

**POST PRODUCTION & VISUAL EFFECTS BA(HONS) WITH PLACEMENT YEAR**

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Dear [NAME]

Welcome to Post Production & Visual Effects 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 suggested reading and software. It's not essential that you complete the reading or become Jedi masters working with the software before you start the course, but if you're looking forward to your studies and can't wait, we recommend these to fill those long summer holiday days.

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 are looking forward to welcoming you to Falmouth in September. And again, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to drop me an email.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored rectangular background. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read 'J. Wright'.

**Julian Wright**

Course Leader, BA(Hons) Post-Production & Visual Effects  
School of Film & Television

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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

2023-2024 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.

## Suggested reading

***The VES handbook of visual effects: industry standard VFX practices and procedures.*** Okun, J. A., Zwerman, S., Rafferty, K., Squires, S., 2015. Focal Press RRP £50 new or £20 second hand. An online version of this book is also available in our library. The book is a weighty tome. But a great glossary of terms used within the industry.

***In the blink of an eye: A perspective on film editing*** Murch, W., 2001. . Silman-James Press. RRP £10.

***Studying Sound: A Theory and Practice of Sound Design*** Collins, K., 2020. . MIT Press. RRP £33.

These are not essential to buy for your studies, but you may find them helpful. All the books on the reading lists are available from the library both as physical and online digital copies.

## Equipment and costs

As I will have said to many of you that came to an open day or at the interviews, the only thing you need to bring for the start of Uni are clean clothes and a suitcase full of enthusiasm. That said below are some answers to some frequently asked questions. If you have any other questions, please feel free to drop me an email.

**Do you need a laptop / software?** The short answer is no. Although having access to your own laptop can be beneficial, it is not essential. You will have access to all the software needed in the studios, which are open from 08:30 until 22:00 Monday to Friday and then Saturday mornings. There are additional PCs in the library for any late-night word processing that you might need to do.

It is also worth noting that much of the software we will be using can be heavy / demanding on the computer's resources (Processor, RAM, Graphics card etc). And although some of the software is available for free with a student licence many of the applications are not free. Oh, and to add to this we work across mac and PC systems.

Once term starts, you will have access to and training on all the software we use. This will be from the ground up. However, if you have access to a PC or Mac and can download the trial versions it would be great to familiarise yourself with the interfaces etc. and have a play with the software over the summer.

In the first study block we will be exploring several software packages, the main ones to start being Autodesk Maya, Avid Media Composer and Avid Pro Tools. A quick internet search should bring up the relevant trial downloads.

**A Hard drive?** You will be given plenty of space on our PixStor and Nexus servers, as well as 1Tb of space on a cloud server (one-drive). All the studio PC, edit suites etc. have a super-fast connection to the servers which in turn have multiple failsafe backups unlike that USB stick with the only copy of your work on it...

**Would be nice to get:** Although we have a great stock of headphone in the stores that you can book out, your own set of decent quality headphones (not ear buds) would be useful – you'll need headphones for working in the studio. If you want to invest in your own set, ideally go for closed back headphones with a good frequency range, for example AKG, K72, K92, Sennheiser HD280 Pro or Beyerdynamic DT770 Pro.

### **Study trips and costs**

We look to run several trips to festivals each year, such as FMX (a large VFX festival) in Stuttgart in May. The cost of this trip is likely to be approximately £600. We also run a trip to London in February which cost about £250, we do encourage the 3<sup>rd</sup> years to attend but all years are welcome.

These trips are optional, and it is not necessary to attend them to progress through your studies. Where possible we also run trips to local southwest postproduction studios which have no additional costs attached. More info on all these trips will be shared with you once term has started.

### **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.