



Get ready for MSc Science Communication

As Programme Leader, I warmly welcome you to the MSc in Science Communication and hope you are looking forward to starting your studies with us at UWE Bristol. I have provided some information below that will help you to prepare for the start of your studies with us in September.

Dr Amanda Webber
Programme Leader

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.

The programme will begin with starting block sessions to provide an overview of your course, and introductions to your teaching team and the other students. These will be **online**, and you will be provided with log in information closer to the time. The University also schedules some university-wide events to help you settle in, enable you to get used to our systems and provide you with an opportunity to practise the skills you need to make a strong start. Look out for further emails and explore the [Starting Block website](#) which includes more details. Don't worry if you aren't on campus by this time, we will have further opportunities to engage in person when you start with us from **Friday 3 October**.

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. At the start of the course, the teaching team will provide further details on how we provide detailed timetable information for each day of teaching on the MSc in Science Communication. You will be given access to a draft timetable, providing an overview of when the teaching blocks take place, shortly. The final timetable will be shared with you prior to the start of the programme.

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

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.

You should ensure that you have read the article, [Public Understanding of Science at the Crossroads](#) before the start of the course. We would also like you to look at the [Public Attitudes to Science Summary Report](#) before the start of the first Science and Society teaching block. While Public Attitudes to Science looks at the UK public's attitudes to science, the [Wellcome Global Monitor](#) is the first study of public attitudes to science and health on a global scale. Please also read the summary of key findings of this report before the start of the first Science and Society teaching block. As well as completing the reading, please bring a few examples of how science and scientists are represented in the media (print, broadcast, digital, and social) with you to the first teaching block. If there's any further preparatory reading we'd like you to do, we'll get in touch about that nearer the time. You may also wish to consider accessing one of the three texts below at the outset of the course. Copies are also available in the library and/or digitally when you arrive:

- Wilkinson, C. and Weitkamp, E. (2016) *Creative Research Communication: Theory and Practice*. Manchester: Manchester University Press (a second edition of this book is currently in press so we'd recommend you don't purchase a copy until that is published, but the 2016 version is fine to take a look at if you can access one)
- Gascoigne, T., Schiele, B., Leach, J., Riedlinger, M., Lewenstein, B.V., Massarani, L., and Broks, P. (eds) (2020) *Communicating Science: A Global Perspective*. ANU Press (available free to download here: <https://press.anu.edu.au/publications/communicating-science>)
- Kearns, F. (2021). *Getting to the Heart of Science Communication: a guide to effective engagement*. Washington: Island Press

Preparation for postgraduate study

Students returning to study, transitioning from an undergraduate course, or studying in the UK for the first time may find the following resources helpful:

[Preparing for study - Study skills | UWE Bristol](#)

[Postgraduate support - Postgraduate study | UWE Bristol](#)

Elliott, G. et al. (2018) *Your guide to successful postgraduate study*. London: SAGE Publications Ltd. (copies are available in the library when you arrive in September and in electronic form)

Make your module choices

If you are going to be studying with us full-time, please complete the [Module Choice Form](#) if you have not already done this indicating your choice of optional modules. Please email your choices to amanda.webber@uwe.ac.uk by **Friday 8 August**. If you are studying part-time, you do not need to complete the module choice form as you will decide on which optional modules you will study next year.

If you are studying the course on a part-time basis, you will attend the Science and Society and the Contemporary Science Communication modules over the coming academic year. You will take your optional modules the following academic year as well as starting your project dissertation in your second or third year.

If you are studying the course on a full-time basis, you will need to take the Science and Society and Contemporary Science Communication modules, plus two of the following three modules: Writing Science, Science on Air and on Screen and Science in Public Spaces. Information about each module is provided on the Module Choice Form to help you make your decision. You will also complete your project dissertation, with guidance, and will need to keep time available for the Project Training teaching block.

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.

See the UWE website for detailed information on [choosing your IT equipment](#) including [recommended specifications](#). For this course, the **Core Specification** will be sufficient.

For the most part, your work for the MSc in Science Communication can be completed on standard word processing software, such as Microsoft Word. The Science on Air and on Screen module requires use of video and audio editing software. This can be accessed on campus or in other specialist facilities we use during the module. Any other bespoke or recommended packages should normally run on Windows and Mac devices, but will usually have limited functionality or will not run on tablets or Chromebooks.

If you're struggling to meet the financial demands of your course, please contact the [Student Money Service](#) team for advice and guidance.

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 academic questions, please email the Programme Leader **Amanda Webber** at amanda.webber@uwe.ac.uk and she will respond to you.

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