Getting ready to study for BSc (Hons) Environmental Science

I hope that you're enjoying your summer and are looking forward to starting with us at UWE Bristol! As your Programme Leader, I wanted to warmly welcome you onto our BSc (Hons) Environmental Science programme and to UWE Bristol.

I've provided some information below that I hope will help you to prepare for starting your studies with us. If you have any questions about the programme please feel free to contact me via email. I'm really looking forward to joining our programme and meeting you in September!

Dr Kishwar Ali
Programme Leader
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Before you start

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

Starting Block has been designed to help you settle into university and help you get to know your teaching team, as well as your course mates. We'll help you find your way around campus, get used to our online systems, and start learning the skills you need to make a strong start to your studies. We'll also get you set up for starting field and lab work. Look out for further emails and explore the Starting Block website for more details.

Your teaching 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

Start your learning

I would recommend trying to do the following before you join us at UWE in September:

1. Reflect on what you want to achieve during your time with us at UWE.
   - What you want from the course (personally, socially, academically, professionally)?
   - The types of work experience, skills and networking you could gain during your degree to help in your future career?
   - What you want to have achieved when you get to graduation?

2. Engage in the latest news and scientific developments in the fields linked with environmental sciences (e.g. climate change, soil degradation, marine pollution, microplastics, biodiversity and habitat loss, air quality, sustainability, river pollution). You can do this through news websites, podcasts, YouTube or popular science books. Try to get a feel for the current challenges facing the environment, but also the fantastic and innovative solutions being developed!

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 solutions. To help you to develop and enhance these skills to 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.

We suggest that you do not buy textbooks before you start, as we will give you full reading lists for each module when you start your course. The majority of the main course texts will also be available as eBooks so you will not need to purchase all recommended texts. However, if you would like to do some general background reading over the summer the following book recommendations may be of interest:

- Climate Change – *Our Final Warning: Six Degrees of climate emergency* by Mark Lynas
- Energy - Sustainable Energy–without the hot air by Dave MacKay
- Ecology – *Wilding* by Isabella Tree
- Atmospheric Science – *Ozone Crisis* by Sharon Roan
- Sustainable Food – *Dirt to Soil* by Gabe Brown

Or if you prefer listening check out the following podcasts:

- BBC R4 – Costing the Earth
- Mongabay - Newscast
- Fully Charged - Podcast
- For What It's Earth - Podcast

Connect with others

Check out the following social media and links to groups that a number of our students are active members of:

- UWE Environment and Conservation LinkedIn group
- UWE green team and the student sustainability committee
- UWE School of Applied Sciences (@uwesoas.bsky.social) on Bluesky

Be prepared

Access support

We welcome all disabled students at UWE, find out more about what support is available for students from UWE on our Disability web pages. 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.

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 help choosing your IT equipment including recommended specifications.

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

Specialist applications used on the course include; ArcGIS Pro, R and R Studio. These applications work best on **Windows** and can usually be adapted to work with **Mac** devices but will not work on tablets or Chromebooks.

Specific equipment for your course

Every year we plan a residential field course to Dartmoor National Park at the start of the autumn term around October. This is a fantastic way to get to know us and your course

mates, as well as starting to develop some useful skills that you'll continue to develop throughout your course. We would recommend the following equipment as a minimum to ensure you can participate and enjoy the field course:

- A fully waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Waterproof walking boots with warm walking socks
- Hat, gloves and scarf
- A small rucksack for carrying your things in the field (large enough for your packed lunch, a drink, notebook etc.
- A hard cover A5-size notebook and pencils for taking notes in the field

First year Environmental Science students and staff in Dartmoor National Park on their first residential field course.

International students

For 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're 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 or concerns about the course, please contact me, I'd be happy to hear from you.

Dr Kishwar Ali via email at kishwar.ali@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 2026 Last updated: Spring 2026