

FALMOUTH

UNIVERSITY

TELEVISION BA(HONS) WITH PLACEMENT YEAR

Dear [NAME]

Welcome to Television at Falmouth; we can't wait to meet you!

We're getting in touch with some important information about your course that will help you as you prepare to join us. We have a few small things for you to do in preparation for your arrival; read on and see the to-do list later in this letter.

You are now part of our vibrant, creative community here at the School of Film and Television (or 'SoFT' as we like to call it) within Falmouth University. You are joining over 800 like-minded students and staff studying in the school, and the wider community of creative arts students across Falmouth University.

The BA Television course team are experienced scholars and practitioners who are perfectly placed to guide and support you on your first steps towards academic success and industry employability. The path will be challenging, unexpected and often fun! You will be rewarded for your hard work, collaboration, and vision. We're really looking forward to working with you.

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. 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

We've got a small 'intro task' for you to complete to help you get to know some of your new cohort:

1. Join our 'Student Mentor Group' on discord: <https://discord.gg/n7eua3Mw> and follow the instructions to accept the rules to gain full access.
2. In the 'roles' channel click the TV icon to add yourself to the 'TELEVISION' category.
3. Expand TELEVISION to see the 'introductions' channel – this is where you'll post your response. You'll see the rest of these instructions there too.
4. Capture ONE screenshot from a television source of your choice (e.g. anything included, but not limited to, the 'watch' list below) that epitomises something that inspires you – go beyond the everyday and find something you consider exceptional.
4. Post your chosen image to the 'introductions' channel along with a sentence about you and a sentence about your chosen image.
5. Comment on two other posts (looks for ones without other comments) to start the conversation with your new cohort and Student Mentors

Complete this task as soon as you like to get started on your new adventure or at least by 10am Monday 4th September 2023.

Here's a handy to-do list:

- Watch TV (challenge yourself with a diverse and international range of content that's beyond your typical viewing habits)
- Follow us on Instagram - [@tvatfalmouth](https://www.instagram.com/tvatfalmouth) and [@softfalmouth](https://www.instagram.com/softfalmouth)
- Read things that inform and inspire you (see our reading list below for some suggestions)
- Join the [Student Mentor Group DISCORD](#) (handy for the intro task too)
- Complete the 'intro task' (by 10am on Monday 4th September 2023)
- Check your timetable to find out the details for your first day (from early September): falmouth.myday.cloud/
- Get essential items – laptop is the most important (see below for full details)

- Stock up on any of the goodies you might also need (smartphone/harddrive/outdoor clothing/books) – see the equipment and costs lists below for some suggestions
- Tell your friends and family when your holidays are so they can take you somewhere nice when you're NOT studying!
- Take a deep breath, get excited: it's really happening!

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 'Faye', with a stylized, cursive script.

Faye

Television Course Leader

faye@falmouth.ac.uk

<https://www.falmouth.ac.uk/television>

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

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.

Suggested watching/reading

It's important to maintain your work ethic and curiosity over the summer in order to be equipped to undertake the challenge of higher education study from September. Here are some ways you can do that.

Watch:

Watch plenty of television! Try different programmes, shows and content that you might not usually watch. Develop your opinion, you don't have to enjoy everything you watch to be learning a great deal. Think internationally! Have a look at television reviews and features in newspapers and online.

Within television we include:

- Drama (from one-offs to high-end series and soaps!)
- Documentaries
- Branded content and commercials
- Music videos
- Online content (vloggers, Youtube, corporate etc)
- Streaming and on-demand content (such as Netflix and Amazon)
- Sports TV
- Live and factual entertainment (including events like music festivals)
- And more...!

It's also good to connect with short form work as we'll be making short form content during your time with us. Try these two to get you started:

- www.filmsshort.com
- vimeo.com/channels/shortoftheweek

Read:

We highly recommend these texts as preparatory reading over the summer. They will help you to be best prepared for studying at university. Buying an e-book where available or 2nd hand can be more cost effective and it doesn't matter which edition you get.

Cottrell, Stella. 2019. *The Study Skills Handbook*. London: Palgrave. RRP £15.99

- Recommended by our academic skills team – this book covers everything from managing your time and taking notes to working with others and developing as an academic writer and critical thinker.

Tobin, Lucy. 2015. *A Guide to Uni Life*. Bath: Trotman. RRP £9.99

- This terrific book walks you your first day at University, through to managing your money, keeping healthy and making the transition to university life.

Phillips, Rachel. 2017. *Student Eats*. London: Ebury Press RRP £12.99

- Each year, we recommend a cookery book. Life at university is far more than just study – you've moved home, are living independently, and meeting hundreds of new people as committed to the cinematic arts as you are – life skills are important. We really like Rachel's approach to cheap, healthy ingredients – she's a recent graduate too, so speaks from experience.

The following texts will provide a useful framework for the first year of your studies, most are available in the Library, either in print or electronic form but you can purchase your own copy if you'd like to (again, 2nd hand or e-book will be cheaper and it doesn't matter which edition you buy).

Television Theory:

Bignell, J., 2012. *An introduction to television studies*. London: Routledge. RRP £25.19.

Documentary and Factual Television:

Lees, N., 2010. *Greenlit: developing factual/ reality TV ideas from concept to pitch*. London: Methuen. RRP £22.09.

Rabiger, M., 2015. *Directing The Documentary*. Burlington, MA : Focal Press. RRP £26.18

Writing:

Grace, Y. 2014 *Writing for Television Series, Serials & Soaps* London: Creative Essentials RRP £14.99

Drama:

Rabiger, M. 2013. *Directing : Film Techniques and Aesthetics*. Waltham, Mass. Focal Press. RRP £34.99

Craft:

Block, B. (2007). *The visual story : seeing the structure of film, TV, and new media*. Oxford [etc.]: Focal Press. RRP £21.99

Some other reading you can consider:

- Dig into current affairs – how can you connect your work with what's happening in the world?
- Read some scripts: www.simplyscripts.com
- Find out more about how the industry works: <https://www.screenskills.com/media/3233/tv-business-a2-web.pdf>
- Find out more about roles that might interest you: <http://guru.bafta.org/crafts>
- Read about some of the staff who will be teaching you: <https://www.falmouth.ac.uk/staff-profiles>
- Follow our social media: @TVatFalmouth and @SoftFalmouth

Equipment and costs

Laptop (essential)

There is excellent access to computers at Falmouth, both PC and Mac, but you will also need your own laptop and a reliable internet connection to access the digital platforms we will be using for online activities as well as your independent and group-based work.

You can expect to pay £200-£300 to purchase a basic one for email and word processing. Video editing requires high powered computing which for most will be best achieved using our industry standard editing computers.

Technology (optional)

Smartphone

Even the most basic smartphone with a working camera will be sufficient for you to experiment with expressing yourself and developing your narrative storytelling to supplement the use of the bookable resources.

Hard Drive

Hard drives can be borrowed from our Stores however it's often handy to have access to your own to store and backup your work. Reliability is critical so we would recommend brands such as G-Tech or Lacie with USB 3 connectivity and ideally a minimum disk speed of 7200rpm (approx. £100).

Outdoor Clothing (optional)

You will be expected to work in all sorts of locations and weather conditions. It is therefore highly recommended that you come fully prepared with the right sort of personal clothing to protect yourself from the elements and to meet risk assessment requirements. This will set you up well for industry work beyond graduation too.

This list is not exclusive, so please use it as a guide; you should be able to equip yourself for the outdoors for approximately £150 (some companies offer student discounts so be sure to check):

- Waterproof jacket
- Warm headgear
- Strong waterproof boots/shoes
- Gloves
- Waterproof trousers (working all day in wet jeans is particularly unpleasant!)
- Warm/thermal top (and bottoms for good measure!)
- Mobile phone for emergencies

Driving Licence

To get work in the television and film industry it can be a real asset to have a driving licence (even if you don't have a car). If you don't have your licence yet and this is something you would consider then make a plan now on how and when you might achieve it. You don't need to be able to drive for university, although it can be useful and it may open up more professional opportunities to apply for.

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.