



# Get ready for BSc(Hons) Biological Sciences (with Foundation Year)

I hope that you are enjoying your summer and are looking forward to starting at UWE Bristol. As your Foundation Year Co-ordinator, I warmly welcome you onto the BSc(Hons) Biological Sciences (with Foundation Year) programme.

I have provided some information below that will help you to prepare for starting with us and you can find out a little more about starting the course [here](#).

I look forward to meeting you.

**Dr Shona Nelson**

Programme Leader for Biological Sciences

**Kathy Fawcett**

Foundation Year Co-ordinator

---

## 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 practise 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**

You will find a suite of information, learning, and activities designed to help prepare you for your studies at UWE in the School of Applied Sciences [here](#).

### **Read around your subject**

We suggest that you don't buy textbooks before you start, as we will give you full reading lists when you start your course. The first weeks of the course will start by introducing you to: electron structure and types of bond; maths for scientists; the nature of scientific investigation; a tour of the cell and the difference between prokaryotes and eukaryotes. If you want to get ahead for when you start, feel free to brush up on these topics, but don't worry if you can't as you'll learn all you need to know about these when you start with us.

## **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 **Enhanced Specification** running a Windows based operating system.

The core software used in your course includes UWE's core digital education systems (Blackboard, Collaborate, Panopto, Microsoft 365 (formerly Office 365), PebblePad) but may

include specialist software depending on your module choices.

### **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 the Programme Leaders:

**Kathy Fawcett** (Foundation Year Co-ordinator) via email at [Kathy.Fawcett@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:Kathy.Fawcett@uwe.ac.uk)

**Shona Nelson** (Biological Sciences Programme Leader) via email at

[shona.nelson@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:shona.nelson@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