

FALMOUTH

UNIVERSITY

WELCOME TO ESPORTS & LIVESTREAMING WITH PLACEMENT YEAR AT FALMOUTH.

Dear [NAME]

Welcome to Esports with Placement Year at Falmouth.

We're getting in touch with some important information about your course as you prepare to join us. At the end of this letter, you will also find information about how you can make sure your skills and knowledge are of a standard whereby you will be able to hit the ground running from day one.

At the back of this letter there is also 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: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/student-loans-company> . Advice on managing your finances whilst studying can be found on the University's website here: <https://www.falmouth.ac.uk/study/student-funding/how-much-does-it-cost>

While you are doing your projects at university, you can engage with our community online. Join our Discord and introduce yourself: <link.falmouth.games/discord>

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 recorded so you can watch them back at a time that suits you. More information can be found at <https://www.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 <https://www.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 summer and we're looking forward to welcoming you to Falmouth in September.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B McDonald', written in a cursive style.

Brian McDonald
Head of Games, **Games Academy**
Brian.McDonald@falmouth.ac.uk

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)

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

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 as well as 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/ 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.

Pre-course preparation

Essential

At this stage many students want to know what we'd recommend they do to be properly prepared for the course in September. A good starter software to prepare you for the first term is OBS (Open Broadcaster Software), a free and open-source software for video recording and live streaming. **You should download and begin to familiarise yourself with this software and give livestreaming a go for free.** The download and some tutorials can be found at:

<https://obsproject.com/>

As part of your initial practice, you might consider (If you haven't already), streaming Games and other content to friends or publicly on platforms like Twitch or YouTube. We also recommend that you go to esports and other community events that have a livestreaming component and get involved with their organisation and management as a volunteer if you are able. You may already be a member of the community as a player review sports but it is good to gain some experience of how production happens even if it is in a grassroots setting. Make sure to watch and analyse esports and other live streams. Analyse and research how they are made in terms of scheduling, show running and content development and see if you can replicate some of the practices yourself with OBS.

Materials and equipment list and costs

Essential

The latest advice about which computers we recommend you buy for your course is available here: <link.falmouth.games/computer-advice>

Global supply chain issues are having an impact on the prices of computers, due to the availability of computer chips, which means you don't get as much for your money now than would usually be the case. However, you will have access to machines with a very high specification in our studios, where you'll be expected to do most of your work.

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. 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

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.

Reading list and costs

Optional

As we'll be studying esports and surrounding theory, these books are relevant to better understand the basic context of esports:

TAYLOR, T.L. 2018. *Watch Me Play: Twitch and the Rise of Game Live Streaming*
Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. £25.00

JIN, D.Y. 2021. *Global Esports: Transformation of Cultural Perceptions of Competitive Gaming*. First edition. London, England: Bloomsbury Academic. £28.99

Chaloner, P. 2020. *This Is Esports and How to Spell It. An Insider's Guide to the World of Pro Gaming*. UK Bloomsbury Publishing Plc. £9.45

We recommend familiarising yourself with these websites, often used in the wider esports/games/livestreaming world:

Gamesindustry.biz: www.gamesindustry.biz/

Well Played Journal: <https://press.etc.cmu.edu/well-played>

The latest from Twitch | Twitch Blog: <https://blog.twitch.tv/en/>

Game Developer: <https://www.gamedeveloper.com/>

GDC Vault: www.gdcvault.com/

The international journal of esports: <https://www.ijesports.org/>

Esports Insider: <https://esportsinsider.com/>

Esports insider journal: <https://esportsinsider.com/the-esports-journal/>

ESPN UK: Esports: <https://www.espn.co.uk/esports/>