Get ready for BSc (Hons) Environment and Sustainability

We hope that you are enjoying your summer holiday and are looking forward to starting at UWE Bristol. As your Programme Leaders, we warmly welcome you onto your BSc (Hons) Environment and Sustainability degree programme. We have provided some information below that will help you to prepare for starting with us.

Our programme, which is ranked fifth in the UK for this subject (Guardian League Tables, 2026), has achieved accreditation with both the Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP) and the Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM); both of which are leading professional record standards bodies. The benefits of this are huge! You will have the opportunity to become student members of these institutions when you join us in September, giving you access to expert and up-to-date knowledge of the industries. You can also take part in events and build networks connecting you to the professions that you may be interested in as your studies develop, and you progress through the course.

Creating a strong student group with a clear identity and shared purpose is an important part of your experience on our programme. Every year the new students define a set of values to guide their experience while studying. As an example, here are the values that current students developed in their first few weeks:

- Show care and passion for the Earth
- Respect each other and allow all opinions and questions
- Encourage sustainable lifestyles and futures
- Apply learning and influence others
- Access and provers help and support to others
- Be engaged and prepared for learning
- Get involved with opportunities outside the classroom

We look forward to meeting you in the autumn.

Dr Sara Williams and Dr Rosamund Portus
Programme Leaders

Before you start

We are looking forward to welcoming you on the 14 September for Starting Block and the beginning of your programme.

There will be a series of introductory sessions that will help you settle into university and 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.

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, and the start of teaching on our Preparing and Arrival webpage. Take a look at our website and explore 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.

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
We employ an engaged and collaborative style of learning throughout the programme. We will get chance to explain and practise this during our first week together. We would love to find out more about the environmental issues / projects that are happening in the area that you live (or ones that you have visited). It would be great if you could come to UWE with some information about your area or a local project. It could be one that you have heard or read about, or maybe it is something that you are involved with. Come with some notes and information so that you can tell us about it. Here are some questions you could think about - what are the aims of the project? What are they doing? Who is involved? How is it going?

Connect with others
You will be joining a scholarly community of academics and students with a passion for learning about your subject. There is a range of ways for you to get involved:

- Set up a LinkedIn page and connect with us. We will be talking more about the use of LinkedIn during your studies throughout your programme. Join the LinkedIn UWE DGEM Environmental group for current students and alumni. This is a great place to network, connect and keep yourself informed about future placement opportunities and careers.
- Join the mailing list of The Students' Union at UWE's Green Team and find out about the many activities that students are involved in which encourage sustainability. A lot of our past students have played a significant role in this group, and you may find this to be your natural home!
- Follow the programme Instagram page here: @environmentgeoguwe
- You can also choose to join the student UWE Geography and Environment Society, who organise a variety of social events throughout the year.

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 areas for self-study.

UWE Bristol licenses many specialist software packages for use on personal laptops for the duration of your course. If you are 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 **Enhanced Specification**. It is extremely important, if you are buying a new computer, that it is a Windows-based machine. Some of the specialist software you will use is not available for Mac or Chromebooks.

At this stage it is not recommend that you buy any books. In the first week of teaching, the academic module leader for each of your modules will explain the recommended "reading strategy" for that module. Based on this, you can decide whether you need to buy a book, or whether you would prefer to use the library resources (for example, most of the books you will need are available both as a hard copy in our library and in electronic format on our library's website).

You should make sure that you have walking boots with good grip and ankle support, a waterproof coat, and waterproof trousers as they will be necessary on field trips during your degree.

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 programme, please contact **Dr Sara Williams** (Sara3.Williams@uwe.ac.uk) or **Dr Rosamund Portus** (Rosamund.Portus@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