Get ready for BSc(Hons) Forensic Science

I hope that you are enjoying your summer and are looking forward to starting at UWE Bristol. As your Programme Leader, I warmly welcome you onto the BSc (Hons) Forensic Science course.

I have provided some information below that will help you to prepare for starting with us. The team and I are really looking forward to meeting you!

Louise Mclachlan
Programme Leader for Forensic Science

Before you start

We are looking forward to welcoming you in the week commencing 14th September for Starting Block and the beginning of your programme.

Starting Block will help you settle into university and 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 for more details.

Your timetable will be available to you via MYUWE (login required) once you have started the enrolment 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 enrolment, 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.

Enrolment
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 enrol. Note that your login details for MYUWE are different to those used for the UWE Welcome website. Enrolment for September programmes will only be open from August onwards. You can find

guidance and further information on our Enrolment 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

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.

As a member of the University, you will have free access to a huge range of library resources, including key scientific journals and textbooks. We do recommend that you purchase a copy of *Crime Scene to Court: The Essentials of Forensic Science* Edited by Peter White (4th edition), which you will use throughout your degree. Starting to read this before you arrive, will give you a good idea of what forensic science is and the sorts of topics you can expect to learn about.

Connect with others
I am very happy to answer any queries that you have about the course. You will also have a Personal Science Tutor as soon as you join us who can help with pastoral and academic queries. We are a very friendly academic team, ably supported by our fantastic laboratory technicians.

You might like to follow uwe_forensic_lab on Instagram to see what we get up to!

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. Please note that if you are entitled to reasonable adjustments at your current education provider, such as extra time in exams, this will not automatically follow you to university and you will need to contact Disability Services to continue receiving this support at UWE.

Get equipped
The University provides computers on all our campuses for you to use in your studies. These

computers will provide access to our core digital education 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.

Many students will benefit from access to a laptop, particularly if your access to campus is limited. The University licenses many specialist software packages for use on personal laptops for the duration of your course.

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

For this programme we recommend that you have access to a Windows based system that meets the **Core Specification**.

See our website for details on the Core Specification and more information on choosing your IT equipment.

PLEASE NOTE: The course contains a lot of laboratory practical work. A laboratory coat and safety spectacles will be provided for you and so you are not required to purchase these. You will, however, want to purchase a **personal lab book** to record notes of your practical activities when core forensic documentation is not being used. This lab book should have a hard cover and enable contemporaneous notetaking. This means that the book should be bound to prevent easy removal of any pages. A spiral bound or perforated notebook would not be suitable. You will also require a **USB drive/memory stick**, to enable you to take your instrument results away with you.

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

The Forensic Science team look forward to meeting you. For any questions about the course, please contact me: **Louise Mclachlan** via email at Louise.Mclachlan@uwe.ac.uk

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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 2026 Last updated: Spring 2026