

**SOUND DESIGN BA(HONS) WITH PLACEMENT YEAR**

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**Welcome to BA(Hons) Sound Design 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 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,

**Dr Antti Sakari Saario**

Head of Music, Academy of Music & Theatre Arts

## 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

Induction week starts on Monday 18 September.

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.

## Equipment and costs

### Computer, Software and Audio Tools

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).

The AMATA recording studios have Mac computers equipped with a range of the major DAWs for audio production work. In addition, you will be able to use our mobile Mac laptop station with a range of professional audio and video software as well as a dedicated Mac Pro room.

However, a personal Mac or PC laptop capable of running professional DAW software (Ableton Live, Pro Tools, Reaper, Logic, FL Studio, Cubase etc) will be an essential piece of equipment. You will be provided with access to Ableton Live Suite in your first year, but you can use alternative software if you wish. When you arrive in Falmouth, we will provide you with a list of free audio software that you can download to use on your computer. Whilst you can book all essential audio equipment from our Technical store (e.g. audio interfaces, microphones, MIDI controllers, portable recorders), we recommend that you will bring any audio equipment that you have and are used to using in your own workflow.

### Backups

It is of paramount importance to keep copies of all your digital files. We recommend using two physical back-up drives with a large capacity and fast transfer speeds as well as the cloud storage available to you on OneDrive via Microsoft Office.

### Headphones

You can book headphones from AMATA's Technical Resource Stores, however a pair of good quality, open-back headphones are recommended for regular studio and production work. Prices vary but expect to pay upwards of £80-£100. If you are not sure what you need, search the Internet for 'studio monitor headphone review'.

### Ear protection

Your ears are the most important pieces of audio kit you will ever own! Looking after them is therefore top priority. Dispensers with free disposable foam earplugs are situated outside the practice and performance studios throughout the AMATA building, but it is also recommended that you purchase high quality earplugs - especially if you play in a loud group or attend gigs and/or clubs. ACS make regular educational visits to AMATA and often offer discounts. For details of their products please see [accustom.com/uk/products/hearing-protection](http://accustom.com/uk/products/hearing-protection).

### Notetaking

Whilst you can use your laptop for notetaking, we recommend that you will also acquire basic notetaking equipment such as a pen, notepad, and a journal. These will cost approximately £10.00.

### Instruments

All our practice studios are equipped with a piano and/or keyboard, amplifiers (including vocal PA) and a drum kit. Drummers should bring their own sticks, cymbals, and snare. Other instrumentalists must bring their own instrument with them, and budget for any expendables relating to your specific instrument such as strings, plectrums and leads.

**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.

**Highly Recommended - the 'Live @ AMATA Pass'**

The Academy of Music and Theatre Arts (AMATA) is a live performance venue offering a year-round programme of contemporary, cutting-edge, up-and-coming & high-quality performances for students to experience on their doorstep. For AMATA students in particular, access to live work is an essential part of your degree and the programme will feature artists and performances that relate directly to the AMATA courses of study.

We offer students the option to purchase a one year Live @ AMATA Pass which offers 5 tickets for performances in the 2023/2024 programme of professional work and costs £25.

You will be able to view the AMATA Programme at [amata.org.uk](http://amata.org.uk) from July 2023. However, the Live @ AMATA Pass is available now to book at [www.amata.org.uk/livepass](http://www.amata.org.uk/livepass)

For further information please contact the AMATA Box Office on +44(0)1326 259349 or email [boxoffice@falmouth.ac.uk](mailto:boxoffice@falmouth.ac.uk)