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Hello!

I hope this letter finds you well, and you are looking forward to starting your Sports Journalism degree at Southampton Solent University in September. Before then, there are a few useful things to tell you, to help you get ready.

Firstly, immerse yourself in Sports Journalism as a critical consumer. We encourage you to listen and watch sports shows and content, but don't 'just' watch them, start analysing what you see and hear, and try to understand what makes it work (or not!).

Even better, and if you don't already, start writing, or creating your own content, and think about the type of sports journalism you enjoy - and again, try to understand why.

It's also useful to have an SD card (8GB or 16GB) for audio and video work and investing in an external hard drive (1TB or more) to back up your work throughout your degree.

And a heads up about work experience: we ask our first year Sports Journalism students to do a minimum of five days somewhere relevant to the degree, like a radio or TV station, website, newspaper, magazine, or other creative outlet where you're producing content.

It's nothing to worry about though - opportunities often arise with local sports teams in and around Southampton during term time, so don't stress. But if you wanted a head start, you could look for some this summer or start thinking about where you could go during Christmas, Easter or the next summer holiday period.

Ideally you would be working in and around sport in some way, but this is not obligatory. Once you start with us, you have the academic year (September to May) to complete your work experience placement.

One last thing: leave room in your suitcase for your sports gear! There will be opportunities to play in organised sport throughout the year if you want to. We have many teams and clubs at Solent, and our indoor sports complex is waiting for you to try it out!

That only leaves me to wish you a great summer and to say we can't wait to see you in September. We're excited to start working with you and getting to know you over the next three years.

In the meantime, if you have any burning questions, please do feel free to contact me.

All the best,

Kevin O'Donovan
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