Get ready for BA(Hons) Product Design

We hope that you are enjoying your summer and are looking forward to starting at UWE Bristol. As your Programme Leaders, we warmly welcome you to study BA(Hons) Product Design at UWE Bristol. The department's staff and students always make newcomers welcome, and we look forward to working with you throughout your time at UWE Bristol. A design school is its students. Our students are friendly, energetic, humorous and very hard-working. We are sure that that you will make friends and work closely with them to take advantage of the experience and opportunities that the department offers you.

Jo Hare and Richard Mawle

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 practise 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.

You can also explore our support for careers and enterprise**.** UWE Careers & Enterprise provide a range of workshops, appointments and a huge range of online resources to support students in realising their future ambitions. The Careers Toolkit is our online portal to finding vacancies, booking onto events and accessing a range of resources.

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:

- Look at the V&A or the Design Museum websites and their virtual collections.

- Practice Sketching. Design Sketching is an important communication tool to sell your ideas. Before you arrive at UWE Bristol, you can go online to see tutorials on sketching. Sketch-A-Day is a great place to start. You do not need a sketchbook for this, just inexpensive A3/A4 white paper with a Biro pen or HB (No.2) pencil is perfect. You will be amazed at how your drawing will improve if you practice it every day. This YouTube video is also helpful for developing Ideation skills.

Read around your subject

To succeed within your chosen programme, you will need to think critically about key issues and practices. Here are some resources to help you to understand the scope of your programme:

- Look at the UWE Bristol online Showcase and design magazines like Core77 or Dezeen.
- Watch Sustainability by Design TED talks.
- Design Council and their Design for Planet resources

Connect with others

As a student on a programme accredited by the Institution of Engineering Designers (iED) you are eligible for membership. Membership is free for full-time students and includes access to post your CV free of charge on the iED website when looking for a placement or employment.

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.

The main software we use in Product Design at UWE are:

- Solidworks, Rhino, Keyshot
- Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign

All of these are high power professional software and require a good specification of computer to run. The specification of a computer you will need to run these are:

- **Operating System:** Windows 10 or later
- **Processor:** We recommend that you have access to a device with the following minimum specifications:
  For Year 1: **Enhanced Specification**.
  From Year 2 onwards you will need **Intensive Specification**.
- **RAM:** Minimum specification of 16GB memory (could go up to 32GB for more complex CAD models)
- **Storage:** Minimum 256GB SSD storage, ideally 512GB
- **Graphics Card:** All the software above can run with on board shared graphics, but a dedicated Graphics card is a good performance boost for more complex models – here, the sky is the limit in terms of both performance and expense
- **Screen**: Minimum 1920-1080 HD monitor (A good option here is 24" or larger 2560-1440 QHD external monitor)

We do not recommend a Mac, as these have a lot of issues of compatibility with UWE systems and software.

We require ALL students to have some basic art and design equipment, which will help you complete various tasks in your learning journey. These items are available to order online from **Artway Creative Supplies** and will be delivered to campus during Starting Block. If you do not wish to purchase the Artway kit, we have a great art shop on campus, and you are welcome to assemble your own kit, with items of a similar or equivalent specification.

We recommend that you start the year with the following equipment and supplies:

- A3 Layout Paper Pad (approx. 60gsm)
- A3 S-Tuff Bag or Similar Storage Bag
- Cutting Mat - A4 Minimum
- Fine Line Pen 0.3mm (It would be helpful to have various sizes: 0.1-0.7mm)
- Card Glue - Card Modelling Glue
- Masking Tape
- Pencil Set including 2H, HB, 1B, 2B, 4B, 6B
- Craft Knife or Disposable Scalpels x 3 (Swann-Morton Disposable Trimaway)
- Sharpies or Similar Markers
- Steel Rulers – 15cm and 30 cm
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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 us the Programme Leaders, **Jo Hare** and **Richard Mawle** at Jo.Hare@uwe.ac.uk and Richard2.Mawle@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