

# FALMOUTH

## UNIVERSITY

### ARCHITECTURE BA(HONS) WITH PLACEMENT YEAR

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Dear [NAME]

Welcome to Architecture 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](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.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tanya Griffiths', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tanya Griffiths

Course Leader for Architecture  
[tanya.griffiths@falmouth.ac.uk](mailto:tanya.griffiths@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

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

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

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). Windows is recommended, although a Mac can run Windows software through Boot Camp). It should have a minimum of 16GB RAM, a large 1TB plus hard drive and be light enough for you to carry. Buy as fast a processor as you can afford.

CPU 2.5 GHz or Higher.

Graphics Card with 4 GB of video memory.

We also suggest that you purchase a backup external hard drive.

### Computers to avoid

- Chromebooks, iPads and other tablet devices will not be able to run any of the software taught on the course (tablets are, however, a good secondary device for use in sketching, note-taking etc., but not essential).
- A laptop older than 3 years may not have the right specification to be able to run the software taught.

You will also need the following items for the start of the course:

- A4 sketchbook, approx. £5.
- 2B – 4B pencils, approx. £5.
- “Tervakoski” sketching paper roll, approx. £28 (will last you approximately one year).
- Architectural scale rule approx. £20.
- Outdoor (waterproof) clothing and footwear for field trips and visits.

We also suggest (but not essential in the first couple of weeks):

- Drawing tools: 0.5mm or 0.9mm automatic clutch pencil, approx. £7.
- A drafting set of pens (Pointliner Technical Drawing Fineliner or similar), approx. £9.
- Masking tape of varying widths. RRP £5.
- Swann Morton retractable safety scalpel and 10a or 11a blades (nothing else does the job), approx. £6.
- 300mm metal safety ruler (‘W’ section), approx. £10.
- 300mm adjustable set square, approx. £10.

Most of the above is available in the campus shop at Falmouth University, or easily found online. A sensible budget for the above items is approximately £1500, including the laptop and external drive.

There will be some ongoing expenses as the course progresses, particularly paper and other consumable materials, so budget for some expenditure each week. We suggest you allow £150 to purchase additional materials and equipment, if possible, over the year.

There will also be costs throughout the course in purchasing materials for making models. It would be sensible to allow approximately £300 per academic year for these types of materials.

## **Study trips and costs**

We aim to organise a study visit to a significant European location every year dependent upon pandemic and government restriction guidelines. We include visits to specific sites and locations relevant to your studies and take advantage of museums, galleries and other important cultural venues to widen our experience. The study trip is optional, and there will be alternative schedule of activities available for students who choose not to go on the European trip.

Study trips are normally for five days during study block 2, and those who are interested will be asked to pay a deposit in study block 1, typically in the region of £100 - £150. The total cost of trips varies from year to year but ranges from £400 to £450. We are unable to give an exact cost, however this is our target figure.

## **Field trips**

These are also local visits organised by the course team. In the first study block, field trips will be kept regional to enable you to engage with our environment and region.

## **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.

## Pre-course preparation

We recommend that you engage with the following material in preparation for joining the first year of your architecture course:

- Instagram – follow us if you haven't already on our account that is run by the students: @architecturefalmouth
- Subscribe to some of our favourite websites:
  - [www.archdaily.com](http://www.archdaily.com)
  - [www.dezeen.com/](http://www.dezeen.com/)
  - [Architecture news from the architects' favourite website - Building Design \(bdonline.co.uk\)](http://Architecture%20news%20from%20the%20architects'%20favourite%20website%20-%20Building%20Design%20(bdonline.co.uk))
- Read the essential books from our reading list (further detail below).

## Design Project 1

### Capturing Your Place

This is a pre-course project to help us all to get to know each other.

We invite you to interpret a space or place you are very familiar with from your home, hometown, city, or area. It could be a private room or a public space – as long as it is somewhere that means something to you.

You may use a variety of media: drawings, collage, paint, whichever you're comfortable with, to complete your interpretation. You might want to include a few key words or text (but no more than 20 words) as part of your visual interpretation.

### Presentation format

- One single A4 collage, drawing, or mixed-media piece.

### Aims

- To act as an introduction topic between you and your fellow students and tutors.
- To start a conversation about representation techniques.

Please bring the above on your first day to the Architecture Studios during induction week where you will have the opportunity to discuss this piece with tutors and peers as part of an introduction workshop....and your first studio discussion of your architecture studies!

## Suggested reading

The following books will start to inform your learning with us, so you might want to get a head start by looking at them (they are not essential to purchase, and they will be available in our library):

- UNWIN, S., 2020. *Analysing Architecture: The universal language of place-making*. Taylor Francis.

- GEHL J., 2011. *Life Between Buildings: Using public space*. Island Press.
- TILL, J., 2009. *Architecture Depends*. MIT Press.
- UNWIN, Simon. 2015. *Twenty-Five Buildings Every Architect Should Understand*. 2nd ed. New York, N.Y: Routledge.
- PELSMAKERS, Sofie, NEWMAN, Nick. 2021. *Design Studio. Volume 1. Everything Needs to Change : Architecture and the Climate Emergency*. Edited by Sofie Pelsmakers and Nick Newman. London: RIBA Publishing.