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

I'm pleased to welcome you to BSc (Hons) Computer Science with Foundation Year – I'll be your Foundation Year Leader throughout this first stage of your journey. I hope that you are enjoying your summer holiday and are looking forward to starting at UWE Bristol.

Please take the time to read this letter carefully as it contains important information to help you prepare for the start of your course, including details about learning and activities you should undertake before you start, and links to key resources that will help you begin your studies here.

We're really looking forward to meeting you during Starting Block, which begins on the 14th September. This first few weeks are designed to help you transition and settle into university life, meet the course team and fellow students, and build your confidence ahead of the term.

Starting Block will introduce you to the systems, spaces, and study skills you will be using throughout your degree, helping you to develop the habits and connections that will support you throughout your time at UWE. Keep an eye on your inbox for further emails, and feel free to explore the Starting Block website for more details.

Your teaching timetable will become available on MYUWE (login required) once you begin the enrolment process. For more information, please check the 'Understanding your teaching timetable' webpage, which outlines when and how your timetable will be published.

I'm really looking forward to welcoming you on campus very soon!

Dr Richard Wakeling-Gentle
SCCT Foundation year lead

Before you start

Before starting your foundation year, there's a whole bunch of information that's it's worth looking at, and a few activities it's worth engaging in, to make the transition to university life as smooth as possible.

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.

Our study skills workbook introduces you to essential services as well as key skills.

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 will 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 will 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
As aspiring technologists, learning to think like a programmer is an important stepping stone on your path. The first semester module Computational Thinking will teach you this using the Python programming language, so if you'd like to get a head start, learning some basic Python is a great option.

Here are a couple of resources to have a look at:

- W3Schools' Python introduction course
    - DISCLAIMER: They've recently added videos to their pages which are at least partially AI generated. If you don't wish to engage with generative AI content, you can skip the videos and just read the original text tutorials, which our staff and students have been using for years.
- Think Like a Programmer video series on YouTube
    - Goes through some of the key parts of the Think Like a Programmer book from the same author. May look a bit old now, but it's still a widely recommended book and video series amongst new programmers.

Read around your subject
The other main part of the Foundation course is picking up the skills you'll need for your intended programme of study and looking at potential career paths after that. To get a head start on this, here are some recommended resources from the Computer Science BSc programme that you'll likely find interesting:

If you fancy some light reading, these are good options:

- *Hello World – How to be Human in the Age of the Machine,* by Hannah Fry, ISBN: 97 8- 1784163068

- *Algorithms to Live By* – Brian Christian & Tom Griffiths ISBN: 978-1627790369

If you want something more technical, you can have a look at these as well:

- *The Elements of Computing Systems: Building a Modern Computer from First Principles* (The MIT Press) by Noam Nisan and Shimon Schocken, ISBN: 978-0262539807

- *Code: The Hidden Language of Computer Hardware and Software* by Charles Petzold ISBN: 978-0137909100

Connect with others
You will be joining a scholarly community of academics and students with a passion for learning. There will be a range of opportunities for you to get involved in the community, follow UWE on YouTube, Instagram and TikTok to see what's going on around the University.

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 in your studies. These provide access to our core digital learning tools and any specialist software required for your course and can be used for self-study outside of your timetabled sessions.

UWE Bristol licenses many specialist software packages for use on personal computers for the duration of your course, and you may wish to have your own laptop for use in and out of class. For the Foundation Year, there is no specific requirement for you to use Windows or Mac, the computers used in the labs (and Library) at UWE are almost all Windows machines and so this may affect your decision about what to buy for home.

To help you decide whether you want or need a computer of you own, you should look at the recommended specifications on UWE's choosing your IT equipment website. Computer Science BSc recommends the **Intensive** specification to their first year students, which may impact your decision.

If you already have a laptop with reasonable specifications, then we recommend waiting and

trying your existing machine with our systems, as you may not need to buy anything new.

If you're struggling to meet the financial demands of your course, please contact the Student Money Service for advice and guidance.

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 me: **Richard Wakeling-Gentle** via email at richard.wakeling-gentle@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: Summer 2026