

Get ready for BSc (Hons) Geography

I hope that you are enjoying your summer break and are looking forward to starting at UWE Bristol. As your Programme Leader, I warmly welcome you onto your BSc (Hons) Geography degree programme. You will be starting your geographical studies at an important and dynamic time for the subject, as the challenges of a changing climate and biodiversity loss are increasingly present. As a geographer and environmental manager, you will play a crucial role in shaping a more sustainable future.

During your induction I will provide you with all the information you need to make your time at UWE Bristol successful. It is important that you fully engage with this to ensure you start your degree well. In the meantime, we have provided some information below that will help you to prepare for starting with us.



I look forward to meeting you in September.

Dr Harry West

Programme Leader for BSc Geography

Before you start

We are looking forward to welcoming you in the week commencing 15 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 registration 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 registration, 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.

Our [study skills workbook](#) introduces you to essential services as well as key skills. 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.

Registration

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 register. Note that your login details for MYUWE are different to those used for the UWE Welcome website. Registration for September programmes will only be open from August onwards. You can find guidance and further information on our [Registration](#) 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

One of the key skills that you will be developing on BSc (Hons) Geography is the ability to make an argument on the basis of evidence from reputable sources. During your induction you will practise this skill in a debate about the installation of the Severn Barrage.

To start preparing for this debate now you should begin collecting evidence both for and against the installation of the Severn Barrage. The most reputable sources are those written by experts and reviewed by other experts and typically take the form of 'peer-reviewed journal articles'. Once you have started your degree you can download peer-reviewed journal articles using our library website, but for now you can use 'Google Scholar'.

So, before you attend your induction please:

1. Navigate to [Google Scholar](#)
2. Search for 'Severn Barrage'
3. Identify three articles that appear as though they will give you useful information about the potential impacts of the Severn Barrage. Try and get a range of different types of articles so that you have evidence that covers both positive and negative impacts on environmental, economic, and social factors. You could try modifying your search term to find articles covering a particular type of impact (for example, 'Severn Barrage economic viability' or 'Severn Barrage environmental impact').
4. Either print or download the articles (you might only be able to access their abstracts/summaries for now) and bring them to your induction.

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:

- Biodiversity: what the UN has found and what it means for humanity.
- The disarming case to act right now on climate change.
- Flood simple: the UK flooding crisis explained.

You can access this reading using this [online reading list](#).

Connect with others

To start meeting fellow students and ask staff questions before you arrive, join the [UWE Bristol BSc Geography 2025 Starters Facebook group](#). You can also choose to join the student [Geography Society here at UWE](#), who organise a variety of social events throughout the year.

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.

However, you will also benefit from having your own personal 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 choose to buy a laptop for your studies, please be aware that most of the core specialist software used on your course will only run on Windows devices, **not** on Macs, tablets or Chromebooks. You may wish to therefore buy a Windows laptop device. **For this programme we recommend a Windows 10 or 11 laptop with the Enhanced Specification.**

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

At this stage it is not recommend that you buy any books. In the first week of teaching, the academic module leader for each of your modules will explain the recommended 'reading strategy' for that module. Based on this you can decide whether or not you need to buy a book, or whether you would prefer to use the library resources (for example, most of the reading you will need is available in electronic format via our library's website).

You should make sure that you have walking boots with good grip and ankle support, and a waterproof coat and trousers.

If you're struggling to meet the financial demands of your course, please contact the [Student Money Service](#) for advice and guidance.

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: **Harry West** via email at harry.west@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 2025

Last updated: Spring 2025