Get ready for BSc(Hons) Urban Planning

We hope that you are enjoying your summer holiday and are looking forward to starting at UWE Bristol.

As your Programme Leaders, we warmly welcome you onto BSc (Hons) Urban Planning. We have provided some information below that will help you to prepare for starting with us in September.

Cat Loveday and Dr Katy Karampour

Programme Leaders

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 - have a go at these activities to start preparing for your programme:

Activity 1: Looking ahead to Year 1
We have included a series of questions for you to reflect on in terms of skills and competencies gained so far and to manage your expectations for the course. It is a short 2-page survey and we would really appreciate if you could complete the survey .

Activity 2: My Place
You will find a PowerPoint slide explaining this activity. The activity centres around your understanding of the city/village in which you live and your views on how best it works as a place that people want to live and/or work in.

You can email us your responses in any format (e.g. Microsoft Word, PowerPoint etc.) and please do so **before 16 September (Mon)** when the Starting Block commences.

Any questions about either task, please do get in touch and we will be happy to clarify.

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.

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

1. "How do we plan our world?" (VIDEO) - Royal Town Planning Institute (2014)

2. "Sterile or stirring? Britain's love-hate relationship with new towns" (ARTICLE) –Steve Rose (2019)

3. "10 towns that changed America" (VIDEO) – Public Broadcasting Service (2016)

These resources along with other useful reading material can be accessed via the programme's which gives you some of our recommended open access titles, to be inspired by and to understand the scope of your degree programme.

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 core software used in your course includes:
- MS Office Applications (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Outlook, Teams)
- Adobe Creative Cloud (Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign)
- ArcGIS Pro, QGIS.
- Minitab / Other Statistical Software

These packages will run only on Windows devices, but not on Macs, tablets or Chromebooks.

For this programme, there is no need to buy a laptop but if you want to, we recommend enhanced specification:

Enhanced specification – in addition to be able to access the University's core digital learning systems (Microsoft 365, Blackboard, Collaborate, Panopto, Pebblepad), this spec will work for more advanced data processing, image editing or basic video editing, application development:

- i5 (9th generation) or Ryzen 5 (3rd generation) processor

- 8GB memory

- 256GB solid-state storage

Materials for your course

You will need the following equipment for the course: a 30cm Metric Triangular Scale Ruler (for example, a Helix scale is available on Amazon for £4.33), a selection of pencils, eraser and sharpener (you will need these for map making and/or sketching sessions).

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:

Cat Loveday via email at catherine2.loveday@uwe.ac.uk

Dr Katy Karampour via email at katy.karampour@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