

GETTING TO KNOW...

# FALMOUTH UNIVERSITY, ENGLAND

BY ADRIANE MARRIOTT-MILLS

Falmouth University, based in Cornwall, south-west England, is a hub of creative and industry-focused study, with a vibrant, welcoming community of more than 5,000 students from 53 countries. When you study at Falmouth, you have access to world-class facilities, impressive industry links to further your career, TEF Gold standard teaching and ground-breaking research opportunities. Our students have the chance to study in a location with stunning beaches, great food and a lively music and events scene.

To support all our international students, we've created a package of student support services to make sure they have everything they need to be successful throughout their studies. We offer practical help such as airport pickups and free English classes, pastoral support such as access to wellbeing services, accessibility for students with mental or physical disabilities, and employability support. There are also a variety of clubs and societies on offer specifically serving the interests of international students; helping students build lasting connections and make the most of the wider university experience.

## WHY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL STUDENTS MATTER TO US

Falmouth and the UK remain a welcoming place for international students, and the university is committed to ensuring that our students are well placed to develop global careers.

We understand that the global environment is turbulent right now, and students choosing to study away from their home countries in

particular feel much uncertainty. The university has responded to this by offering all students a blended learning environment: students learn partly online and partly on campus to get the best learning experience possible given the worldwide restrictions in place. Falmouth is also flexible in its approach, allowing those students who can't be present on campus to start their learning completely virtually if needed.

Our courses focus on preparing students to enter a competitive global labour market and equip them with the transferable skills to future-proof their careers. We aim to give students the flexibility they need to respond successfully to changing and developing industry requirements.

The town of Falmouth is a very safe and friendly place, and our students feel not only part of the university community but also part of Falmouth town itself.

## THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON STUDENTS

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented global challenges to student mobility, but there will continue to be a strong demand for career-centred creative provision, and students are continuing to come to the UK for the specialist experience that Falmouth offers.

The pandemic has also accelerated the move towards a blended digital and face-to-face teaching experience, a journey the university had already begun before the outbreak of the virus. The university has developed a robust and well-

reviewed digital and 'hands-on' delivery model of teaching, which can flex and pivot to meet the needs of all students to assure a high-quality and meaningful higher education experience, and minimise disruption to learning during these challenging times.

## HOW WE CAN SUPPORT COLLEGE COUNSELLORS

We offer a personal and one-to-one service to college counsellors and can meet at a time that suits their location, work priorities and individual school timetables. We can offer new college counsellor briefings at any time, and every college counsellor who works with Falmouth has a dedicated named point of contact in the university to speak to.

The international team within Falmouth – a team that oversees all international student success – also produces a variety of activities

and informative services that we are able to offer to partner schools, including talks about the university, the subjects on offer, advice on application such as portfolios and personal statements, careers advice and dedicated subject workshops.

College counsellors are welcome to request bespoke activities too, alongside regular virtual updates for college counsellors and teachers. The international team is happy to work directly with students and their families to provide information, advice and guidance, and also to work with curriculum leaders to provide subject-specific discovery sessions.

In addition to supporting college counsellors to understand more about the university, the international team aims to develop long-term relationships with partner schools to support them to continue to deliver high-quality creative provision and careers advice.



### THE AUTHOR

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