

Get ready for BSc(Hons) Audio and Music Technology

I hope that you are enjoying your summer holiday and are looking forward to starting at UWE Bristol. As your Programme Leader, I warmly welcome you onto your BSc(Hons) Audio and Music Technology degree programme.

I have provided some preparation suggestions, including:

- **information on things to do before you start**
- **a preparation task that we'll review during Starting Block**
- **how to connect with your course mates**
- **advice on buying headphones & computers**

Please read all the sections of this letter carefully as it contains lots of useful information and links to resources.



I'm really looking forward to meeting you soon!

Luke Reed

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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.

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.

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](#).

Access and Disability Support

Check the information on our [Disability Support web pages](#) so you know what you need to do to disclose a disability and access support to help with your studies. If you need any urgent additional mobility or other support to fully access all activities during your studies, contact me as your programme leader (contact details below).

Engage with your programme

Preparation Task:

1. Make a profile image that represents you.
2. Use the areas of study below to search the internet for that you find interesting and inspirational. Think about what you're enjoying currently about music technology and where you aspire to go.
3. Create a short profile about yourself highlighting your creative, technical and musical skills and aspirations. Include any work you are proud of, socials you want to share. (~200 words or short 1min video)

To remind you from an open Day, offer holder day, or introduction to the course, the **four themes** that you will be learning with us are:

- **audio engineering** (exploring studios, broadcast and, live sound systems)
- **sound design** (audio craft for radio, film, tv and games)
- **tech development** (creating plugins, effects, and synths and hardware)
- **music practice** (composition, music theory and, practical music-making)

Some material will be familiar, and some will not, but it's important to be open minded and engage with everything.

We'll talk about your findings during a dedicated session in Starting Block, and you will upload your written profile as if you're submitting an assignment, to help you navigate our systems and get to know one another.

Connect with others

Connect with your year by joining the [Discord server for UWE Music Tech](#) where you can 'meet' fellow students from **both** Music Tech programmes before you arrive. It has been set up by our students for our students. So, there are no staff in this group – it's very much *your* space to use to get to know your peers and ask questions and be supportive for one another.

Connect with other musicians once you've registered with the university, by joining the university's [Centre for Music](#) (free for all UWE Bristol students), who host a range of instrumental groups, band/performance opportunities and other music events throughout the year.

Finally, connect with current students and graduates in industry by joining the UWE Music Technology [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#) groups.

Get equipped

Professional audio and its many related industries often use MacOS computers, and you will find these in all our recording studios and teaching spaces with a huge array of specialist software for you to complete your studies. We understand that these can be very expensive investments for personal devices

All our course software is selected to run on both Windows and MacOS devices and we will support both in your time with us. However, we will not support Tablets, Chromebooks or Linux devices.

Equipment such as microphones, recorders, interfaces, mixers, etc. will be available to book and use for your practical learning, and you will be able to book this for home use and our dedicated studio spaces once you've completed the induction training during the first term.

You MUST have your own high quality studio headphones for use throughout the course for on campus lab work, studio sessions and outdoor field recording. These headphones will be the main tool for you to listen through to work and should be of an appropriate professional quality.

The key features should include:

- "Over-ear" headphones.
- Closed-back design.
- No active noise cancelling.
- Must have a wired connection (not Bluetooth).

Some recommended models (~£99) include: Sony MDR-7506, Audio Technica ATH-m50x, Sennheiser HD-280 Pro, BeyerDynamic DT770 Pro (32- or 80-ohm variants).

If you want to purchase your own personal computer, we recommend that you select a

MacOS or Windows device with the following **minimum specifications**:

- Intel Core i5, or Apple Silicon processor
- 16GB memory (RAM)
- 1TB storage solid state drive (SSD)
- Operating System:
 - macOS Ventura (13) or newer
 - Windows 11 – Home / Pro

Recommended models include MacBook Pro, MacMini, Lenovo Legion, LenovoThinkPad, Asus ROG, ACER Predator, Dell XPS - but check the specs before buying.

Depending on your device, you may also need some of these additional items:

- Webcam for online sessions and supervision meetings.
- 1TB External USB HDD for back-ups. (e.g. Seagate, Western Digital).
- USB audio interface (e.g. Audient iD4 Mk2, or Focusrite Scarlett 2i2).

See our website for more general information on [choosing your IT equipment](#).

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: **Luke Reed** via email at luke.reed@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