

Get ready for BSc(Hons) Environmental Science (with Foundation Year)

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

We have provided some information below that will help you to prepare for starting with us and look forward to meeting you in September.

Kathy Fawcett

Foundation Year Programme Leader

Stephanie Sargeant

Environmental Science Programme Leader

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 cards- 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 you do the following before you start at UWE:

1. Reflect on what you want to achieve during your time at UWE.
 - What you want from the course (personally, socially, academically)?
 - 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 upon graduation?
2. Engage in the latest news and scientific developments in the fields linked with environmental science (e.g. Climate change, Soil degradation, Marine pollution, Microplastics, Biodiversity and Habitat loss, Air Quality, Sustainability).

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.

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](#)

Connect with others

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

- UWE Applied Sciences ([@UWE_DAS_](#)) on Twitter
- [UWE green team](#) and the student sustainability committee.
- [UWE Environment and Conservation](#) Facebook group

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 website for detailed information on [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.

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 Programme Leader) via email at
Kathy.fawcett@uwe.ac.uk

Stephanie Sargeant (Environmental Science Programme Leader) via email at
stephanie.sargeant@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