Get ready for MSc Forensic Science

I hope that you are enjoying some down time and are looking forward to starting at UWE Bristol. As your Programme Leader, I warmly welcome you onto the MSc Forensic Sciencecourse.

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

Helen Green
Programme Leader

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 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

Preparation for postgraduate study
Students returning to study, transitioning from an undergraduate course, or studying in the UK for the first time, may find the following books helpful. Copies are also available in the Library when you arrive in September.

- Becker, L. (2004) How to Manage your Postgraduate Course. Palgrave Macmillan: Basingstoke.
- Foskett, N. and Foskett, R. (2006) Postgraduate Study in the UK: The International Student's Guide. Sage: London.

An electronic copy of these books will be available via the UWE library when you receive your UWE log in.

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.

Here are some of our recommended titles for you to read, to be inspired by and to understand the scope of your degree programme:

- *Crime Scene to Court* (Peter White –2016)
- *Forensic Science* (Jackson and Jackson- 2016)

These books are available via the library, both online and as hard copy.

As a member of the University, you can expect 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. Please obtain the 4th edition, which you can expect to 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.

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 course contains a lot of laboratory practical work; you will be provided with a laboratory coat, so you do not need to purchase one, you will also be provided with a Crime Scene Suit for when you have crime scene practical classes.

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.

UWE Bristol licenses many specialist software packages for use on personal laptops for the duration of your course. We **do not** recommend iPad or Apple MacBook's as these are not compatible with the software packages we use. 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 Core Specification**.

The core software used in your course includes UWE's core digital education systems. This includes our virtual teaching and learning system Blackboard; Panopto (which we use to share lecture recordings) and Microsoft 365 (formerly Office 365). There is also lightweight use of specialist applications such as Minitab (for statistical analysis).

These applications work on **Windows** devices only but **not** on MacBooks, tablets or Chromebooks. UWE's core digital systems run best through Google Chrome on a desktop or laptop. ACD software and Minitab will not run on a Mac, without installing the Windows operating system, but it is possible for you to undertake assessments using this software on a UWE machine on-campus if you prefer to use a Mac as your personal laptop.

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 in September. For any questions about the course, please contact me: **Helen Green** via email at Helen4.Green@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