

# Get ready for BEng(Hons) Architecture and Environmental Engineering

We hope that you are enjoying your summer and that you are looking forward to starting BEng(Hons) Architecture and Environmental Engineering (AEE) at UWE Bristol. On behalf of the programme team, we welcome you to AEE. The information below will help you to prepare for starting with us.

**Clare Davidson and Chris Puttick**

Programme Leaders

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## 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](#).

## **Engage with your programme**

### **Start your learning**

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

1. Read *Experiencing Architecture*, by Steen Eiler Rasmussen (MIT Press) – a classic book (written in 1962) that is still relevant in terms of how people experience space. Copies of this book can be purchased second hand on many websites. It is a book you will find useful for many years. This book introduces some ways to think about the built environment and design. Another fascinating and relevant book is *The Architecture of the Well-Tempered Environment* by Reyner Banham, another classic text, this one dealing with the evolving relationship between Architecture and Environmental Engineering. We also recommend reading magazines such as Blueprint, the Architect's Journal and the CIBSE Journal.
2. Keep a sketchbook. Do not wait until the week before you come to start, start it today and do a sketch every week. It is better to spend 10 minutes every week sketching than spend 2 hours on one sketch. Experiment with media that you have never used before: biro, paint, soft or hard pencils, or collage with magazine scraps.

### **Read around your subject**

To succeed within your chosen programme, you will need to think critically about key issues and practices. Here are some books and resources to help you to understand the scope of your programme.

- [Design magazine, lots of architecture news](#)
- [RIBA – UK architecture professional body](#)
- [Up to date architecture news for professionals – international](#)
- [Up to date architecture news for professionals](#)
- [Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers \(CIBSE\)](#)

### **Connect with others**

You will be able to join the architecture societies and take part in their activities 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 PCs for self-study.

You will benefit from a laptop, particularly if your access to on-campus facilities is limited. 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](#).

The core software used in your course includes:

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

We recommend that you have access to a device with the following minimum specifications:

- Windows 10 or later operating system
- For Year 1: we recommend the Enhanced Specification.
- By the start of year 2, we recommend the Intensive specification with a minimum screen resolution of 1920 x 1080 pixels. A 'DirectX 11' capable graphics card with 'Shader Model 5' compatibility with a minimum 1GB GPU is also recommended to run industry standard software. However it should be noted that the university is equipped with computers with these capabilities.

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

registered 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. You may source your own board or use one you already own. 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 us:

**Clare Davidson** via email at [Clare.Davidson@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:Clare.Davidson@uwe.ac.uk)

**Chris Puttick** via email at [Chris.Puttick@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:Chris.Puttick@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 2025

Last updated: Spring 2025