

SUSTAINABLE PRODUCT DESIGN BA(HONS) WITH PLACEMENT YEAR

Dear [NAME]

Welcome to Sustainable Product Design with Placement 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 list of equipment that you should bring with you, as well as any other costs that you might incur throughout your course.

We've also included some activities as pre-course preparation.

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 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

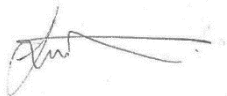
Over the summer, if you have any questions, you can join the Student Mentor team on Discord to talk about the course, living in Cornwall and what to expect at Falmouth. Our mentors are already studying on your course, so ask them anything you like. Find them at falmouth.ac.uk/experience/new-students/mentoring. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Andrews', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Simon Andrews

Course Leader, Sustainable Product Design
simon.andrews@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 at 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

2023-2024 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

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 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

Design project title

2050: A sustainable vision of the future

Context

You are joining a talented and diverse group of designers, makers and creative thinkers on the Sustainable Product Design course in Falmouth this September. You are about to embark on a journey into the future and are mentally and physically preparing to pack; selecting objects that are both useful in terms of function, but also objects with links to the past.

Objects are often embodied with, or develop, narrative through their lifetime, acting as vessels that communicate value systems, ideas and memories. Often, we assign meaning to objects, raising their importance and elevating them in status beyond many more expensive items we purchase.

As designers we are always imagining the future and creating new ideas that aim to make it better for people and planet. Imagination is a critical tool as a creative and this project will enable you to show us your ability to imagine and forecast a future world in 2050. In the search for a more sustainable world creating a vision through text, images and objects is crucial for helping people understand how we may transition from the present to a more sustainable future.

The Brief

Consider what a future world might look like in 2050. Have we managed to solve plastic waste? Is there enough food for all? Do we eat animals? How do we move around the globe? What materials do we use and how are objects made? Do we all live in megacities, or have we fled to Mars?

- Design and illustrate an A6-sized picture postcard from your vision of 2050. This vision should help communicate what environmental and social challenges will be faced.
- Design an object from this future world that responds to your vision of how life will change. Consider the function of your object in the broadest sense and develop a reason why it would be important. Use household materials, such as paper, card, and tape, to explore your concept three dimensionally. Have some fun and be imaginative.

Send your postcards to the following address, remembering to include your name, for delivery by Monday 11 September 2023:

FAO: Stage 1 Tutor
Sustainable Product Design
Falmouth University
Falmouth Campus
Cornwall
TR11 4RH

Please have all your work from this project ready to present during induction week. You will have the opportunity to discuss your designs with tutors and peers as part of an introduction workshop.

Aims

- To act as an introduction topic between you and your fellow students and tutors.
- To communicate your personal interests in design through creative thinking and making.

Presentation format

- A6 postcard, posted to the address above (it's a postcard so you don't need to put it in an envelope!).
- 3D exploration of your design (using paper, card, tape, recycled materials, found objects, etc).
- Sketchbook to document design process including:
 - Inspirational images and research.
 - Design development through a series of sketches.

This project should cost you no more than £10 to complete, and could be much less, depending on the materials you choose and how resourceful you are. Recycling and reuse are encouraged.

Materials and equipment list and costs

Product Design is a discipline that develops professional level vocational skillsets. In order to learn and refine these you will be required to purchase specialist equipment, digital tools and pay for access to networking and industry events. These expenses are not insignificant but will provide an excellent set of equipment and experiences that will support your three years of study with us, as well as your future career as a designer.

You may have many of the items listed already. Please refer to the information below and the equipment list before purchasing.

The materials and equipment list below is what we recommend as a starting point. Over your three years of study you will develop specific interests and you may require additional tools. We will provide you with the materials needed for workshop inductions. In some modules, you will need to purchase other materials for prototyping, but the technicians and tutors can advise on making this as cost effective as possible. A yearly materials budget of £50 to £100 is recommended. We have divided material and equipment items into essential and optional to help you manage the costs.

Personal protective equipment (PPE): Essential at start of course

Your safety is paramount, and you will need to buy compulsory PPE to use in our workshops. Please ensure the items you purchase match the specifications listed below; all items can be purchased from RS Components Ltd website:

- Safety glasses - Honeywell A800 Safety Glasses Anti-Mist, Clear or similar EN166-1F Polycarbonate Anti-Scratch safety glasses, approximately £4.67
- Face mask - 3M 4255 Half Mask Respirator, approximately £32.00
- Ear Defenders - RS Components RS Pro, 28dB Ear Defender and Headband or similar ANSI S3.19 NRR, CE, EN 352-1 ear defenders, approximately £6.44

Workshop equipment and drawing and model making kit: Essential at start of course

The following items can be purchased from the campus art shop:

- 5 metre metal tape measure, approximately £4.45
- Retractable craft/Stanley knife and blades, approximately £6.00
- A6 notebook and A3 sketchbook, approximately £14.49
- A3 layout pad, approximately £5.70
- 12" safety steel ruler, approximately £2.10
- A3 cutting mat, approximately £9.00
- Swann-Morton safety scalpel and 10A blades(4packs), approximately £7.55
- Graphite sketching and colour pencils, fineliner pens (0.3 mm, 0.5 mm, 0.7mm), Letraset Tria (or equivalent) marker pens (1x dark and 1x light cool grey), approximately £28.00
- 3M masking tape (25mm), approximately £1.55

Computing equipment – Essential at start of course

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 3D CAD software and digital design tools we teach are fundamental design skills that require daily practice as part of your design process. Most of the 3D software is native to PCs, however, Apple Macs do offer dual boot systems to enable this functionality. We recommend budgeting around £1000 - £1500 for a recommended laptop specification as follows:

- Operating System: Windows or Apple MacBook PRO (with dual boot Windows installed)
- Processor: Intel: 11th/12th gen Core i5, i7 or i9, or AMD: Ryzen 5,7 or 9 series
- RAM: 8GB Minimum, 16GB or higher recommended
- Graphics: Dedicated graphics cards with 2GB RAM. (either Nvidia RTX or AMD Radeon)
- Storage: 250GB - 1TB+ storage capacity
- Screen size: 13" or larger

We also recommend having laptop case/bag to carry and protect your laptop (approximately £15).

Please also note Chromebooks, iPads, MacBook Airs and tablets are not suitable hardware for CAD design software but can be used for note taking and digital sketching.

If you need to contact one of our staff before buying any equipment, please get in touch with our 3D CAD Senior Technician, John Peters: john.peters@falmouth.ac.uk

Software – Essential at start of course

Students on the course become proficient in the use of industry standard software including:

- Office 365, free through the University.
- Adobe Creative Cloud
- Autodesk Product Design Suite, including Fusion360 and Inventor, are provided free through educational license agreement using your Falmouth email.

Optional - Would be nice to have at start of course - Available at Falmouth/Penryn to loan subject to availability:

- A wireless or Bluetooth, 3-button computer mouse – approx. £15
- 128GB SD card for image storage– approx. £25

Reading list

Before you begin the course, we recommend that you browse the resources on the websites below. These provide a good introduction to some of the design and sustainability themes you will be exploring:

Watch Tim Brown's 'Design and the Circular Economy' video at:

<https://www.circulardesignguide.com/>

Read the 'Introduction to Circular Design' at:

<https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/introduction-to-circular-design/we-need-to-radically-rethink-how-we-design>

Watch the introduction to 'Human-centred design' and explore some of the methods, at:

<https://www.designkit.org/>

A resource list will be available for each module on the course. Digital scans are made available for all the set readings discussed during modules. The books below are nice to own but there is no obligation to buy them as they are all available in the university libraries once you have enrolled.

Recommended initial reading:

Chick, A. & Micklethwaite, P., 2011. *Design for sustainable change: How design and designers can drive the sustainability agenda*. AVA. (Used from £14.00)

EISSEN, Koos and Roselien STEUR. 2020. *Sketching: Drawing Techniques for Product Designers*. Amsterdam: BIS. (RRP £25.00 / used from £12.49)

McDonough, W. & Braungart, M., 2009. *Cradle to cradle. Remaking the way we make things*. Vintage. (RRP £9.99 / used from £2.18)

Thackara, J., 2015. *How to thrive in the next economy: designing tomorrow's world today*. Thames and Hudson. (Used from £3.37)

Study trips and costs

Study trips provide a key cultural and creative enrichment opportunity to your educational experience and provide tangible examples of design in a professional context. Visits are planned to national and European design events that are amongst the largest and most vibrant of their kind.

Essential - Local visits

Site visits to local organisations and companies will provide opportunities for real world learning, networking, and exposure to design employment and fabrication opportunities. Also, visits to local museums and culturally significant locations in Cornwall will provide a contextual understanding of the county and its significance in the industrial world. All transport costs for local field trips are covered by the course.

Optional – London trip

We usually run a trip to London during reading week (week 6) of study block 1, week commencing 30th October 2023. This is an opportunity to visit design consultancies, galleries and museums. An itinerary for the trip, scheduled over two days, is provided and staff meet students at agreed locations. Travel and accommodation are organised by students independently.

Optional – European trip

Each year we plan an optional study trip to a European city such as Milan, Stockholm or Amsterdam. These visits provide an excellent opportunity for students from all year groups to

immerse themselves in a vibrant design scene, great for networking, exploration and inspiration. This year, we are planning a study trip to Berlin during reading week (week 4) of Study Block 2, 12-16 February 2024.

The trip will cost approximately £650 and include coach transfers, flights to/from Berlin from UK, and 4 nights accommodation (hostel accommodation in shared rooms incl. breakfast). Additional costs are gallery entrance fees, local travel in Berlin, lunches & dinners. The full itinerary is currently being developed but will include visits to the Bauhaus Archive and the Werkbundarchiv – Museum of Things. We are also reaching out to design studios and sustainable design courses in the city to schedule some visits.

We will take a deposit of £400 in September, at the start of Study Block 1, to confirm your place on the trip. A final payment of approximately £250 will be due in January 2024.

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.