

Preparing to start your course

We hope that you are enjoying your summer holiday and are looking forward to starting on **BA(Hons) Architecture and Planning (with Foundation Year)** at UWE Bristol.

As your Course Leader, I warmly welcome you into your Foundation in Design and Architecture. This course is special in that you will be working alongside a variety of our design disciplines as you begin to progress through your own programme. You will experience and engage in design at a variety of scales [from 'object' to 'place'], experiment with creative problem solving and practical techniques and work with a variety of student and staff disciplines. We will find a common language.

Our Induction Programme in Welcome Week will give you the opportunity to meet other students on this foundation year and members of staff. We have planned a number of activities which will ease you into Bristol life and the start of the year.

The instructions for how to register for your course and the details of your induction have been sent to your Welcome website. In the meantime I have provided some information below that will help you to prepare for starting with us in September.

Sally Daniels

Course Leader and Studio module coordinator

Take our interactive 'Prepare for Study' tutorial

Studying at Uni is different. You will probably need to change your approach and learn some new, or different, skills to get the most out of your academic studies at UWE.

TO DO: Please spend a short time over the summer to prepare by taking the 25 minute interactive tutorial '[Prepare for Study](#)'. This guides you on what to expect from studying at university and explore the UWE [study skills](#) page. Here you will find information about online tutorials, workshops and drop-ins to help you with writing and researching assignments, IT, presentations, time management and much more. See Also the 'Study Skills Handbook' – next page.

TO DO: And of course; do not forget; health and wellbeing is of primary importance – do familiarise yourself with what this might mean in the context of your new life at uni.

<http://www1.uwe.ac.uk/students/healthandwellbeing.aspx>

Start your studies with a good bit of research this summer

GENERAL: A good book to look at before you arrive is **Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain** by Betty Edwards. Sketching and drawing will be at the very core of the design development process and as part of your skills development. We firmly believe that everyone has the ability to draw. If you lack confidence in your abilities, or if you feel that this is a skill that can be improved, then this book is a good reference.

TO DO: If you have not already done so, start drawing in a sketchbook! As you will be doing a lot of drawing, there is nothing like starting early. You might also wish to explore exhibitions, everyday objects and scenes, people and places or buildings of historical note!

SPECIFIC: To give you a taste of the sort of conversations, experiences and activities we may be engaging with over the academic semesters, here is a list of focussed reading matter.

TO DO: Over the summer; **please read at least one** of the recommended extracts from the books illustrated and have a go at their respective tasks. Most of these should be in the library [and you could read the task in one sitting], or available second-hand [and cheap] on eBay, or you may find them as pdfs which you can read for free online.



We will share our findings over Induction Week – so come prepared!

MH is a must-have book for your journey through UWE
Everything else is highly recommended for all of you.

- 1. Reportage Illustration** [Embury & Minichiello]: Shows sketching in action. Read chapter 3 on **Developing a Visual Language**. Experiment with techniques in recording people and their interactions with objects, furniture and places. Present ideas that work for you, explaining why.
- 2. The Study Skills Handbook MH** [Cottrell]: Will provide practical guidance that will really help you develop strategies and techniques for Uni life. Read, participate in the exercises and review chapter 1 – **Success as a Student** 300 – 500 words max. Would you recommend this book?
- 3. Design Like You Give a Damn** [Architecture for Humanity]: Architectural Responses to Humanitarian Crises. Choose one project described in the book. Research it

further online and prepare a short [1 A3 page] critical review of it; to include diagrams, with your own thoughts on how it could be improved.

4. Cradle to Cradle MH [McDonough & Braungart]: Why not take nature itself as our model for making things?' – remaking the way we make things. Read and review chapter 2 – **Why being less bad is no good and** or chapter 5 – **Respect Diversity**. What are the key points and core arguments? How do these impact you and your role in your chosen discipline? – Critically review in 300-500 words if you can keep that short – use diagrams to help explain things, where possible.

5. Student Brain Food MH [Lucien]: Student cookbook and nutrition guidance. Very important and should go hand in hand with fresh air, good sleep and exercise! Test out and report on 2 recipes: how easy/hard/cheap/quick, taste test and show us photos...any improvements?

6. Design for the Real World MH [Papanek]: A timeless classic – in fact; the world's most widely read book on design. It was written in the 70's, so do please look beyond some of the dated language. Read chapter 7 **Rebel with a Cause, Invention and Innovation**. What are the key points and core elements? How do these impact you and your role in your chosen discipline? And the people you are designing for? – Synopsis in key points, use diagrams to help explain things, where possible.

7. Homo-Deus [Harari]: A brief history of tomorrow. It should go without saying that you will be the designers of the future! Do we have to always design with the future in mind? And what sort of future could you be working in? Where are we all heading? This is of course, one person's view, but a very real and at times shocking vision. Take a look at the final chapter 11 **Data Religion**. Critically review 300–500 words if you can keep that short – and argue with him if you want to!

Remember; choose at least one of these; one that really interests you and imagine how you might share this interest, or new discoveries with others.

Check you have the right equipment needed for your course

The University requires ALL students to have the following items prior to commencement of their course. We have negotiated a bulk purchase discount for these items. These items might be available at special prices from **Artway Creative Supplies**. If you do not wish to purchase the **Artway** kit, you are welcome to assemble your own kit, with items of a similar or equivalent spec.

To access this specific course kit, follow the unique link below:

<https://www.artway.co.uk/uwe-designfoundation/> - Artway reserves the right to substitute items on a like for like basis subject to availability.

If you wish to contact Artway please do so by email using the following address:
sales@artway.co.uk

Who to contact if you have questions

For any questions about the course, please contact me:

Sally Daniels

sally.daniels@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 2018

Last updated: June 2018