

# Get ready for BA(Hons) Culture, Media and Creative Industries

I hope you are looking forward to starting at UWE Bristol. As your Programme Leader, I warmly welcome you to **BA(Hons) Culture, Media and Creative Industries**.

I have provided some information below that will help you prepare for starting with us, and let you know what we are preparing to help you begin your studies.

The Culture, Media and Creative Industries team and I look forward to meeting you in September!

## Dr Katie Toms

Programme Leader for Culture, Media and Creative Industries

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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 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 registration process. Please visit the '[Understanding your teaching timetable](#)' website to find out when your timetable will be published.

You can find key dates for the academic year on our [term dates](#) webpage.

## 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 your [MYUWE](#) profile. Navigate to the 'My Details' tab where you can find [ID Photo facility](#) to upload a suitable photograph and receive your ID card without delay.

## **Engage with your programme**

### **Start your learning**

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

- Visit the UWE Bristol website, find the pages for the School of Arts, and look up the Culture, Media and Creative Industries staff: Dr Katie Toms, Dr Emma Agusita, Rebecca Goddard, Dr Gillian Swanson, Patricia Francis, Jheni Osman, Dr Amy Genders and Cavan McLaughlin. They will be teaching you, they will be your **Academic Personal Tutors**, and you will generally be seeing them around. It's good to know the faces in advance!
- Visit the UWE Bristol Library pages to find out about all the services the [Library](#) offers. Then have a go at using the Library search tool (for example by searching for critical work on your favourite author or book). Good research is crucial to your academic success and it benefits from practise.
- To help orient you to some of the issues that will come up in the first year of your studies, we would like you to listen to the following episode from James Bridle's BBC Radio 4 series, [New Ways of Seeing](#) (links to view free on BBC iPlayer and on the BBC website). This episode focuses on the meaning of images in the digital age, thinking about *how digitisation is changing the nature, reliability, and power of images*.
- We'd like you to consider the following questions when listening to the programme; feel free to make notes and bring them along to your first week of study...
  - 1) If the digital images we put online (TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, Google, X etc) are becoming less and less about us documenting our view of the world, in what other ways are these images being used?
  - 2) When our images are being viewed by "machines" as this episode explains, who or what are these machines and why are they looking at the images we post?

We'll be discussing these ideas as part of your opening weeks of study, so please make sure you've had a listen and by all means try some of the other episodes in the series too.

## Investigate your subject

We'd also like you to have a think about other themes relating to your programme. Here are three links to writers discussing some of the ideas we will be exploring; have a listen to what they say and see if you can find out more about their ideas by searching online:

- Henry Jenkins on 'Participatory Culture': [View the Presentation and transcript](#)
- Professor José van Dijck on 'Platform society': [View the video](#)
- James Bridle on 'How Can We Build Solidarity With the 'More-Than-Human' World?': [View the video](#)

## Read around your subject

A key skill which is required to achieve a high level of success within the Culture, Media and Creative Industries degree 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.

Find this ebook via the library website and use it to find out more about Henry Jenkins and participatory culture:

- Chris Barker and Emma Jane (2016) *Cultural Studies: Theory and Practice* (5th edition) Sage: London.

## 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 would benefit from your own personal laptop whilst studying on this degree. 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 on the Media Communications degree includes Adobe Creative Cloud and Microsoft Office. These packages will run on Windows and Mac devices.

We recommend that you purchase a device with minimum **Intensive Specification**

as detailed in the link above.

### **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 the Programme leader:

**Dr Katie Toms** via email at [katie.toms@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:katie.toms@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