

Get ready for BA(Hons) Interior Design

I hope that you are looking forward to starting at UWE Bristol. As your Programme Leader, I warmly welcome you onto **BA(Hons) Interior Design**.

I have provided some information below that will help you to prepare for starting with us.

I look forward to meeting you.

Ed Harty
Programme Leader



Before you start

We are looking forward to welcoming you in the week commencing 15 September for Starting Block and the beginning of your programme.

Starting Block will help you settle into university and to help you get to know your teaching team and course mates. We will help you find your way around, get used to our systems, and practice the skills you need to make a strong start. Look out for further emails and explore the [Starting Block website](#) with more details.

Your [timetable](#) will be available to you via MYUWE (login required) once you have started the registration process. Please visit the '[Understanding your teaching timetable](#)' website to find out when your timetable will be published.

Preparing and arrival

You can find everything you need to know about registration, Starting Block and the start of teaching, on our [Preparing and Arrival](#) webpage. Take a look at our website to familiarise yourself with our facilities and services such as the [library](#), [study skills](#), [academic support](#), [health and wellbeing support](#) and much more.

Registration

Once you have satisfied all admissions requirements, we'll send you your login details for our IT systems to enable you to activate your university email account. Once your account has been activated, you'll gain access to the [MYUWE](#) platform where you can register. Note that your login details for MYUWE are different to those used for the UWE Welcome website. Registration for September programmes will only be open from August onwards. You can find guidance and further information on our [Registration](#) website.

ID card - upload your photo now

We can only print your ID card if you have added your photo to [MYUWE](#). To avoid delays, upload your photo as soon as you receive login details. For help, go to our [student card guidance](#).

Engage with your programme

Start your learning

Have a go at these activities to start preparing for your programme and induction:

Activity 1: Draw

To succeed in any visual discipline and more importantly to *enjoy it*, you will want to feel at ease when drawing. So draw constantly to develop your range of drawing skills and find out what works for you. Sketch the buildings you see & draw the interiors you experience (even if they are all in your home!). Draw the people you observe from a distance, draw out your design ideas, draw more...

If you're unsure as to how to get started or want to brush up on your skills, check out these online videos:

LinkedIn Learning (free 1 month trial available):

- [Drawing Foundations: Urban Sketching](#)
- [Drawing 2-point perspective](#)

Follow and view the following You Tube channels:

- [Alphonso Dunn](#)
[Urban Sketching Series](#)
- [Themodmin](#)
[1,2and3-Point Perspective For Architectural Sketches](#)
- [Circle Line Art School](#)
[How to Draw a Room Interior using 2-Point Perspective](#)
- [School of Sketching](#)

Activity 2: Compute

After drawing skills, your computer skills are perhaps those that will make you feel most at ease in the design world. If you have access to a computer and the internet, have a go at developing your CAD skills by experimenting with [SketchUp for FREE](#)

[Take a SketchUp course on YouTube](#), teach someone what *you* know, make up an imaginary space for a friend... You'll be surprised what a difference it can make.

Activity 3: Visit

A gallery visit or a stroll around the city will inform your work in similar and different ways to reading. It's an opportunity to both experience different spaces and interiors;

and to see a variety of inspiring exhibits. Bristol's wealth of world class galleries includes Spike Island, The Arnolfini and the newly refurbished [Royal Academy of the West of England](#).

Also, if you're already based in the city, why not take a walking tour to check out the work of the city's very own notorious street artist, [Banksy](#).

Read around your subject

A key skill which is required to achieve a high level of success within your chosen programme is the ability to think critically about key issues and practices. To help you to enhance these skills and be ready to engage with your studies, you should start to read and research around your subject before you arrive. Explore the [Library](#) web pages to see the wide range of resources available to you once you become a UWE Bristol student.

To succeed within your chosen programme, you will need to think critically about key issues and practices. Here are some books and resources to help you to understand the scope of your programme. Some are freely available online and others will make a good investment when your student loan comes through or if anyone asks you what you'd like for your next birthday.

These would be good ones to get on your bookshelf - to give you a bit of *creative inspiration*:

- *Key Interiors Since 1900*, by G Brooker
- *Creating Interior Atmosphere*, by J Whitehead
- *Drawing for Interior Design*, by D Plunkett

... and to help with the *technical stuff*:

- *Interior Design Illustrated*, by F Ching
- *Architectural Graphics*, by F Ching
- *Architecture Form, Space and Order*, by F Ching

This one is **available free** online:

- [Kissing Architecture](#) by S Lavin

Preparatory reading for Visual Culture module

Each year, as part of your programme of study, you will be taking a Visual Culture module. These modules will introduce you to key contexts, concepts and debates that are relevant to all art and design practices. Visual Culture sessions will develop your critical thinking, research and communication skills, all of which will feed your studio work and all of which are fundamental to you becoming a successful creative practitioner.

Hooks, Bell (2010) 'Teaching 1: Critical Thinking', *Teaching Critical Thinking: Practical Wisdom*, Oxon: Routledge, pp. 7-11. Available [here](#)

The full module reading list is available [here](#)

Connect with others

Check out the successes of our students, past and present, online:

<https://showcase.uwe.ac.uk/interior-design/>

[Follow uweinteriordesign on Instagram](#)

Be prepared

Access support

Check the information on our [Disability web pages](#) so you know what you need to do. If you need any urgent additional mobility or other support to fully access all activities during your studies, contact me as your programme leader.

Get equipped

The University has computers on all our campuses for you to use during your studies. These provide access to our core digital learning tools and any specialist software required for your course. You may have scheduled sessions in computer labs or other specialist facilities, and you will be able to use open-access PCs for self-study.

You will benefit from a laptop, particularly if your access to on-campus facilities is limited. UWE Bristol licenses many specialist software packages for use on personal laptops for the duration of your course. If you're struggling to meet the financial demands of your course, please contact the [Student Money Service](#) team for advice and guidance.

See the UWE website for detailed information on [choosing your IT equipment](#) including [recommended specifications](#).

For this programme we recommend the **Intensive Specification**.

The core software used in your course includes: Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator, AutoCAD, & SketchUp.

These packages will run on Windows and Mac devices but not on tablets or Chromebooks. We recommend that you have access to a device with the following minimum specifications:

- i7 or Ryzen 3 processor
- 16GB memory
- 512GB solid state storage
- Most computer teaching on the course is delivered on PCs.
- It is often most cost effective to buy a PC laptop rather than a Mac if you don't already have a laptop.

Note that for all of this software you will need to use a mouse (or tablet with stylus).

Art and design equipment

You will learn many new techniques on the course and it would be good for you to acquire some basic art and design equipment which will help you complete various tasks in your learning journey. We have a great art shop on campus, but you may wish to bring some of your supplies from home.

We recommend that you start the year with the following equipment and supplies:

- Set of good drawing pencils & sharpener, including H-grade (e.g. H, 2H etc).
- White eraser
- Architectural scale rule (with scales 1:50, 1:100, 1:200, 1:1250, 1:2500). Hard wearing metal ones are best.
- Metal rule
- Craft Knife or Scalpel with spare blades
- Tracing paper or Layout/Detail Paper – a roll or A4 pad will suffice
- Fine line drawing pens of varying line thicknesses (between 0.05mm-0.8mm).
- A good sketchbook (A4 or A3)
- A3 Portfolio or drawing tube to store and transport your work
- Set of squares 20/25cm long
- Protractor
- Pen/pencil compass

As you develop your practice, the equipment you chose to use may change according to preference, but you will be expected to experiment with unfamiliar media and techniques.

You're advised to ensure you have funds to buy materials that you need. There's a variety of affordable art supplies available in the campus [art store](#) at Bower Ashton and also at the following stores:

- Cass-Art on Park Street
- Stationery Office, also on Park Street
- GraphicsDirect (Online and reasonably priced)
- Art @ Bristol, Gloucester Road
- Hobbycraft (Cribbs Causeway)
- Craft & More (Nelson St, Broadmead)
- The Works (Horsefair, Broadmead)

International students

[The Global Student Support Team](#) offer information and advice to ensure you receive all the support you need to get the best from your time at UWE Bristol. They are here to help you to settle in when you first arrive at UWE Bristol and organise social events to help you to adapt to your new environment.

Who to contact if you have questions

For any questions about the course, please contact your Programme Leader **Ed Harty** via email at ed.harty@uwe.ac.uk

Please note: this information has been provided on the assumption that you will meet the conditions of your offer and be eligible to take up your place.

Entry: September 2025

Last updated: Spring 2025