

Get ready for MA Animation

Greetings Animators!

We hope you are looking forward to starting your **MA Animation** studies at UWE Bristol. Instructions for how to enrol and details about induction have been sent to your Welcome website.

Below you'll find other useful information, some recommended activities, and one task that will help you prepare for the course, and 'hit the ground running'.

We look forward to meeting and working with you all very soon.

Julia Bracegirdle

MA Animation Programme Leader

Before you start

Your course will begin on 22nd September 2026. During your first week at UWE there will also be activities taking place across the City Campus for post-graduate students. More details will be sent to you nearer the time.

Once you have started the enrolment process your [timetable](#) will be available to you via [MYUWE](#) (login required). Please visit the '[Understanding your teaching timetable](#)' webpage 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. You will receive an email from the University inviting you to enrol online. You can find guidance and support information on our [Enrolment](#) webpage.

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

In preparation for your first day on the MA Animation programme (22nd September 2026) we have a small task for you to prepare.

Task: Three Minute Me - Presentation maximum 5 slides (PowerPoint/PDF)

You'll soon be part of an animation community that may involve working collaboratively during the course and maybe into the future. It's important that we all gain some insight into each other's previous experiences, practices, inspirations and aspirations as early as possible. Therefore, before your arrival we ask that each student prepares a short informal presentation – specifically about your artistic and critical practice, background, and interests – which will be presented to the class at the beginning of the programme (22nd September).

Again, the presentation is expected to be informal; it will not be assessed, and the environment in which it will be presented will be a very friendly and supportive one, so please don't stress about it too much.

The 3-minute presentation can take any form you like – you can use any combination of images and clips. Feel free to have fun with it, it's an ice breaker. Your presentation could include the following.

Some samples/examples of your work;

- A moodboard that expresses your aesthetic interests and affinities.
- Two examples of influences or inspirations from within or beyond the field of animation i.e., literature, poetry, film, music, science, economics, philosophy, psychology, journalism, political science, fashion, dance, drama, digital culture, pop culture, etc.
- Excerpts from short, animated films that connect with you and your aspirations (maximum three excerpts – please don't show the whole film).
- Insight into your areas of interest, and the directions you might go in – both practice-related and research-wise – during your time with us.

Your five slides should be saved as a PowerPoint or PDF (no Google documents) and brought along on a memory stick/pen drive or emailed to Julia Bracegirdle by 21st September 2026.

Julia.bracegirdle@uwe.ac.uk

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](#) webpages to see the wide range of resources available to you once you become a UWE Bristol student.

Here are some of our recommended titles:

Amidi, A., 2006, *Cartoon Modern*, Chronicle

Klein, N.M., 1993, *7 Minutes: The Life & Death of the American Animated Cartoon*, Verso

Leslie, E., 2004, *Hollywood Flatlands: Animation, Critical Theory and the Avant-Garde*, Verso

Furniss, M., 2008, *The Animation Bible: A Guide to Everything from Flipbooks to Flash*, Laurence King.

Telotte, J.P., 2010, *Animating Space: From Mickey to Wall.E*, The University Press of Kentucky.

Williams, R., 2009, *The Animator's Survival Kit*, Faber and Faber

Useful Websites

[Animation Studies 2.0](#)

[Cartoon Brew](#)

[Pictoplasma](#)

Short Film and Animation Festivals:

[Annecy Festival](#)

[Encounters Festival](#)

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 in 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](#) for advice and guidance.

See the UWE webpage for detailed information on [choosing your IT equipment](#) including [recommended specifications](#).

For this programme we recommend the **Core Specification**.

One piece of equipment that we highly recommend you get and start using is a sketchbook: For jotting ideas, scribbling, observational drawing, storytelling and more.

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 settle in when you first arrive at UWE Bristol, and they organise social events to help you adapt to your new environment.

Who to contact if you have questions

For any questions about the course, please contact us:

Julia Bracegirdle – julia.bracegirdle@uwe.ac.uk

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