discipline of working with a prime lens really helps when developing one's compositional skills.
- Light meters are used in the industry; a second-hand Sekonic 308 Flash meter, is a good choice and will measure both ambient and professional studio flash lighting set-ups.
- Blower brush or sensor cleaning kit and lens cloth – approximate cost £10.
- Print Box/Negative (Film) Folder – approximate cost £15.

There are a couple of online stores to look at but take care with warranty and shop reputability. As a reference see these stores:

- [www.mpb.com/en-uk](http://www.mpb.com/en-uk)
- [www.ffordes.com/](http://www.ffordes.com/)

### **Materials and equipment list and costs**

You will have a number of recurring annual costs for materials, as indicated below:

- General printing costs – approximately £150 (based on colour page printing at 26p per sheet for contact-sheets, image selection, reports and essays).
- Image printing and film costs – between £180 - £400.
- Publication / Zine Printing, between £30 - £250+

### **Final major project**

- As a culmination of your degree, you will create an extensive, resolved body of work which needs to have professional exhibition and presentation strategies; to this end 3rd year students can expect to invest up to £1000. It should be noted that this is in part an investment in a professional portfolio.

### **Professional placement**

You can access support from the University Employability team to help you prepare and search for placement opportunities. Usually, students undertake paid placements so you should be able to earn whilst you are working. Depending on where your placement is, you will need to be prepared to factor in costs such as accommodation, costs of travel, etc. If you are unable to find a suitable placement, you will be able to transfer to the 3-year version of the course.

### **Optional costs**

You may choose to undertake various independent research trips for the course duration.

Students may choose to undertake a non-essential self-funded work placement/internship across the summer break between stages two and three. It is worth considering what the cost implications of this may be if you are required to live and work in London or another location outside of Cornwall.

You should expect to budget no more than £1,000 for these.

There will be additional costs for attending exhibitions and final year graduate shows. This will vary depending upon the travel and accommodation you choose, alongside the presentation format you decide on for your work

### Books and publications

You will be given a reading list for the duration of the course once you have enrolled with us. All the books listed are not essential to the course and can be found in the library. You may wish to purchase these books for yourself. As an indication, you could expect to pay around £300 on these books. However, if there

To help the transition to the world of higher education we would recommend some preliminary reading before you start the course. Though I do prefer the physicality of a book, I'd recommend finding second-hand, or online sources, to keep finance in check. Below are links to key websites, documentaries and texts that will help. The theory text is quite dense, so give yourself time and make notes. We shall be referring to these texts so your awareness of this would be really helpful. Your classes will clarify and reinforce:

- Models.com – [www.models.com](http://www.models.com) - this is an excellent website to extend your awareness of contemporary fashion publications. The online resource gives limited access to current editorials from magazines such as Re-Edition, Dazed, Beauty Papers and Document Journal. (You will need to register for a 'free' account)
- SHOWstudio - [www.showstudio.com](http://www.showstudio.com) - fantastic online resource to keep up to date with contemporary fashion design and image-making. Excellent video content, interviews, round table critical discussions and debates.
- American Suburb X - [www.americansuburbx.com](http://www.americansuburbx.com) excellent resource for researching leading photographers in their fields.
- Barret T., 2008. *Criticizing Photographs, An Introduction to Understanding Images (4<sup>th</sup> Edition)*. McGraw Hill. (Important and accessible text for analysing imagery)
- Berger J., 2006. *Ways of Seeing*, Penguin Modern Classics. (Key text surrounding issues and debates around representation. Watching the 4 part [BBC documentary series on YouTube](#) will help to give insight into debates around image analysis.)
- London, B., Upton, J., 1998. *Photography (6th Edition)*. Pearson (*We'd only recommend buying a used copy*. The older 6th, 7th or 8th editions are especially good as they also cover analogue processes).