

August 2026

Hello,

Congratulations on securing your place to study at Arts University Plymouth this September! Your hard work has paid off, you should be so proud of all you have achieved.

Your first day will be Monday 7 September 2026. Please arrive at **9am** at our **Pre-Degree campus at Palace Court, Buckwell Street, PL1 2DA**. We're really looking forward to welcoming you to our creative community and seeing what you'll create during your time with us.

You'll be joining an award-winning arts university

As part of Arts University Plymouth, you'll also be joining an award-winning creative community. We were recently named **Arts University of the Year 2027** in the Daily Mail University Guide 2027. This award adds to our growing list of accolades as we are also ranked **6th in the UK for student satisfaction** in the Complete University Guide 2027 and were named **Winner for South West England** for both **Facilities** and **Student Support** in the Whatuni Student Choice Awards 2026

This letter contains important information about your first week, key dates and what to expect as you prepare to start your course. We recommend sharing it with your parents, carers or guardians so they have all the information they need to support you as September approaches.

Sincerely,



Johnny Smeaton
Head of Pre-Degree

USEFUL INFORMATION

Enrolment

You will soon receive an email containing online enrolment instructions. **There are two important steps you need to complete:**

Step1 - Activate your online account

Step 2 - Complete your online enrolment

Full instructions are provided in the email we will send you. We would strongly encourage you to share this with your parents/guardian/carer as it's important to complete the enrolment form with all the correct information and it can be helpful to have someone check it with you. **Please make sure all email addresses and telephone numbers are correct and that your emergency contacts are parents/guardians.**

TERM DATES 2026/27

Term 1

- **Term starts - Monday 7 September 2026**
- Your first week will run for four days, from **Monday 7 to Thursday 10 September**. During this week, first-year students will attend classes from **9:00am to 3:45pm** each day. After Welcome Week, the schedule will follow the regular weekly timetable outlined in the section below.
- **October Half Term - Monday 26 to Friday 30 October 2026 inclusive**
- **Term 1 ends -on Friday 18 December 2026**

Term 2

- **Term starts - Tuesday 5 January 2027.**
- **February Half Term - Monday 15 to Friday 19 February 2027 inclusive**
- **Term 2 ends - Thursday 25 March 2027**

Term 3

- **Term starts - Monday 12 April 2027**
- **Pre-Degree studies do not include a May Half Term week, however, classes will not be held on the Bank Holiday Mondays (Monday 3 and Monday 31 May 2026)**
- **Term 3 ends - Friday 9 July 2027 (TBC)**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YOUR FIRST DAY ON MONDAY 7 SEPTEMBER

On Monday 7 September please can all new students bring with them:

1. A signed Trip consent form (enclosed in this letter pack)
2. If relevant, the form requesting consent to have prescription medicines on site

Please also make sure that we are aware of any medical conditions that have not already been disclosed - this information can be shared with the Subject Leaders - details are:

Extended Diploma in Art & Design	Bryan Parsons	bparsons@aup.ac.uk
Extended Diploma in Photography	Tobie Loates	tloates@aup.ac.uk
Extended Diploma in Filmmaking and Media Production	Will Darch	wdarch@aup.ac.uk
Extended Diploma in Fashion & Textiles	Julia Stean	jstean@aup.ac.uk
Extended Diploma in Graphics, Illustration and Game Arts	Johnny Smeaton	jsmeaton@aup.ac.uk

Please keep an eye out for information sent by your course team in the next few weeks and over the summer. Course teams and Subject Leaders may send you bespoke course information updates.

Photography/Filming consent: In your first week you will be asked for your consent to be photographed and filmed for marketing that is used to promote the university whilst on trips or on campus. Our social media and video team will be on site to capture content on the first day of term - before this is used anywhere you will have the option to opt out of being pictured.

PROVISIONAL EXAMPLE TIMETABLE:

Example of the provisional **26/27 Extended Diploma** timetable:

Students who have not achieved a grade 4 in GCSE Maths or English are required to continue these qualifications. Year 1 sessions will be on Wednesday afternoons and Thursdays.

		Year 1			Year 2				
Timetable	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday				
9:00 AM									
9:15 AM									
9:30 AM									
9:45 AM									
10:00 AM									
10:15 AM	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break				
10:30 AM									
10:45 AM									
11:00 AM									
11:15 AM									
11:30 AM									
11:45 AM									
12:00 noon									
12:15 PM									
12:30 PM	Lunch Break								
12:45 PM									
1:00 PM									
1:15 PM									
1:30 PM									
1:45 PM									
2:00 PM									
2:15 PM									
2:30 PM									
2:45 PM	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break				
3:00 PM									
3:15 PM									
3:30 PM									
3:45 PM									
4:00 PM									
4:15 PM									
4:30 PM									
4:45 PM									

My Timetable	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9.00am	Extended Diploma classes	Extended Diploma classes	Extended Diploma classes	GCSE Maths Y1 A 9 - 11	
10.00am					
11.00am				GCSE English Y1 11.15 - 1.15	
12.00noon					
1.00pm	Extended Diploma classes	Extended Diploma classes	GCSE Maths Y1 A 12.30 - 13.40	GCSE Maths Y1 A 1.30 - 3.30	
2.00pm			GCSE English Y1 13.30 - 14.30		
3.00pm			GCSE Maths Y1 B 14.30 - 15.30		
4.00pm					

**GCSE Maths students will either be in group A or group B.*

STUDENT FINANCE AND BURSARY INFORMATION

If an applicant or student has a net annual household income of £30,000 or less, or any exceptional circumstances, then they may be eligible for one or more of our Pre-Degree bursaries. We offer bursaries to support travel expenses, free meals, residential relocation, or vulnerable students.

The Bursary Scheme for 2026/27 is open and applicants can find full details regarding fees, finance and funding, including bursary guidance and eligibility criteria, on our website here:

aup.ac.uk/study/pre-degree/fees-financing-and-funding.

STUDENT SUPPORT

At Pre-Degree, we have our Student Support Team, whom you can access at any time during your course. This could be for support with your academic studies, safeguarding, or wellbeing signposting. We also have a team of Specialist Support staff who work within courses in Pre-Degree.

If you have not already completed our Support Questionnaire, please do so here
bit.ly/PDSupportNeedsQuestionnaire

It is really important to let us know about any support needs you may require for your studies before starting with us. Please contact student support if you have any questions -

predegree_studentsupport@aup.ac.uk

TRIPS

Proposed Residential Trips 2026/27

We're hoping to run a number of residential trips during 2026/27. As planning is still in the early stages, all itineraries and costs are provisional and may change before bookings are confirmed. The trips we're hoping to run are:

London – December 2026 (2 nights)

Coach travel • **Estimated cost: £220**

Includes coach travel and 2 nights' bed and breakfast. Students should budget for lunches, evening meals, drinks, spending money and any paid exhibitions.

Paris – February 2027 (4 nights)

Coach and Eurostar • **Estimated cost: £535.50**

Includes travel, accommodation and breakfast. Students should also budget for:

- Local travel and entrance fees: **£75–£95 (under 18s)** or **£140–£160 (18+)**
- Lunch, evening meals, drinks and spending money.

Amsterdam – March 2027 (4 nights)

Coach and Eurostar • **Estimated cost: £498**

Includes travel, accommodation and breakfast. Students should also budget for:

- Local travel and entrance fees: **£80–£100 (under 18s)** or **£125–£145 (18+)**
- Lunch, evening meals, drinks and spending money.

Please note: Students travelling on international trips will need a valid passport. A copy of the passport must be provided to the University by the end of 2026

Booking information

A **50% deposit** will be due around **16 September 2026** (the date will be confirmed during induction week). The remaining balance for the London trip will be payable in October.

Please note that **no bursaries are available** for these trips.

Places are limited to **45 students for London** and **30 students each for Paris and Amsterdam**, so we cannot guarantee a place on your preferred trip. As in previous years, **Year 2 and Foundation Diploma students** will have priority booking for the international trips before they open to Year 1 students, which means availability for Year 1 students may be limited.

Full booking information, including the terms and conditions, code of conduct and payment schedule, will be shared during induction week.

Local Trips

In addition to the national trips, each course may also organise local trips within the city of Plymouth. These are arranged for various educational purposes such as: photoshoots, enrichment activities, gallery visits, workplace visits and location drawing.