

# Get ready for BA(Hons) Early Childhood with Foundation Year

We hope that you are enjoying your summer and are looking forward to starting at UWE Bristol. A huge, huge welcome onto BA(Hons) Early Childhood with Foundation Year!

The structure and design of the Foundation Year enables you to hit the ground running when you start your main degree, giving you huge advantages to get you into your discipline(s) and have a good understanding of how UWE works.

We have provided some information below that will help you to prepare for starting the Foundation Year, so have a look through that and we will very much look forward to meeting you properly!

**Sally Spruce** –Programme Leader for the Foundation Year for Education

**Joe Brown** - Programme Leader for Education (following your Foundation Year)

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## Before you start

We are looking forward to welcoming you in the week commencing 14th September, when your course will begin with Starting Block: a two-week induction to the university, the teaching team, and your cohort. 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. You will also have the opportunity to brush up on a few academic skills before diving into the first semester.

Your timetable will have more details about the start of term and will be available in September. In the meantime, you can find everything you need to know about enrolment and the start of teaching on our [Preparing and Arrival](#) webpage.

You can find key dates for the Academic Year on our [term dates](#) webpage.

### 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](#).

## **How to make a successful start to your programme**

Actions you must complete before you start your study

The Admissions team ([admissions@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@uwe.ac.uk)) have already been in touch to let you know that you need to provide your academic certificates or evidence of qualifications and complete the mandatory professional checks before you start studying with UWE Bristol.

If you do not complete them, it will impact your ability to enrol onto the programme.

You need to complete the:

### **Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check**

**Occupational Health clearance** (you will receive a link to an online questionnaire from Avon Partnership NHS Health Service to complete within five days)

**Overseas Criminal Record check** (only applicable for overseas students or students that have lived, studied, or worked overseas for five months or more in the last five years)

Find out more about the mandatory professional checks and full details of what to expect as part of the application process.

If any of these requirements are still outstanding, you must send the relevant paperwork to [admissions@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@uwe.ac.uk), as instructed, as soon as possible.

## **Engage with your programme**

### **Start your learning**

Spend some time doing a short piece of writing about what you want from the course, what your hopes and fears are, and any questions you have. Please feel free to email me if there's anything you're not sure of.

### **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:

- DfE (2024) [Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage](#) (EYFS). London: Crown Copyright.
- Uprichard, E. (2008) [Children as 'beings and becomings': Children, childhood and temporality](#). *Children and Society*, 22, 303–313.
- [Unicef website](#)

~~There are also titles for a 'Childhood Degree' on the market. These are not necessary to purchase but previous students have noted that they are a useful pre-read, as it will give you a broad insight into the areas of study that we will be covering. It would be worth seeing if your local library has a copy. Examples include:~~

- Musgrave, J, Savin-Baden, M, Stobbs, N (eds) (2017) *Studying for Your Early Years Degree: Skills and knowledge for becoming an effective early years practitioner*. St Albans: Critical Publishing
- Sambell, K, Gibson, M & Miller, S (2010) *Studying Childhood and Early Childhood: A Guide for Students (2<sup>nd</sup> ed)*. London: Sage

## Be prepared

### Access support

Check information on our [Disability webpages](#) so you know what actions you need to take. [Contact Disability Service](#) and myself to let us know if you need any additional mobility or other support to fully access all activities during your studies.

### 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 website for detailed information on [choosing your IT equipment](#) including [recommended specifications](#). For this programme we recommend the [Core Specification](#).

### 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 leader:

**Sally Spruce** via email [sally.spruce@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:sally.spruce@uwe.ac.uk)

For questions about your studies on your chosen degree programme (after Foundation Year) contact **Joe Brown** via email at [joe2.brown@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:joe2.brown@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