

# Get ready for MA Filmmaking

As your Programme Leader, I'm thrilled to warmly welcome you onto **MA Filmmaking**. Congratulations on gaining an offer of a place – I hope that you are looking forward to joining our postgraduate community at the School of Arts, UWE Bristol.

I have provided some information below that will help you to prepare for starting with us this September, do read through it carefully and if you have any questions at all, do get in touch.

## Stuart Mitchell

Programme Leader

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## Before you start

The Programme Team are looking forward to welcoming you onto campus in the week commencing 22 September for the beginning of your programme.

Your full 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.

[Starting Block](#) is a UWE Bristol initiative that can help you settle into university and get to know our campus, digital resources, and support services. We will help you find your way around, get used to our systems, and practice the skills you need to make a strong start once we meet you, too.

## 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.

## 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**

There are four activities we want you to engage with before you arrive on campus, as listed below:

### **1 Start your learning**

To succeed within your chosen programme, you will need to think critically about key issues and practices within the discipline. To help you to enhance these skills and be ready to engage with your studies, you should start to research around your subject before you arrive. You might also explore the [Library](#) webpages to see the wide range of resources available to you once you become a UWE Bristol student.

### **2 Read around your subject**

Your first module on the MA Filmmaking programme is called *Story and Style: From Concept to Pitch*. The suggested reading for this module is listed below, and you may wish to access some of these resources prior to your arrival:

If you are interested in working in Documentary:

Vachon, Christine & Edelstein, David (1998) *Shooting to Kill: How an Independent Producer Blasts Through the Barriers to Make Movies that Matter*. Avon Books.

If you are interested in working in Drama:

Broughton, Irv (2002) *Producers on Producing: The Making of Film and Television*. McFarland & Co.

Mitchell, Wendy (2015) 'Carol': producer Elizabeth Karlsen on her 14-year passion project, in *Screen Daily*, online resource available here: <https://www.screendaily.com/awards/carol-producer-elizabeth-karlsen-on-her-14-year-passion-project/5097955.article>.

Mitchell, Wendy (2021) *Adventures in Producing: Rebecca O'Brien*, online resource available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYO05S9nSXs>.

### 3 Position yourself

There two tasks are designed to help you arrive onto your postgraduate programme with a developing sense of purpose – and both will be discussed in the first weeks of your time on campus:

(i) Prepare a 250-500 word statement that details your ambition for postgraduate study.

This may include comment on why you have chosen the programme; the career trajectory you anticipate following your studies; how you imagine the year might stretch or challenge you; what excites you about the opportunities available; any creative or professional influences, ideas or techniques you wish to pursue. You could describe this brief summary as your 'manifesto' for study – a framework that will inevitably evolve during your creative development. This will help initiate a conversation at the start of the *Creative Professional Contexts* module.

(ii) Select and watch two documentary and two drama films. write a brief evaluation of each considering story (subject and structure), visual style/approach and storytelling, emotional engagement and representation of characters and subject. Write a log line for each in under 16 words.

### 4 Connect with others

Start exploring the film culture in and around Bristol. For example, learn more about why the city has been designated an [UNESCO City of Film](#), what's on at the [Bristol Film Festival](#), and explore the programming of our partner institution, [Watershed](#). Explore the production companies based in the city, and think about connections or introductions that might be relevant to your own ambitions in the industry.

## 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 **Enhanced 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 settle in when you first arrive at UWE Bristol, and they organise social events to help you adapt to your new environment.

### **Who to contact if you have questions**

For any questions about the programme, starting your studies at UWE, or the above information, please do contact me directly and I'd be happy to help: Stuart Mitchell, [stuart3.mitchell@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:stuart3.mitchell@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