

# Get ready for MSc Environmental Consultancy

Welcome to the MSc Environmental Consultancy course here at UWE! I hope you are looking forward to starting your postgraduate studies. We've put together this brief introduction to help you prepare so that you're ready to get going as soon as you arrive. I'm really looking forward to meeting you in September.

**Dr Ben Williams**  
Programme Leader



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## 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.

If you are joining us as an international student, [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. To find out more about applying for visas, please read our [Visas and Immigration Pages](#) for support.

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.

You can also explore our support for careers and enterprise. [UWE Careers & Enterprise](#) provide a range of workshops, appointments and a huge range of online resources to support students in realising their future ambitions. The [Careers Toolkit](#) is our online portal to finding vacancies, booking onto events and accessing a range of resources.

## **Accommodation Guarantee**

We [guarantee accommodation](#) for all postgraduate home and international students registering at UWE, Bristol for the first time in September 2025 and who submit their accommodation preferences by Tuesday, 1 July, 2025.

## **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**

Masters level learning requires high levels of independent learning, organisation and motivation to succeed. You shouldn't underestimate the value of creating time and space for your study, both mentally and physically. It's important that you start out with the right mindset – you are about to embark on a course that is an investment in your future – it's up to you to make the most of this opportunity.

### **Read around your subject**

To help get you started, visit the programme's [online reading list](#) which gives you some of our recommended open access titles, to be inspired by and to understand the scope of your degree programme.

You should also keep up-to-date with environmental stories in the media so you are aware of the latest issues in this rapidly evolving field. Try to make sure you use a range of sources to give you different perspectives on the same stories.

### **Engage with professional bodies**

The MSc Environmental Consultancy course is triple-accredited by the following professional bodies: Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management ([CIWEM](#)), Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment ([IEMA](#)) and The Institute of Environmental Studies ([IES](#)). This means that you will be able to get full student membership for free once you start the course, entitling you to members-only resources and events. In the meantime, you should check out the resources that you can access now and explore some of the potential careers in this sector.

It will be incredibly useful if you can identify organisations that you would like to apply to do your placement with, although we don't recommend contacting them before the module starts.

## Make your module choices

In addition to your core modules, in induction period you will also be required to **select two** of the following four option modules:

- **Renewable Energy and Carbon Futures** explores a range of renewable and sustainable technologies, and the energy policy debates that underpin the rationale for their adoption. The module will investigate the different opportunities and challenges impacting the low-carbon energy transition. Considerations of carbon will form a central factor in these debates.
- **Introduction to Applied GIS** introduces fundamental concepts related to GIS and its application, and develops the basic practical skills that can be extended across the rest of the programme. The module covers the history of GIS, issues about GIS and society, an introduction to spatial data formats and a technical introduction to ArcGIS.
- **Water Management and the Law** will introduce you to a range of topics relating to water management in a challenging future, including governing legal frameworks. The module considers the major political, economic, and regulatory and policy issues facing water managers in two broadly conceived world regions: the Western capitalist world and the so-called "developing world". The module will include a series of lectures addressing these topics as well as invitations to attend relevant external events and presentations by visitors to the university.
- **Air Quality Management** covers an introduction to concepts of air quality management from UK and European policy perspectives that can be applied in elsewhere in the world. It focuses on pollutants of concern, their sources and health effects, ways of monitoring and modelling air pollution, the role of the planning system in managing the impacts of new development, and mitigation strategies and measures to reduce air pollution.

Details of when these modules will be scheduled will be available later in the year.

## Connect with others

You are encouraged to attend [Future Leap](#) and [Bristol Climate and Nature Partnership events](#) especially the monthly 'Green Mingles' to network and get to know others in the field.

You should also make sure you have a [LinkedIn](#) profile to increase your public profile and discover other opportunities. If you have an account, you can connect with your lecturers and colleagues and look out for the '[UWE - MSc Environmental Consultancy](#)' group, which you can request to be added to once you join us in September, to connect with past and present students on the programme.

## Student reps

In Starting Block we will be looking for one or two students who are prepared to volunteer as Student Reps for the programme. This is a great opportunity to gain leadership experience that will impress future employers. Find out more about the role here: [Student Reps \(thestudentsunion.co.uk\)](#). Talking to Student reps is an important way that students can feedback to us about any problems or concerns.

## 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.

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 webpage for detailed information on [choosing your IT equipment](#) including [recommended specifications](#).

For this programme we recommend the **Intensive Specification, as running the ArcGIS software will require sufficient RAM**. ESRI's full list of system requirements to run ArcGIS Pro 3.2 can be found here:

The core software used in your course includes:

- MS Office Applications (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Outlook, Teams)\*
- Minitab / Other Statistical Software
- ArcGIS Pro

These packages will run on Windows devices, but not on Macs, tablets or Chromebooks.

\*You should make sure you are proficient in the MS Office Applications, especially Word, Excel and Outlook, before attending UWE. It is vitally important that you use your UWE Student email account during your studies and check it regularly.

You will benefit from having a USB3.0 stick with at least 16GB of memory. If purchasing a laptop which has a trackpad, you might also wish to consider purchasing an external mouse to make some software easier to use.

### Know the key dates

You will find the [term dates](#) here. Please note that postgraduate study continues through the Summer term until September.

Please note that attendance is very important and if you are not able to attend particular sessions we ask that you let us know in advance. You are also required to be available during **all** teaching and assessment and resit periods.

**Full-time students:** You should expect to attend lectures 2-3 days a week in the Autumn Term. In the spring and summer terms, you will focus on your placement and dissertation (Masters Project).

**Part-time students:** You should expect to attend lectures 1-2 days a week in the Autumn

Terms (Year 1 and 2). In the spring and summer terms, you will focus on your placement (Year 1), and your dissertation (Masters Project) (Year 2).

In addition, there will be key dates specifically for your programme which may not appear in your timetable but will be advertised in advance. Please ensure you are available for these dates as well.

### **Language/Skills expectations**

A high standard of English is required for this programme as you will be required to understand and write about technical subjects, and to interact with external organisations in a professional manner. Make use of the Reading List (link above) to familiarise yourself with technical terms and the standard and style required.

Modules within this Programme also use Excel. If you are not familiar with Excel, it would be useful to undertake some basic training. As an UWE Bristol student you will have access to LinkedIn Learning where you will be able to enhance your Excel skills.

### **Who to contact if you have questions**

For any questions about the programme, please contact me, **Ben Williams**, via email at [Ben3.williams@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:Ben3.williams@uwe.ac.uk). I will be happy to put you in touch with module leaders if you have questions about any of the topics covered in the programme.

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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 2025

Last updated: Spring 2025