

Planning your Time

There will be a number of information sessions in your first few weeks of term where we will outline the structure of your academic year and some of the key expectations of degree level study. In the meantime, as you start to prepare to join us in September, you may find the following useful.

Your Timetable

Once you enrol as a student at the college you will have access to our student portal which will include an online timetable detailing the days and times of your sessions in college. In the meantime, to enable you to begin planning other considerations such as travel and possibly working commitments, please note the following:

- The college day, in terms of timetabled sessions, starts at **10am** and finishes at **5pm**. You should aim to be in college by 9.30am Lunch break is **1pm – 2pm**.
- Your sessions will be: All day **Monday**, all day **Thursday**, and **Friday 10am – 2pm**
- Tuesday will be a day for self-directed study / research/ independent production
- Wednesday is a non-teaching day, but there will be optional workshops available with specialist technicians which you may want or need to sign up to.

Time to Study

Many students have to juggle work and family commitments alongside their studies, and learning how to manage time effectively is one of the challenges of higher education. It is important that you devote sufficient time to your studies, so need to consider the following:

- If you are undertaking your degree full-time, you will be in college for timetabled sessions for approximately 17 hours a week in your first year. Part-time students will be in for approximately 12 hours a week.
- To be successful in your degree, you should be studying and working for a similar number of hours outside of college e.g. reading, researching, taking photographs and writing.
- The college is open from **8.30am** until **9pm** Monday – Thursday, and also Saturday mornings. Many students use this time to produce their work, and evenings can often be the best time to book the photographic studios and arrange models.
- If you plan to work to support yourself while you are studying, you need to be mindful of the hours that you work. You should try to avoid late night shifts and not attempt to work more than 20 hours per week. Excessive and/or unsociable working hours can adversely affect your ability to fully engage with your studies.

Time to Rest and Play

However much you may love photography and enjoy your studies at college, it is important that you also allow time to rest and enjoy some leisure time. You will make new friends when you join us and you will find that our Student Union offers a range of social and sporting activities. Plymouth is a student-friendly city, with a busy nightlife scene, and our location by the sea close to the moors of Devon and the beaches of Cornwall provides ample opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. Making the most of your time and enjoying your life as a student will fuel your creativity.