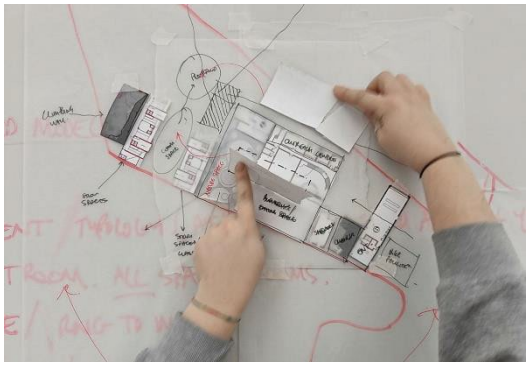
Get ready for BSc (Hons) Architecture

We are hoping that you are having a nice summer and are looking forward to starting your academic journey at UWE. We are the Programme Leaders of the BSc (Hons) Architecture course and we are writing to warmly welcome you to UWE and give you some information about the course and how to prepare for starting with us.

Yahya Lavaf-Pour, Eduardo Costa and Eleonora Nicoletti
Programme Leaders

Before you start



We are looking forward to welcoming you on 14th September 2026. We will help you settle into university and 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.

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 are not expecting you to do much work in advance of arriving at UWE Bristol. However, a very useful thing to do is to start sketching. To do this we recommend that you use an A5 sketchbook (it is portable) and keep a visual diary of your summer; represent what you see or what you experience.

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.

Here are some of our recommended titles for you to read, to be inspired by and to understand the scope of your degree programme:

- Archdaily
- RIBA – UK architecture professional body
- Dezeen

Be prepared

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.

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

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. You will benefit from owning a laptop. For smooth operation, we recommend a device with the following minimum specifications:

- **Operating System:** Windows 10 or 11 (64-bit)
- **Processor:** Intel i7, or AMD Ryzen 5 (or equivalent)
- **Memory:** 16GB RAM (32GB is preferable for more demanding tasks)
- **Storage:** 512GB solid-state drive (SSD) or more.
- **Display:** Minimum resolution of 1920 x 1080 pixels
- **Graphics:** A DirectX 11-capable graphics card with Shader Model 5 and at least 2GB VRAM

These specifications provide a good specification for running industry-standard software. For tasks that are more graphics-intensive, a higher-specification laptop might be beneficial. Remember, the University's computer labs and open-access PCs are also available if your device falls short of these specifications. Please note that the University does not endorse any scheme or supplier.

UWE Bristol licenses many specialist software packages for use on personal laptops for the duration of your course. The core software used in your course includes (UWE licence gives you access to these packages, so you do not need to buy them):

- Adobe Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign)
- AutoCAD
- SketchUp Pro+ VRay
- Rhino + VRay + Grasshopper3D
- Enscape
- Revit (+ Grasshopper WIP or Dynamo)
- Twinmotion

See the UWE website for detailed information on choosing your IT equipment including recommended specifications.

We require ALL students to have drawing supplies for their course. These items are available at reduced prices from **Artway Creative Supplies** who will deliver it to UWE for you. If you do not wish to purchase the Artway kit, you are welcome to assemble your own, with items of a similar or equivalent specification. You will also need to source your own drawing board, either buying one or using one you may already have; it needs to be at least A2 size. The UWE Project room will have A2 boards to purchase or rent for the year. You may reserve one once you have enroled on the Project Room website. The boards will be first come first served, so we highly recommend that you reserve as soon as you confirm your place. The rental cost will be roughly equivalent to the purchase price but will be refunded upon return of the board in good shape at the end of the year. Access this specific course kit.

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 one of the BSc (Hons) Architecture programme leaders.

Eduardo Costa (Eduardo.Costa@uwe.ac.uk)

Eleonora Nicoletti (Eleonora.Nicoletti@uwe.ac.uk))

Yahya Lavaf-Pour (Yahya.Lavafpour@uwe.ac.uk)

Jonathan Bassindale (Jonathan.bassindale@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