

MARINE & NATURAL HISTORY PHOTOGRAPHY AT FALMOUTH

WELCOME TO BA(HONS) MARINE & NATURAL HISTORY PHOTOGRAPHY AT FALMOUTH.

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 using UCAS Track <https://track.ucas.com>

If you need to ask us anything about your offer, get in touch with our Admissions team on 01326 213730, use Live Chat on our website or email admissions@falmouth.ac.uk.

First week of term

Your first official day of attendance will be **Monday 18 September 2017**. Please report to the **Old Chapel Lecture Theatre, Penryn Campus** at **10am** for a welcome talk.

This is the week when you'll meet your course mates, course tutors and the university staff. There will be important inductions for both the course and the wider university, in addition to a number of social activities. You will also be given course outlines and timetables.

You can download a copy of the [Penryn Campus map](#) or the [Falmouth Campus map](#) from the Contact page of our website [here](#).

MyTimetable

<https://mytimetable.falmouth.ac.uk/> available from 14 September 2017

This is the link to MyTimetable, your online academic calendar which shows all scheduled learning activities and your course timetable. It will be available from 14 September 2017, however, timetables can be subject to change. To keep up to date, we recommend that you export the feed to your chosen device (mobile, tablet, laptop or desktop). An induction will be offered on the use of MyTimetable during Freshers 2017. Students have access to their individual student timetables, once they have completed their online enrolment and IT induction.

Pre-course preparation

Materials and equipment list and costs

Essential

You are required to have your own DSLR camera system and all the items listed below. If purchasing a new camera, consider getting Nikon or Canon as we mainly keep lenses and accessories for these systems. You will be able to borrow university equipment during term time and to support field trips. You may also be able to purchase second-hand items from current students.

During the first study block you will be working with digital imaging. **Please note the items marked in bold are items you will need in the first week of the course.**

- **Digital SLR camera** of reasonable quality **with manual over-ride** to any automatic settings. Nikon or Canon are recommended as they are compatible with University equipment (Approximately £500-£1,000).
- **CF and SD memory cards (High Speed) minimum 4Gb, but higher recommended** (Approximately £25).
- **USB card reader for the above** (Approximately £10).
- **USB external hard drive, minimum 250Gb recommended** (Approximately £50-£100).
- Lens hood and UV/Skylight filter for each of your lenses (Approximately £50).
- DSLR cable release for your camera model (Approximately £15).
- **Camera equipment holdall** – large enough for extra items you may wish to use/purchase during the course (Approximately £50-£100).
- **Sturdy tripod** (Approximately £100-£200).
- **16"x12" Print Box** for storing prints and submitting them for assessments (Approximately £20).
- **Academic Year Diary or equivalent electronic device** (Approximately £3).
- In addition, there will be a number of stationery items that you will need to purchase during the course such as notepads, A4 binders, pens and so on. (Approximately £20).

During the second study block of the first year you will be introduced to traditional film technologies. You are likely to use the following equipment, please bring it along if you have it. Much of this can be purchased second-hand from students when you are at Falmouth or from web-based outlets (anticipate spending about £50):

- Film SLR camera with, or without filters (bring one if you have it, but no need to go and buy one)
- Patterson's Universal developing tank to take 35mm and 120mm films
- Negative filing system binder (loose leaf type)
- 120 negative filing pages for above binder
- Magnifier – Linen tester or Lupe
- 12 inch cable release to fit an analogue camera (screw thread with lock)
- Pair of white cotton gloves
- Spotting brush - No1 sable
- Black print spotting medium or tube of black water colour or gouache

You may need to purchase additional items to suit your developing practice as you progress through the course. Tutors will give advice where needed to support the purchase of additional equipment.

Personal items

By the very nature of the course, you will be expected to work in all sorts of locations and weather conditions. It is therefore essential that you come fully prepared with the right sort of personal clothing to protect yourself from the elements and meet risk assessment requirements. 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:

- Anorak or weather/wind proof jacket
- Warm headgear
- Strong waterproof boots/shoes

- Wellington boots
- Gloves
- Waterproof trousers, as jeans are not always appropriate, particularly in wet weather
- Mobile phone for emergencies

Optional

Binoculars 8x30. These can be purchased in Falmouth from Associated Photography with prices ranging from £20-£150. The course has negotiated a discount of 20-30% depending on brand. You will need to show your student ID card (issued when you have enrolled and are on campus) but you should shop around for the best price.

One of the main features that brings students to Falmouth is access to the sea. Even though the climate is milder than most of the UK it is advisable to wear a wetsuit if you plan to be in the water for a prolonged period. Wetsuits and snorkelling kit can be hired for approximately £15, or purchased for between £20-£100.

Tuition fees (per year)

2017-18 full-time UK/EU: £9,250

2017-18 full-time International: £15,000

During your course

Materials and equipment list and costs

Essential

You are expected to provide most of the photographic materials yourself such as film, printing paper and so on. The actual cost will depend on the amount of work you do, and, of course, wastage. You are advised to allow approximately £350 for materials per year. This is important as you will be required to have your portfolio pictures professionally printed, as well as all essays and other written submissions professionally bound for assessment.

Study trips and costs

Essential

There will be a number of field trips during the course. Normally, two of these will be compulsory, others will be optional. There is no additional charge for any compulsory trip. There may however be a small cost required if you want to go to a location where an entrance fee is required.

Optional

For first year students we currently offer an optional field trip to Iceland (currently under review) on a 'first come first served' basis. For those wishing to go on this the approximate cost is £900.

In the second and third years, there are a number of optional field trips in the UK and abroad. The costs of these vary. For example, last year we ran trips to the Cairngorms (at approximately £600 per person) and a trip to the Galapagos Islands (at approximately £2,500 per person). Some students also participate in university-wide expeditions with science students from Exeter University.

It should be stressed that, whilst undoubtedly offering an excellent experience, these trips are not essential for successful completion of the course. A schedule of all field trips will be available when you arrive so you see your options over the three years.

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 an 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](#).

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 all of this can seem overwhelming and preparing for your course can involve a lot. So we're here to help. If you have any questions at all, just get in touch with Admissions on 01326 213730, use Live Chat on our website or email admissions@falmouth.ac.uk.

Finally, we wish you an enjoyable and creative time before the course starts and we're looking forward to welcoming you to Falmouth in September.

Yours sincerely

Dr Daro Montag

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The rest of this letter is only for those students who wish to pursue the underwater option:

Underwater photography element

Optional

You will be aware that underwater photography can form an **optional** part of the course; it is planned for this to start in March. If you wish to undertake this element of the course you are expected to arrive on 18 September **already qualified** to at least **PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) Advanced Open Water** or **BSAC (British Sub-Aqua Association) Sports diver** or equivalent and holding a valid UKSDMC medical. These qualifications are likely to cost between £600-£700. Please read the information below on diving qualifications and underwater photography.

Underwater guidance

This guidance has been produced for student reference and is intended to provide guidance on the prerequisites, content and costs of the taught underwater photography course offered to first year Marine & Natural History Photography students. A brief description of the prerequisites for the taught second year course and for conducting independent student projects is also provided.

First year underwater photography course

The first year underwater photography course will take place in Spring 2018 and provides an introduction to the theory and practice of underwater photography, through a combination of classroom and pool sessions and sea dives, using Panasonic GX cameras with Nauticam housings.

First year prerequisites

In order to take part in the first year underwater photography course students must have done the following by the start of the year:

- Be a certified diver to a minimum of PADI Advanced Open Water Diver or BSAC Sports Diver or CMAS 2 or equivalent.
- Have a valid UKSDMC certificate of fitness to dive. This is the medical form you will complete if you do BSAC training but is different from that issued by PADI. You can access this medical form at uksdmc.co.uk. Please note that you should check your medical status on this form before undertaking training from either organisation. A PADI medical certificate is not sufficient proof of fitness to dive for the purposes of university diving.
- Have conducted a dive in UK waters in the previous six months.

Dive training

You are strongly advised to commence your dive training now if you have not already done so. If you wish to undertake PADI training you can visit www.padi.com to identify your nearest PADI dive school. If you wish to undertake BSAC training you can visit www.bsac.com to find your nearest branch. Please note that BSAC training is often scheduled over a longer time period than PADI training and that both PADI and BSAC course completion is subject to delays in bad weather. Don't leave it to the last minute!

You can complete dive training when abroad, but diving in tropical waters does not readily compare to diving in UK waters, so you should ideally do some diving in the UK once qualified. There are local dive training providers here in Falmouth but remember that this option would require you to come to Cornwall ahead of the start of your academic year to complete your dive training and completion cannot be guaranteed if the weather is inclement.

Costs

There is a fee for taking part in the first year underwater photography course. The exact cost depends on the numbers taking part, but is likely to be in the region of £350. This fee includes the provision of:

- All classroom sessions.
- Tutor-supervised pool and sea dives.
- The use of cameras, underwater housings and strobes for all pool and sea dives.
- Hire of the pool for initial training sessions.
- The hire of diving equipment supplied by an external contractor for all pool and sea dives.
- The provision of safety divers and shore cover, supplied by an external diving contractor, for all pool and sea dives.

Personal diving equipment

Although the core diving equipment is supplied by an external diving contractor, students should acquire some basic diving equipment of their own:

- Timing devices are not normally supplied by the diving contractor. Priority should therefore be given to acquiring a timing device, either a dive computer or a dive watch. As a minimum, you should have a dive watch with a bezel, to be suitable for diving they should be depth rated to 200m. These can be bought for as cheaply as £20.
- Dive computers represent a greater initial investment (Suunto dive computers start at about £180) but provide more information about your dive and are an essential purchase if you are planning to go on diving holidays, conduct multiple dives over multiple days, or conduct boat dives.
- Students should acquire their own diving gloves as these are not supplied by the dive contractor. A thickness of 3mm provides some thermal protection while still allowing manual dexterity with the cameras. 5mm gloves will provide more thermal protection but create some loss of dexterity when handling the camera equipment. The approximate price for diving gloves is from £15 upwards.
- Students are also very strongly encouraged to acquire their own mask and hood and fins to ensure personal fit and comfort (estimated cost £30-£60).
- Suits are supplied by the diving contractor.

Personal camera equipment

Underwater camera systems are provided by Falmouth for students taking the underwater photography element of the course. However, students must supply batteries for strobes. You may wish to consider purchasing re-chargeable ones. The strobes function less well on conventional batteries so we recommend Sanyo Eneloop Pros plus the appropriate charger (approximate cost £30).

Missed sessions

The first year underwater photography course represents a succession of skills development through the classroom, pool and sea dives. It is therefore vitally important that students do not miss sessions. If illness or another legitimate reason prevents a student from attending a classroom, pool or sea session, the tutor must be informed as early as possible. Repeatedly missing classroom sessions or dives will lead to failure of the programme. There will be no refund for missed sessions.

Successful completion of the first year underwater photography course

If all elements of the first year underwater photography course are completed to the tutor's satisfaction, the student will receive a pass. Students who pass the first year course may then progress to the taught second year course if they wish to.

Independent student diving projects

At the end of the first year underwater photography course, students will also be assessed as to whether they are competent to use the underwater camera systems without tutor supervision.

In order to conduct **independent** student diving projects with the camera systems in the second and third years, PADI divers must have acquired the **PADI Rescue Diver qualification or equivalent** (approximate cost £300) produce a project plan and risk assessment and had their project plan and risk assessment approved by the Diving Safety Officer. They must also continue to be medically fit to dive. Tutor support will be available to help with the project plan and risk assessment process. More detailed briefs on the requirements and conduct of student diving projects will be supplied towards the end of the first year underwater photography course.

Second year underwater photography course

A taught second year underwater photography course will be offered to further develop your skills in handling the underwater camera systems using Nikon D7000 cameras with Nauticam housings (the cost of second year diving will be similar to the first year at around £350). You will try additional techniques and equipment to further develop your personal portfolio of underwater images. No additional dive training will be required to take part in the taught second year course, so a PADI Advanced Open Water certificate or BSAC Sports Diver or CMAS 2 or equivalent is the minimum requirement.

In addition to the second year taught course, a two-week underwater photography field trip abroad will provide a further opportunity to develop your underwater photography and build your portfolio. This trip usually occurs in December and is usually to the Red Sea, although this is subject to change for a number of reasons. The total cost of this trip usually runs at around £1500.

Both the second year taught course and the underwater photography field trip are entirely optional. However, you must attend the second year underwater photography taught course in order to join the two-week underwater photography field trip to the Red Sea.

Further enquiries

We hope you have found this student guidance helpful. If you have any further queries about underwater photography please email Gaynor Bennett M.A. MSc.,

gaynor.bennett@falmouth.ac.uk . Gaynor is our Senior Underwater Photography Tutor. She is also a qualified PADI Staff Instructor.