Get ready for BSc(Hons) Business Computing (with Foundation Year)

Please take the time to read this letter carefully, as it contains important information to help you prepare for the start of your course—including details about your pre-work and links to key resources.

I hope that you are enjoying your summer holiday and are looking forward to starting at UWE Bristol. I'm pleased to welcome you to the BSc (Hons) Business Computing with Foundation Year – I'll be your Foundation Year Leader throughout this first stage of your journey.

We're really looking forward to meeting you during Starting Block, which begins the week commencing 15 September. This first few weeks are designed to help you transition and settle into university life, meet the course team and fellow students, and build your confidence ahead of the term.

Starting Block will introduce you to the systems, spaces, and study skills you will be using throughout your degree. You will also begin to develop the habits and connections that will support you throughout your time at UWE. Keep an eye on your inbox for further emails, and feel free to explore the Starting Block website for more details.

Your teaching timetable will become available on MYUWE (login required) once you begin the registration process. For more information, please check the 'Understanding your teaching timetable' webpage, which outlines when and how your timetable will be published.

I'm really looking forward to welcoming you in person very soon!

Jonathan Stadon
SCCT Foundation year lead

Before you start

Before starting your foundation year, it's important to complete some pre-work designed to help you settle into your studies and make the most of the programme. This preparation is a key part of getting ready for the year ahead and will support your personal and academic growth from the very beginning.

The pre-work takes the form of an online workbook, broken into easy-to-follow sections that you can complete at your own pace before arriving. It focuses on self-reflection, clarifying your learning goals, and exploring how these will shape your journey throughout the year.

Completing this workbook will also help you get familiar with the course structure and

expectations, making your transition into university life smoother—especially if you're new to higher education or studying in a different country.

Your responses will help us understand your academic journey so far and how we can support you as you move into this next stage. The insights you gain will also guide your tutorial sessions and help you stay focused and confident as you progress through your foundation year.

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 will 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 will 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
Learning to program opens a world of creativity and problem-solving—and it all starts with curiosity and a willingness to have a go. You don't need any coding experience to begin, just an open mind and a bit of persistence.

To help you get started, we've created a set of fun, beginner-friendly exercises called "Illustrating Python." They're designed to introduce you to core programming concepts in a visual and engaging way. You can explore them at your own pace over the summer and build your confidence before the course begins.

- Illustrating Python 1: Python Patterns
- Illustrating Python 2: Ten Green Bottles

- [Illustrating Python 3: Loops](#)
- [Illustrating Python 4: Turtle Geometry](#)
- [Illustrating Python 5: Processing in Python](#)

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

- We will start the foundation year by thinking about how to be a successful technologist, practising the sort of thinking that makes that possible and learning how to use the Python programming language to bring it all together. The "Think Like a Programmer" series of YouTube videos will you understand the importance of problem solving, planning and design when working on a technical solution to a problem. Watch the first of this series: [Think Like a Programmer: Introduction](#)

- This free online book helps you see how to turn the "thinking" into Python: [Automate the boring stuff with Python](#)

- For an example of how you could use your Python skills in the creative domain to make a simple game, have a look at this article: [How to create a 2D game with Python and the Arcade library](#)

- One of the key outcomes of the Foundation Year is to develop skills in design and implementation of a website. Some of you will have already developed some skills in this area while for others this will be a completely new experience. [Codecademy.com](#) is a great resource for learning new programming languages. Checkout the following two Web Programming courses: [Learn HTML](#) and [Learn CSS](#)

Connect with others
You will be joining a scholarly community of academics and students with a passion for learning about your subject. There will be a range of opportunities for you to get involved in the community. Follow our Department of Computer Science and Creative Technologies [@UWE_CSCT](#) on Twitter.

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.

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.

For the Foundation Year, there is no specific requirement for you to use Windows or Mac. This is a choice that you need to make on your own. The computers used in the labs (and Library) at UWE are almost all Windows machines and so this may affect your decision about what to buy for home. To help you decide, you should look for machines that meet these specifications (both Laptop and Desktop) and read reviews about them. It would also be a good idea to look online for suggestions about machines that best fit your future studies and plans. Once you have made an informed decision about your purchase, you can be happy that your choice will meet your current and future needs.

See our website for more information on choosing your IT equipment.

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: **Jonathan Stadon** via email at Jonathon.Stadon@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.

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