



East Park Terrace
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BA (HONS) ANIMATION

We would like to take this opportunity to firstly welcome you to the BA (Hons) Animation degree at Southampton Solent University. Our many congratulations. We really hope that this will be an exciting, challenging and valuable chapter in your creative lives. And so, in readiness, we'd like to provide you here with a little more detail regarding our expectations and recommendations, so that you perhaps feel a little more prepared when you first start.

We recommend that all our students buy the following art supplies:

- HB pencils (black)
- 2B pencils (black)
- Pencil case
- A folder or box to transport your work to and from campus

Our recommendation is that as we work through the first year, you learn to animate on pencil and paper. It is not mandatory, but it does afford you certain advantages over an entirely digital workflow. We supply the paper, pegbar, and everything else you need, except the pencils.

We also recommend buying some sketchbooks (A5 – A3) for observational work.

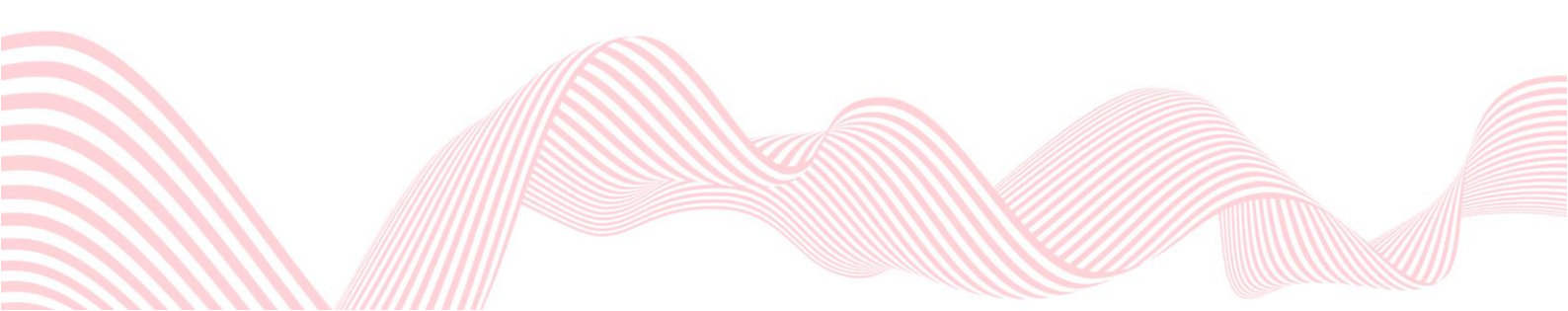
BOOKS

The Animators Survival Kit, and Drawn to Life, by Stanchfield are essential reading before you join.

FILMS

To get your creative juices fired up...

- The Iron Giant - Brad Bird / Warner Brothers - 2D
- My Neighbour Totoro - Hayao Miyazaki / Studio Ghibli
- Paranorman- Chris Butler / Sam Fell / Laika - Stopmotion
- Marcel the Shell with Shoes on - Dean Fleischer Camp - Stop motion Live action Hybrid
- Into the Spiderverse - Sony - 3D
- Entergalactic - Fletcher Moules / Netflix - 3D / 2D Hybrid





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OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

If you're not already familiar with the Animation software that we use on the course, do feel free to download a copy in advance of joining us (they usually have a free trial period), so as to familiarise yourself with their functions/processes. We primarily use Adobe After Effects, Premiere, Adobe Animate, and Photoshop, as well as progressing to Toon Boom Harmony in your second year of study. For 3D, you can use either 3DSMax, Maya, or Blender. Acquainting yourself with this software will certainly help with regards to a more gradual learning curve at the beginning of the course, though it is not essential as we do briefly cover the more basic functions at the very start.

It is not essential, but we strongly recommend buying yourself a laptop to use throughout your study. We have IT resources on site but having your own puts you at an advantage to be able to work anywhere, and some of our content is expected to be completed on-line.

- Our industry is mostly windows based, so avoid buying an Apple.
- The spec of the laptop is always evolving but some good buying tips are this:
- Check the processor, they have numbers and letters, typically if it has a U at the end it is not as good as one with an H at the end. So, you can find a laptop in the store with i5 on it, next to another with i5 on it, but if one has a U and the other an H, they will be vastly different. If in doubt, ask the course team and we will be happy to advise. AMD chips are better value.
- RAM get as much as you can afford. 8GB is an absolute minimum. 16GB is the standard
- Screen resolution must be a minimum of 1920 x 1080
- If you can get one with a dedicated graphics card, even better
- You need to get at least one external hard drive, but two is better, to have a backup.

On behalf of the Animation Team, congratulations! We can't wait to start your Animation journey and look forward to welcoming you in September.

Rob

Rob Vaughan

Course Leader – BA (Hons) Animation

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