Get ready for BA(Hons) Law and Criminology

We hope that you are enjoying your summer holiday and are looking forward to starting at UWE Bristol. As your Programme Leaders, we warmly welcome you onto BA(Hons) Law and Criminology.

We have provided some information below that will help you to prepare for starting with us.

I look forward to meeting you.

Iain McDonald and Finley MacDonald
Programme Leaders

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 practice 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.

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

- **You are advised to watch or listen to current affairs programmes**. In particular, Law in Action on Radio 4 (there is also a podcast available via the BBC Sounds 'app') and the Weekly Politics programme on BBC television. There is a brilliant podcast run by Dr. Ed Johnston called *Criminal Justice Natters* and is available via YouTube. Check out some of the previous chats on the channel; there may be some faces you recognise from the criminal justice community and Netflix.

- **Look at the Bristol Law School pro bono activities** on the Business and Law Clinic page. Whether you aspire to be a lawyer or not, there are a lot of legal, and other transferable skills, that you will need as you progress through your law degree. One of the best ways you can do this is to gain work experience. In addition, we strongly encourage all students to get involved with pro bono activities as soon as they arrive at UWE. Not only will it provide you with valuable academic skills, but you will also get to know students and academic staff that you might not otherwise meet in your first year. Bristol Law School offers lots of opportunities to get involved with pro bono activities, but you are much more likely to do this if you have already carried out some research on them before you arrive at UWE.

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.

In preparation for study, we encourage you to read broadly, choosing books and subjects that most interest you. There are some texts which are considered 'classics' for those about to study law and criminology and many of these are available to purchase second hand or to borrow through libraries. A perfect starting point if you can locate a copy in a library would be:

- Tim Newburn, (2017) Criminology (Third Edition)

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 webpage for detailed information on choosing your IT equipment including recommended specifications.

For this programme we recommend the **Core Specification**.

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.

Next steps
Before you arrive, you will receive an online workbook to introduce you to the School and help you to prepare for university life. You can go through the workbook then, and it will be revisited during your induction activities.

Who to contact if you have questions

For any questions about the programme, please contact the Programme Leaders via email at iain.mcdonald@uwe.ac.uk and finley.macdonald@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