Get ready for BA(Hons) Illustration

I hope that you are looking forward to starting at UWE Bristol. As your Programme Leader, I warmly welcome you onto the **BA(Hons) Illustration Programme**.

I have provided some information below that will help you to prepare for starting with us. I look forward to meeting you.

Dr. Stephanie Black
Programme Leader

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

Prepare for you programme by completing the **Course Preparation/Summer Project,** gather the resulting visual information in at least one sketchbook. Respond to the following prompts visually and creatively in your sketchbook. They are designed to encourage you to engage with your environment through illustration, in preparation for your first modules. A polished outcome is not important, we want to see your exploratory process!

- Find an image in the news that you find to be negative and make a positive image in response to challenge the original existing narrative.
- Picture something that helps you to explain illustration to someone else
- Learn a new skill and make an image (or images) to represent your experiences. You could learn to do a skateboard trick, bake a cake, go climbing, learn to play the guitar, knit a scarf..... what you learn is up to you.
- Do something positive to your local community, such as plant a tree, volunteer for the day at a charity, pick up litter. Make a 5-10 panel illustrated narrative of your experiences.

The Illustration team look forward to seeing you and the results of your summer exploits!

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:

- Black, S. and Vormittag, L. (2020-25) *Colouring In.* https://www.colouring-in.com/ (free to access PDFs)
- Gannon, R. & Fauchon, M. (2021) *Illustration research methods.* London: Bloomsbury Visual Arts.
- Doyle,S., Grove, J. and Sherman, W. (2018) *History of Illustration.* New York: Bloomsbury Publishing.
- Brazell, D. & Davies, J. (2019) Becoming a successful illustrator. Second edition. New

York: Bloomsbury Visual Arts.

- Berger, J. & Savage, J. (2008) Berger on drawing. 3rd ed. Aghabullogue: Occasional.
- Hooks, Bell (2010) 'Teaching 1: Critical Thinking', *Teaching Critical Thinking: Practical Wisdom*, Oxon: Routledge, pp. 7-11. Available here
- Salisbury, M. (2023) *Illustrators' Sketchbooks.* London: Thames & Hudson.

Journals:

- Journal of Illustration
- Eye Magazine

Please search online for used copies.

Connect with others

Keep a keen eye on the UWE Illustration Instagram account for updates and activities

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.

The key software package used in the Illustration programme is **Adobe Creative Suite**. These packages will run on Windows and Mac devices. For this programme we recommend the **Intensive Specification**. There is no need to rush in buying computer equipment before the start of term. Apple offers a generous student discount via UniDays once you are registered as a student – so it may be worthwhile waiting and buying the machine and spec you really need for your work.

See the UWE website for detailed information on choosing your IT equipment including recommended specifications.

Illustration Equipment List 2026/2027

Please make sure that you have a good range of good quality equipment and look after it. You may already have some of the items listed below and there is a materials shop on the Bower Ashton campus where you can purchase from an extensive range of quality art and design materials. You can get advice about which are most appropriate as the course progresses. There is also a range of art shops near the Arnolfini in the city centre. Online

options are also available such as: artdiscount.co.uk or cassart.co.uk. Alternative online suppliers are also available.

Please note that you do not need to have all of the items on the equipment list on the day you arrive. There will be time to acquire all of the items in the first couple of weeks of term.

A3 Sheets of Cartridge Paper (x20)	Masking tape
A4 sketch book	A2 Cutting mat
Range of pencils 2H to 6B	Glue stick
600mm steel rule	Scissors
Stanley Retractable cutting knife	Scalpel
A2 or A3 Portfolio/Portfolio box : substantial enough to protect your work	Portable hard drive &cloud storage/Google drive etc
A selection of colour materials: colour pencils; brushes: marker pens; water colour paints; acrylic paint; pastels (accordingto your preference and how you work)	Collage material – such as old Sunday Colour Magazines, Trade Publications or Mail Shots
Eraser	

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 programme, please contact me: **Dr. Stephanie Black** via email at Stephanie2.Black@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