Get ready for BA(Hons) Photography

We hope that you are looking forward to starting at UWE Bristol. As your Programme Leaders, we warmly welcome you onto **BA(Hons) Photography**.

We have provided some information below that will help you to prepare for starting with us.

We look forward to meeting you.

Jim Campbell and Lee Elkins
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 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
Immediately after your induction week you will be straight into timetabled course activities. To keep your photography active over the summer period we would like you to produce work to the ***Transition*** brief outlined below; you will make a short presentation of your images to a small tutorial group in the first teaching week after the induction process.

TRANSITION - Level 1 Summer Project brief – September 2026

'Nothing is ever the same as they said it was. It's what I've never seen before that I recognise.'
Diane Arbus

Your first year of practical photography projects will involve responding to assignment briefs that will enable you to explore the photographic image across four disciplines of the medium (studio practice, analogue photography, moving image and book/zine publication). Within these assignments, you will have the latitude to begin the process of exploring subjects that are important to you and the way you see your practice evolving. To start the process, we are setting you a short summer project:

1. We want to you to take the word 'Transition' and produce a creative response that will be presented on a single sheet of A3 paper.
2. Define what the word might mean to you and consider how you might engage with subjects/ideas that interest you - research into them to try and understand them more deeply.
3. You can produce any kind of visual response; a single image or a series of photographs printed as a diptych or triptych, a collage of images (and text) taken from different sources or a 'typological' study, an abstraction or something more descriptive.
4. The image(s) can work in any photographic genre, including Documentary, Portraiture, Landscape, Still Life or Interiors. As an example, the first image in the Summer Project assignment link below, by Lorenzo Vitturi, is taken from a body of work that explores the changing nature of the area of Dalston in London. Through collections of portraits, landscapes and still life images of sculptures constructed from objects bought from the local Ridley Road market, Vitturi constructs a picture of a place and a community in transition, affected by property development and demographic shift.

Bring your work to your first timetabled session on campus so that we are able to print it out and we will then produce a 'pop-up' exhibition in the gallery space at Bower Ashton.

Good Luck
The BA Photography Team

You can access expanded details of the Summer Project assignment, containing some image examples, HERE.

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:

- Graham Clarke, *The Photograph*, Oxford History of Art, 1990.
- Charlotte Cotton, *The Photograph as Contemporary Art*, Thames & Hudson, 2014.
- Susan Sontag, *On Photography*, Penguin, 1979.
- British Journal of Photography / 1854 website
- ASX website
- 1000 Words website
- Nearest Truth podcast
- A Small Voice podcast

Connect with others
You can keep up to date with current activities from the Photography programme through our course website https://photobristolapply.co.uk/ and by accessing our Instagram page @photo.bristol.uwe. We also run a programme Facebook group for current students and course alumni: Bower Ashton Photography (closed group).

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 Photography Department carries a wide range of technical resources and equipment; therefore, we suggest that students do not invest in expensive photography equipment prior to joining the programme.

We do recommend that all students back-up all of their practical digital work to their own hard drive. It is suggested that students should purchase a robust portable hard drive with a minimum 1TB storage capacity. Many lecture and seminar rooms operate a Windows PC platform, whilst our production studios are predominantly Apple Mac based, the technical instruction team will be happy to help with any formatting issues.

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 will benefit from a laptop, particularly if your access to on-campus facilities is limited. 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.

We recommend that you purchase a device with the **Intensive Specification** for running software from the Adobe Creative suite, such as Photoshop and InDesign. The higher your RAM storage, the faster your computer will run software.

The core software used in your course includes:

- **Key software packages –** Alongside image production software from the Adobe Creative Suite, including Photoshop, Lightroom, InDesign and Premier, you will also use word processing and presentation software, such as Microsoft Word and PowerPoint. These packages will run on Windows and Mac devices, but Adobe software will not work effectively on tablets or Chromebooks.

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 Leaders: **Jim Campbell and Lee Elkins** via emails at Jim.Campbell@uwe.ac.uk and lee.elkins@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