

FALMOUTH

UNIVERSITY

INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE BA(HONS) WITH PLACEMENT YEAR

Dear [NAME],

Welcome to Interior Design at Falmouth.

We can't wait to meet you and explore the wonderful world of Interior Design together and introduce you to the beautiful Cornish landscape and our vibrant design community. This course is all about following your dream in becoming the next generation of creatives.

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 some pre-course preparation and a suggested reading list. It's not essential that you complete the reading before you start the course, but if you're looking forward to your studies and can't wait, we recommend these texts as inspiring reading.

You will also 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

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

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

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. 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,

Fay Freeman and the rest of the course team
Course Leader, Interior Design
School of Architecture Design and Interiors
fay.freeman@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

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 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/ 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 18th 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

We recommend that you engage with the following material in preparation for joining the first year of Interior Design:

- Instagram – follow us if you haven't already on our account that is run by the students: @interiors_falmouth
- Subscribe to some of our favourite websites:
 - www.archdaily.com
 - www.dezeen.com/
 - www.designboom.com/
- Read the essential books from our reading list (further detail below).

Design Project

Capturing a place or creating a space

This is a pre-course project to show your design skills.

It requires you to interpret a space or place into a matchbox. This space or place could be somewhere you have visited and were inspired by something you have read about or seen pictures of in a magazine, or it could be an imaginary space.

We suggest you choose, interpret or create a space or place that has a variety of volumes and scales. This could be urban or rural, natural or man-made, inside or outside.

We would like you to use a variety of media, including having a go at physically altering a 3D object (your matchbox) to capture a space or place.

As part of this process, you will have to include the human figure to show scale. The figures can be hand-drawn, collaged, or a cut-out 2D figure to give scale placed in the model.

Presentation format

- 3D exploration of your design via the matchbox / model.

Please bring the above on your first day to the Interior Design Studios during induction week where you will have the opportunity to discuss your designs with tutors and peers as part of an introduction workshop.

Suggested reading

The following books will inform your first projects with us so you might want to get a head start by taking a look at them:

- Dodsworth, S, Anderson, S., 2018. *The fundamentals of interior design*. AVA Academia. RRP £22.36.
- Whitehead, J., 2018. *Creating interior atmosphere: mise-en-scene & interior design*. Bloomsbury. RRP £19.51. Written by one of our course team - Senior Lecturer Jean Whitehead.

Materials and equipment list and costs

Laptop requirement - Essential

If you need to purchase a personal laptop we recommend you purchase a Windows PC before the course commences. It is an essential piece of equipment that you will need right from the start of the course.

The taught sessions will be directed towards the Windows system and some of the software we use is Windows compatible only. (Note: Apple computers will not be able to run the Autodesk Revit Software)

When considering your purchase of a laptop, the most important things to look out for are the CPU/RAM/graphics card, as we use software that needs a large amount of computing power, especially AutoCAD, Revit & any 3D rendering software.

Windows specification:

- Windows 10 or higher.
- At least an i7 processor – more is better!
- 16 GB RAM of memory minimum – more is better!
- **Minimum screen** 1680 x 1050 with true colour, ideally Ultra-High (4k) Definition Monitor – you could have an external monitor.
- *Graphics card with at least 4gb dedicated eg: NVIDIA GeForce RTX 2070 / Quadro RTX 4000 or AMD equivalent (eg. Radeon RX 5700 XT)*
- 512GB hard drive space minimum - bigger = better!
- A Mouse with a scroll wheel and two buttons. – this is essential.

If you already own an apple product, please see below specification:

Apple specification:

- Operating system – *Monterey 12.2.1 and higher*
- 2021 or newer M1 processor macbook air, pro or imac.
- 32 GB of unified memory.
- No less than 16GB Ram – more is better!
- 512GB hard drive space minimum – more is better!
- A Mouse with a scroll wheel and two buttons. – this is essential.

In general, it is cheaper and more cost-effective to buy a Windows Laptop. A good spec Windows machine can be sourced from places such as Dell or PC World. AutoDesk Revit and some rendering software's will only work on a Windows computer. All technical taught sessions will be targeted at windows machines.

A good rule of thumb is if your laptop can run a modern 3D computer game then it should be suitable for the kind of graphical work you will do.

It is essential to buy a hard drive to back up and save your work. If you run into any technical difficulties throughout the year we can recover work when saved to a hard drive easily. A USB can be used to save copies on to but are unreliable and can be corrupted. A USB dongle is a wise purchase with newer laptops with minimal USB ports as you can then plug in mice, keyboards, USB sticks, digital projectors etc...

Software required:

- Microsoft Office – the University gives this to all students for free upon completion of IT registration and it can be installed on two different computers and on multiple mobile devices.

- Adobe Creative Suite – students can receive a 65% discount on subscriptions and offer an initial 30 day free trial. These prices vary year to year but are £16.24.
- Sketchup – low-cost student license available approximately £52.80 per year (renews annually) – a free online ‘lite’ version is available if you want to save money.
- AutoCAD/Revit - free student version available once you have completed your IT registration. You will be advised when to download this. AutoCAD will run on Apple Computers, but Revit will not. This is taught from the 2nd year onwards.
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All software is available on the campus computers for free if needed.

We have included a list of some of the equipment you will need on the course. You may want to purchase some equipment beforehand, or you may prefer to wait and get it in one of the Falmouth shops. You must equip yourself early in the term so there will be time allowed in the first week to sort this out.

For each project you will be required to provide your own studio materials. In the first year, students use on average about £100–150 worth of materials and printing costs, increasing as the course progresses. It is critical that materials and printing costs are budgeted for so as not to compromise the production standards of your work. However, we do encourage students to be as resourceful as possible in collecting and recycling drawing and model-making materials.

The following equipment list outlines the items needed for the course. The approximate total cost for this list is £55. We have a well-stocked art supplies shop here on the Falmouth Campus:

Drawing Equipment:

- Sketchbooks/notebooks (a variety such as A3, A4, A5).
- Range of drawing equipment (charcoal, pastilles, range of pencils 2H to 9B, soft eraser.
- A range of Fineliner pens (0.3mm, 0.5mm, 0.7mm)
- Layout paper pads (A2/A3).
- Adjustable set square (12"/300mm).
- Circle template.
- Scale rule that includes: 1:5, 1:20, 1:50, 1:100, 1:1250, 1:2500.
- A2 T Square.

Model-making equipment:

- Swann-Morton scalpel with 10a and 25a blades.
- A2 cutting mat. (We have some in the studio but you will be model-making throughout all three years, so suggest you get one and make sure you have your name on it)
- Scissors.
- 12" safety steel rule (not a flat steel rule).
- Glues (Pritt + spraymount, gluegun).
- Masking tape.

Optional: recording and digital equipment:

- Camera, or other recording device such as a good quality smartphone/tablet. The cost of a camera/tablet can vary between £75 - £2500.
- A good external 1TB+ hard drive - £45-70 – You will need to be able to back up and save work regularly, using a hard drive is safer and easier to recover work from. You can also save to the cloud using Microsoft Onedrive (This is free from the University once you are a registered student.)
- 32GB memory stick - Optional – approximately £10-20. It is handy to have a memory stick for quick saves but shouldn't be relied on solely.
- Wired or Bluetooth mouse with scroll wheel is essential – approx £15 (avoid the apple mouse as they are expensive and don't work well for CAD work)

The Falmouth Stores facility allows students to book out software and equipment like cameras lighting and scanners.

Study trips and costs

We aim to organise a study visit to a significant European location every year. We include visits to specific sites and locations relevant to Interior Design where this can be arranged and take advantage of museums, galleries and other important cultural venues to widen our experience. Study trips will take place again when it is safe and practically possible to arrange them.

Study trips are normally for five days during study block 2. Places are normally limited to 40 students and those who are interested will be asked to pay a deposit in study block 1, typically in the region of £100 - £150. The total cost of trips varies from year to year but ranges from £400 to £450. We are unable to give an exact cost, however this is our target figure.

Field trips

These are local visits organised by the course. In the first study block, field trips will be kept very local due to current circumstances and this will be reviewed as the situation changes.

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.