Get ready for MSc Health Technology

Dear Students,

I hope that you are enjoying your summer holiday and are looking forward to starting at UWE Bristol. A s the Programme Leader for the MSc Health Technology course at UWE Bristol, I am delighted to welcome you to the 2026–2027 cohort. Whether we've already met or will be meeting for the first time, I very much look forward to working with you over the coming year.

The MSc Health Technology is a unique and future-facing programme that sits at the intersection of healthcare, innovation, and applied science. It is designed to equip you with the interdisciplinary skills and critical thinking needed to contribute meaningfully to the fast-evolving world of health technologies—whether your ambition lies in digital health, medical devices, diagnostics, or working with industry partners.

You will be challenged to apply your knowledge in real-world contexts and will have opportunities to engage with academic experts, industry stakeholders, and fellow students from a variety of professional and academic backgrounds. It's an intensive but rewarding course that will prepare you for diverse roles across healthcare, research, or tech-driven innovation.

Whether you are joining us from the UK or overseas, please note that this is a fully on-campus course. You must be in Bristol and ready to start at 10am on **Monday 14 September 2026**, when our induction block begins. International students should ensure that visa arrangements and travel plans are in place in good time to settle in comfortably before the course commences.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions. I'm here to support you and ensure you make the most of this exciting opportunity.

Warm regards,

Dr Bahareh Vahabi
Programme Leader, MSc Health Technology

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 (NB – the online information is mainly

aimed at undergraduate students but it does include a lot of useful information for you as a masters student).

We will also be introducing some study and practical skills sessions during the "Starting Block" to enable a prompt start during the first week of full teaching. So, please make sure you are available for the entirety of the block – you should expect to be on campus 10am until 4pm each day between the 15 Sept and the 26 Sept (though there may be days you are not there the full 6 hours it is better to presume that you will be). If you are formally enrolling as a part-time student, please contact me for a personalised plan for Starting Block attendance.

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.

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 your login details. For help, go to our student card guidance.

Key dates and time commitment required for success
The intensive nature of the full-time course means you need to be able to commit around 40 hours per week to your studies for the full year of your studies or *pro rata* for part-time students. Much of this time will be spent in individual study undertaken under the guidance of the programme team, so you need to be motivated and organised.

The term dates and academic calendar is available online.

Engage with your programme

Start your learning
Students returning to study, transitioning from an undergraduate course or studying in the UK for the first time at postgraduate level, may find the following books helpful. Copies are also available in the Library when you arrive in September.

Becker, L. (2004) *How to Manage your Postgraduate Course*. Palgrave Macmillan: Basingstoke.

Foskett, N. and Foskett, R. (2006) *Postgraduate Study in the UK: The International Student's Guide.* Sage: London.

An electronic copy of the recommended books will be available via the UWE library when you receive your UWE log in.

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:

The Topol Review outlined recommendations to ensure the UK's National Health Service (NHS) is a world leader in using digital technologies to benefit patients, implementing technologies such as genomics, digital medicine, artificial intelligence and robotics. On this site you can download a PDF of the report and view a range of relevant video resources.

As a member of the University you can expect free access to a huge range of library resources, including key scientific journals and text books.

AI and Data Science:
In the core and optional advanced modules on AI in healthcare, you'll be doing some coding using the programming language Python. We'll cover the essentials, but if you don't have much prior programming experience then you'll need to undertake some self-study to keep up. **If you haven't used Python much before, the free first chapter in the following course from DataCamp is worth completing before the module starts. Don't feel obliged to complete the paid chapters.**

DataCamp - Intro to Python for Data Science:
One nice thing about the DataCamp course is that it does not require you to install Python on your own machine. We'll be taking a similar approach during the module to avoid headaches associated with installing the right versions of the right software. There are lots of other good Python tutorials out there, some of which require you to install Python on your own system. If you're interested in doing so, I encourage you to go for it, but if you'd rather wait until after you're more comfortable with using Python before installing it, that's fine too.

Visit Datacamp.com to find the Introduction to Python course.

Disease and Point of care tests:
For those that wish to gain additional knowledge on the biomedical aspects of the course please consider the publications listed here.

Chapter 2 of *The Biology of Cancer* by Robert A. Weinberg (2nd Edition) useful to understanding the nature of cancer / cancer pathology – it is available online at the UWE library.

The whole of the textbook *Essential Cell Biology* (Fifth Edition) by Alberts et al – Chapter 1 gives a good intro into very basic cell biology / DNA etc.

Other useful open access options are:
A general short review in EMBO Reports: 'The advent of AI and deep learning in diagnostics and imaging'

This is also an excellent review in Nature Reviews Clinical Oncology 'Artificial intelligence in digital pathology — new tools for diagnosis and precision oncology (nih.gov)'

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 **Core Specification**.

You will also need plenty of stationery, including a hard cover laboratory notebook. I would recommend a diary or an online diary that covers the entire duration of your study to enable planning (you will need this for one of the "Starting Block" sessions).

Check you have the right equipment
UWE provides computers of suitable specification for the work you will be doing in many different labs and in the library on campus. All students are provided with an Office365 account, which gives access to Outlook, Word, Excel, OneNote and PowerPoint, and 1TB of secure online storage, as well as specialist software packages (e.g. ArcGIS Pro and Minitab)

once you begin your studies. Guidance on where to obtain software will be given at the start of the course, and you will be eligible for many student discounts on appropriate software.

You can connect your computer to the UWE network on campus, at home and UWE accommodation, and lots of useful information can be found at IT Services.

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 course, please contact me: **Bahareh Vahabi** via email at bahareh.vahabi@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