Get ready for MEng Civil Engineering

I hope you are enjoying a good summer break and looking forward to starting at UWE Bristol. As the programme leader for the course you are going to start in September, I want to warmly welcome you. The instructions for how to enrol for your MEng Civil Engineering course and the details of your induction have been sent to your Welcome website. In the meantime, I have provided some information below that will help you to prepare for starting with us in September.

Our course provides the first part of the educational base for becoming a Chartered Engineer and a launch pad for a successful career in the engineering sector. Once studies have begun, full time students are able to apply for free student membership of the professional bodies that accredit the programme.

Dr Antonia Chatzirodou
Programme Leader

Before you start

We are looking forward to welcoming you in the week commencing 14 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 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.

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.

Enrollment

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. Enrollment for September programmes will only be open from August onwards. You can find guidance and further information on our Enrollment 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

Have a go at these activities to start preparing for your programme:

Activity 1:

We strongly encourage all students joining us to refresh their mathematics skills ahead of the start of term. A range of resources are available from MathCentre. We specifically recommend all students work through:

Engineering > Algebra
Engineering > Differentiation

Another popular online maths resource is 'KhanAcademy' which provides an alternative approach to revising algebra and differentiation (see the Algebra and calculus subjects).

Refreshing your maths skills will put you in a great position for first year work in not just Maths, but also Mechanics, Hydrology and Surveying.

Activity 2: Research a local civil engineering project

Wherever you are over the summer, you will be surrounded by examples of civil engineering projects, such as buildings, bridges, dams, canals and railways. Every civil engineering project will have an engineer who designed it (often a consulting engineer) and an engineer who built it (an engineering contractor). Sometimes they are the same company. Building projects will generally have an architect as well.

Before you arrive, find a civil engineering project (under construction or complete) local to where you live, which interests you. Spend a few hours finding out information about the project, including:

1. Who was the architect (if there was one)?
2. Who was the engineering designer?

3. Who was the engineering contractor?
4. Why was it built?
5. When was it built?
6. What are the key construction materials?
7. How does it stand up or work?

We will discuss these projects during your first week. Please think carefully about safety when making these observations – stay in public areas and keep an eye out for hazards such as water and traffic.

Read around your subject

To succeed you will need to think critically about key issues and practices. You will use a number of different textbooks through the duration of the year. Reading lists will be provided for individual modules. Many of the recommended textbooks are available through our Library, either as a physical copy or online. For now, there is no need to buy any textbooks. What I do recommend is reading the following book, published by the Institution of Structural Engineers and available for free online. It will help introduce you to engineering as a discipline:

> *Essential Knowledge Text No. 1 – Introduction: Part 1 – Structure is everywhere!* By the IStructE.

Connect with others

You will be joining a scholarly community of academics and students with a passion for learning about your subject. There will be a range of opportunities for you to get involved in the community. Here are some useful links:

- Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE)
- The Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE)
- Institute of Highway Engineers (IHE)
- Chartered Institute of Highways & Transportation (CIHT)
- The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET)

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 **Enhanced Specification**. The software you will use, will run on Windows devices, but not necessarily on Macs, tablets or Chromebooks, therefore you can check with the IT support team, once you join UWE.

Field, laboratory and site work equipment:

Safety boots with steel toe caps and steel mid soles. These must be lace-up boots providing ankle support and **not** safety trainers, safety wellington boots or rigger boots. Safety boots meeting these requirements can bought for around £30.

Walking boots for field work. If your safety boots are comfortable, with good ankle support and a cleated sole tread, then they may be used in place of specific walking boots. We recommend specific walking boots as they are often much more comfortable.

- Waterproof raincoat
- Waterproof over trousers
- Sun hat

Drawing equipment

- 300 mm scale rule. We recommend a Blundell Harding "No 2 Civil Engineers Scale Rule" or a "No 3 Architects Scale Rule". A flat or oval scale (the Blundell Harding Verulam or Academy series) rule is preferable to a triangular scale rule as they are easier to see over.
- Set square (60 degree, we recommend a Linex College)
- Protractor
- Drawing compass
- 0.5 mm mechanical pencil with HB graphite (e.g., Pental P205)
- Eraser (we recommend a good quality eraser such as a Staedtler Mars)
- Erasing shield (e.g., Linex, Helix or Faber Castell erasing shields)
- 0.3 mm, 0.5 mm and 0.8 mm drawing pens (e.g. Derwent Graphik, Uni pin Fineliner, Rotring Tikky Graphic or Staedtler Pigment Liner)
- Protractors, set squares, mechanical pencils, drawing pens, erasing shields, scale rulers and erasers will be available for purchase from the 'Project Room Desk' in Q block on the UWE Frenchay Campus. Ball point / biro pens are suitable for notetaking but are not suitable for drawings or calculations.

Other equipment

Scientific calculator. Examples of suitable calculators include Casio FX-115, FX-83, FX-85 models. Programmable calculators, or calculators with alpha numeric keyboards are not permitted in examinations.

Stationery for note taking. This may be bound notebooks or note paper and ring binders. We recommend you use ring binder files to store notes and paper handouts.

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: **Antonia Chatzirodou** via email at Antonia.Chatzirodou@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: Spring 2026