

**POST PRODUCTION & VISUAL EFFECTS WITH INTEGRATED FOUNDATION YEAR**

---

Dear [NAME]

Welcome to Post Production & Visual Effects with Integrated Foundation 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 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](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.

Kind regards,

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

**Julian Wright**

Course Leader, BA(Hons) Post-Production & Visual Effects  
School of Film & Television  
[Julian.wright@falmouth.ac.uk](mailto:Julian.wright@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](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

### 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.

## IFY - Pre-Course preparation

We would like you to keep a **Summer Journal** – this could take the form of a sketchbook of course but sketching isn't the only way you could develop a journal over the summer. You could buy a hardback journal, or re-purpose an old book or hand-make and stitch one together? You might consider sticking in newspaper cuttings, tickets, stickers, receipts, and other material to capture news and events. You could record visits to galleries or museums, draw from graphic novels, watch Film/TV shows, games, fashion, or explore other creative practices that inspires you. You might work on types of patterns, rubbing of textures, photographs, collages, imagine monsters and concept characters or explore bold *posca pen* designs? You might focus on a specific thing – drawings of people, typography, storyboarding, maps, costume, logos, observed locations, natural history or fantasy characters and places– **it's up to you.**

This is an opportunity to show us what you like to do and for you to capture your own creative interests and ideas and to then be able to share these with us when you arrive. We're look forward to seeing what makes you tick.

**Additional Note:** You might also consider starting a Creative *Instagram* feed or *tumblr* blog. It's also a good idea to perhaps start collecting creative inspiration on *pinterest* boards.

- You can see the IFY Instagram feed here as an example [@falmouthify](#)

## Suggested reading

We would recommend getting hold of a copy of:

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

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

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

These are not essential to your studies, but you may find them helpful.

## Equipment and costs

### Technology

A laptop will be an essential piece of equipment along with a reliable broadband connection (if you are living in University accommodation you will have this).

Advice in terms of spec is to get a machine with a good graphics card (for video editing/rendering), good processing speed, a minimum RAM of 16gb and SSD of 250gb at an absolute minimum.

You can use this website to research what you might need: [www.pcspecialist.co.uk/custom-laptops/](http://www.pcspecialist.co.uk/custom-laptops/). If you are a Mac person then the recommendation is for a Mac book Pro with a minimum of 256gb hard-disk space, 16gb of RAM with either the Multicore Intel processor with 64-bit support or the M1 Apple Silicon processor running on macOS Sierra (v 10.12) and later or Big Sur (Apple M1 silicon).

*Note: The following technical advice relates specifically to the three-year degree that you are progressing into on successful completion of your Integrated Foundation Year (IFY), so this is a chance to get ahead of the expectations and to begin to consider purchasing an appropriate tablet and related equipment also.*

You will be taught on/with the platform (Windows PC or Mac) most appropriate to industry standard. Some of the software delivered on the course may not run on a Mac platform, but you will be able to access this software on campus or via remote log in to the PC studios.

We support Wacom tablets (as our computers have the drivers for the Wacom range) and you will need to have your own when you arrive. You can expect to spend between £60-£300 depending on your budget, buy the best you can afford.

Suitable models:

Wacom Intuos, Cintiq, PL Tablet Drivers/Software - 6.3.33-3

Wacom Bamboo tablet drivers/software - 5.3.5

These support the following devices:

WacomMobileStudio Pro	DTH-W1320, W1620
Wacom Cintiq Pro	DTH-1320, 1620, DTK-2420 and DTH-2420
Wacom Cintiq 16	DTK-1660, 1661
Wacom Intuos Pro	PTH-460, 660, 860
One by Wacom	CTL-471, 472, 671, 672
Intuos	CTL and CTH-480, 490, 680, 690
Intuos 4	PTK-440, 640, 840, 1240, 540WL
Intuos 5	PTH and PTK-450, 650, 850
Intuos Pro	PTH-451, 651, 851
Wacom Intuos	CTL-4100, 4100WL, 6100, 6100WL
Cintiq 12WX	DTZ-1201W
Cintiq 13HD	DTK and DTH-1300
Cintiq 21UX 2	DTK-2100
Cintiq 22HD	DTK and DTH-2200
Cintiq 24HD	DTK and DTH-2400
Cintiq 27QHD	DTK and DTH-2700
Cintiq Companion	DTH-W1300
Cintiq Companion 2	DTH-W1310
Cintiq Companion Hybrid	DTH-A1300
WacomCintiq Pro Engine	DPM-W1000
ExpressKey Remote	EKR-100, DTU-1031, DTU-1031X, DTU-1141, DTU-1152 DTK-1651, DTK-2241, DTH-2242, DTK-2451, DTH-2452

Wacom Bamboo tablet drivers/software - 5.3.5

Bamboo Create, Capture, Connect, Splash, Bamboo CTL, Bamboo CTH, and One by Wacom

**What you'll need to get:**

- External hard drive (minimum 1TB) for backing up your own work.
- USB memory sticks (minimum 32 GB) as a temporary storage solution.

**Would be nice to get:**

Good quality headphones – you will need these for working in the studio and for your sound-based projects. Ideally closed back headphones with a good frequency range, for example AKG, K72, K92, Sennheiser HD280 Pro or Beyerdynamic DT770 Pro.

The price of equipment may vary, but you can expect to spend approximately £130 on these.