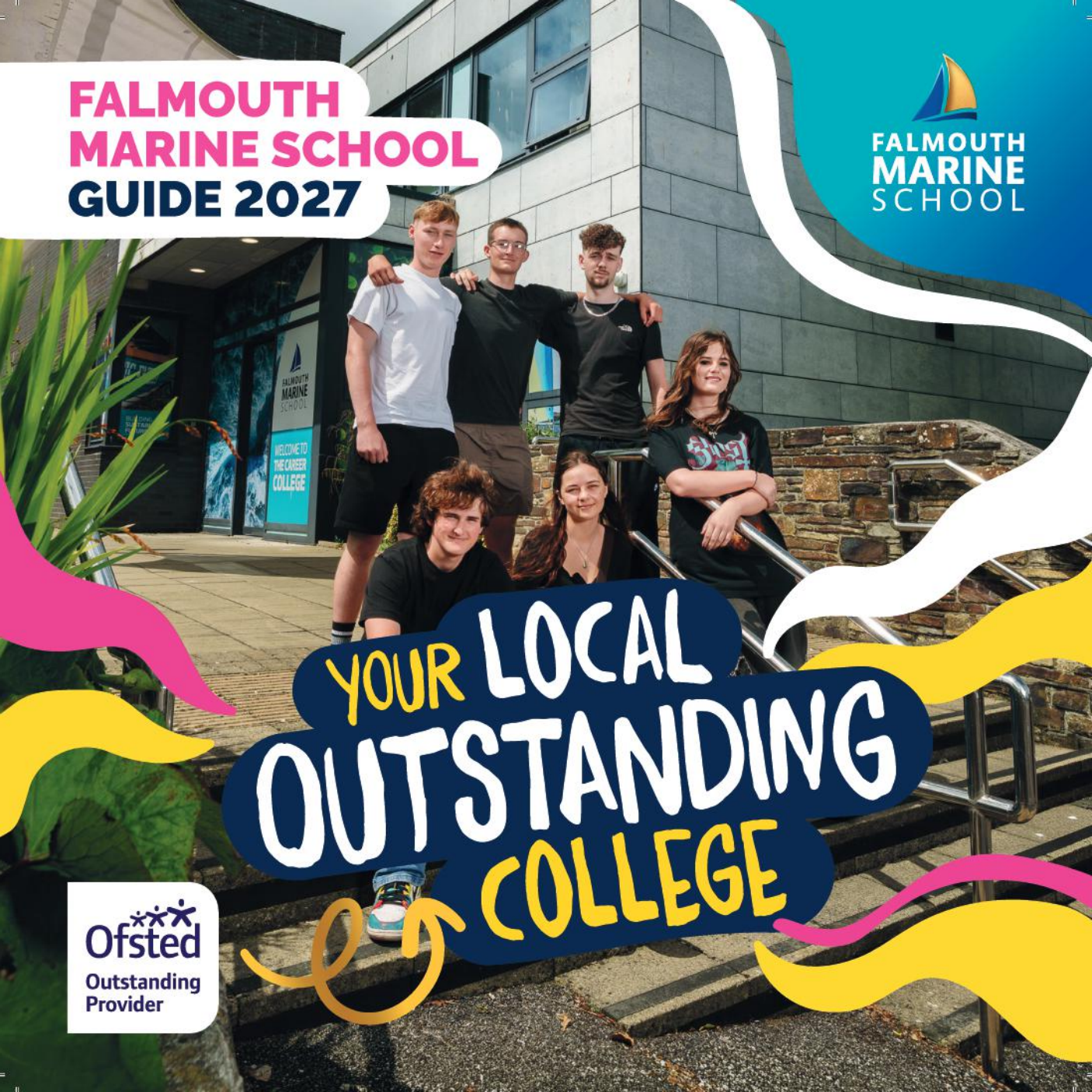
FALMOUTH MARINE SCHOOL GUIDE 2027

FALMOUTH MARINE SCHOOL



YOUR LOCAL OUTSTANDING COLLEGE

Ofsted
Outstanding Provider


What Ofsted says...
“Teachers prepare learners and apprentices extremely well for their next stage of education or employment.”
OUTSTA
Ofsted
Outstanding Provider


YOUR LOCAL
OUTSTANDING
COLLEGE
Ofsted
Outstanding
ANDING

Welcome to Falmouth Marine School



We're delighted that you are considering studying with us. We're really excited to welcome you into the Falmouth Marine School family and help make your career dreams a reality. I'm really looking forward to meeting you soon. In the meantime, please feel free to get in touch with any questions you may have.

Rory Mason
Principal of Falmouth Marine School



- A wide range of virtual and sustainable equipment and facilities
- Marine engineering workshops
- Practical watersports training delivered at Stithians Lake
- Marine biology laboratories and well-stocked aquariums
- Industry days, with employment and networking opportunities



WHAT'S ON CAMPUS

With marine life at its heart, Falmouth offers a wealth of opportunities to build a rewarding career on and around the water. Whether you want to become a marine engineer, boatbuilder, watersports instructor or marine scientist, you'll learn in one of the UK's most inspiring coastal locations, supported by industry-standard facilities, expert teaching and strong employer and university partnerships.

Close relationship with National Maritime Museum Cornwall

Sails Cafe and vibrant social space

Progression opportunities onto our Professional Superyacht Engineer programme

Dedicated student support services

Marine Science Academy with University of Plymouth partnership

Located in the heart of Falmouth

Go beyond your course with varied student enrichment options

TOUR THE CAMPUS

Pick your pathway

We have lots of different courses to choose from, but how do you know which is the right one for you?

Don't worry, we can help you narrow down the option that is best suited to you. Here's a quick rundown of the different pathways on offer.



Technical and Vocational programmes

What are they?

- They typically last between one and three years and lead to qualifications such as vocational certificates, diplomas or extended diplomas
- They focus on the practical skills and knowledge linked to specialist marine subjects, including boatbuilding, marine engineering and marine science
- They are offered at different levels depending on your experience
- You'll be assessed through coursework, practical observations, and external exams
- After completion, you can either progress to a higher level study programme, enter the world of work or move on to study at university level

Choose this if...

- You're looking for work skills to enter a particular industry, such as marine engineering or boatbuilding
- You learn best by getting hands-on
- You want to progress to the workplace, further study or onto university

A Levels

What are they?

- They last two years, and include a mixture of formal lectures, class activities and assessments
- They focus on developing independent learning, with research projects and homework forming part of your study
- You'll be assessed through a mixture of external exams and coursework, depending on your chosen subjects
- At Falmouth Marine School, our Marine Science Academy is made up of three A Levels (Biology, Environmental Science and Geography) along with an Extended Project Qualification

Choose this if...

- You have particular interests that you want to study at a deeper level
- You want to increase your critical thinking, analytical, and independent research skills
- You want to progress on to higher education

Apprenticeships

What are they?

- An apprenticeship lets you gain work-based skills while earning a real salary
- The majority of the time will be spent learning on-the-job with an employer, with additional training at college
- You'll be assessed at both college and in your workplace

Choose this if...

- You already know what job you want to do
- You prefer to learn in the workplace rather than the classroom
- You want a professional qualification to support your work experience
- You want to earn while you learn

APPRENTICESHIPS

FIND OUT MORE

Course levels and entry requirements

It is important to choose the correct level of course after your GCSEs. The choices available to you will depend on whether you meet the entry requirements, how you like to study and what you would like to do after your time with us.

Please use the table opposite as a general guide to our entry requirements. Some courses may require further specific qualification grades due to the nature of their content. Acceptance on a course will also depend on a successful interview.



Please note:

- Some specialist courses may have extra entry requirements; please see website for details
- If you are considering taking on an apprenticeship, we'll ask you to complete an initial assessment in English and Maths, along with a Skills Scan. This will help us to determine your current skills and knowledge, and choose the right level of apprenticeship for you
- If you do not achieve your expected grades, please don't panic. Contact us, and we will help you find an alternative course, normally in the same subject area of interest

WHAT LEVEL IS RIGHT FOR ME?

Entry level

Study Options: Entry Level qualifications
Typical Entry Requirements: No formal qualifications are required
Progression: Next Entry Level or Level 1 course

Level 1

Study Options: Level 1 qualifications, including certificates and diplomas
Typical Entry Requirements: Two or more GCSEs at grade 2 or above, or successful completion of Entry Level qualification
Progression: Level 2 course, an apprenticeship or employment

Level 2

Study Options: Level 2 qualifications, including diplomas and apprenticeships
Typical Entry Requirements: Three or more GCSEs at grade 3 or above, or successful completion of a relevant Level 1 qualification.
Progression: Level 3 course, an apprenticeship or employment

Level 3

Study Options: Level 3 qualifications, including diplomas, apprenticeships and A Levels
Typical Entry Requirements: Four or more GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including English and/or Maths, or successful completion of a relevant Level 2 qualification and a grade 4 or above in English and/or Maths
Progression: University study, an apprenticeship or employment

Enrichment



There's more to explore on our campus with our diverse enrichment programme. Alongside your studies, you'll be able to discover new interests, develop valuable life skills, boost your CV and prepare for your next steps.

Depending on the enrichment you choose, you can pick a new activity each term, stick with something you love or take on a longer project like a Duke of Edinburgh Award or Extended Project Qualification.

Other enrichment can be purely about having fun, being social and meeting new people while trying something you've never done before. And if you can't see something that interests you, you might even get the chance to start something brand new.

Skills and Experiences

- Basic car maintenance
- Community projects
- Content creation
- Cooking skills
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Photography
- Plymouth Argyle Football Development Programme
- Stage crew
- STEM activities

FIND OUT MORE



Clubs, Sport and Wellbeing

- Arts and crafts
- Climbing
- Dance
- Dungeons & Dragons
- Film Club
- Football, rugby and netball
- Gaming and esports
- Gardening and conservation
- Gym and fitness
- Mindfulness and wellbeing
- Pokémon Club
- Surf and skate clubs

Careers and Progression

- Careers and employability
- Extended Project Qualification
- Industry experiences and networking
- Interview skills
- Leadership opportunities
- Students' Union
- Study support
- Subject extension activities
- University preparation

Whether you want to enhance your academic success, stand out when applying for university, apprenticeships and employment, gain confidence, or simply follow your passions, we have an enrichment opportunity for you.







Engineering & Marine Engineering



Technical and vocational study

	Level
Marine Technology Diploma	**Level 2**

Explore boatbuilding and marine engineering through practical workshop learning in a boatyard-style environment.

	Level
Marine-based Engineering Diploma	**Level 1** **Level 2** **Level 3**

Learn how to service engines, propulsion and mechanical systems with this hands-on path into the marine engineering sector.



Apprenticeships

	Level
Lean Manufacturing Operative	**Level 2**

Use lean time and resource-saving principles while working in a fast-paced manufacturing environment.

	Level
Maritime Mechanical & Electrical Mechanic	**Level 2**

Develop practical skills in testing, fault diagnosis, maintenance and overhauling of vessel systems, while working with a real business.

Marine Engineer **Level 3**
Build your marine engineering skills in a specialist workshop, and put them into practice working with a real business.

Marine Surface Finisher **Level 3**
Learn how to prepare, treat, repair and refine interior and exterior surfaces of boats and ships, working with a real business.

SEE OUR FULL RANGE OF COURSES

TOM WILSON

Maritime Mechanical & Electrical Mechanic Apprenticeship Level 2

"I chose to come here because Pendennis is a really good apprenticeship provider and if they trust Falmouth Marine School, then it must be a good place. "



Marine Science Academy



Full-time study	Level
Marine Science Academy Study A Levels in Biology, Environmental Science and Geography, plus an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).	**Level 3**

Exclusive University of Plymouth partnership

We've partnered with the University of Plymouth's School of Biological and Marine Sciences to give you opportunities that go beyond the classroom and prepare you for university.

You'll benefit from:

- Visits to world-class marine teaching and research facilities
- Guest lectures, masterclasses and EPQ support from leading academics
- UCAS guidance and preparation for university life
- A guaranteed interview for eligible applicants*

*Subject to meeting the University's published entry requirements and admissions criteria.

FIND OUT MORE





ELLE HAYNES

Marine Science Lecturer

"The course balances practical work with academic rigour to prepare for university and industry in a close-knit supportive environment, developing future ecologists and conservationists."

Boatbuilding



Technical and vocational study	Level
Boatbuilding Diploma	Level 2 Level 3

Prepare for the marine industry by building and repairing boats as part of live workshop projects, at a level to suit you.

SEE OUR FULL RANGE OF COURSES





Did you know?

Falmouth Marine School has been teaching specialist boatbuilding courses since 1920. By combining a century of knowledge and expertise with the latest technology and techniques, we can provide you with all the skills you need to enter the world of marine engineering and boatbuilding.

Watersports



Technical and vocational study

	Level
Watersports Diploma	**Level 2** **Level 3**

Develop your coaching and leadership skills in watersports such as sailing, windsurfing, paddleboarding and kayaking.

SEE OUR FULL RANGE OF COURSES




LARK
BRIDGES
Chief Instructor,
South West Lakes
Watersports Diploma
Level 3 alumni
"My course encouraged me to enjoy being outside, being in the sunshine, being active, being hands-on and working with lots of people from different backgrounds."

Supporting you at college



Transport

If you are aged 16-18, and need help with transport to college, it's really important to apply for your bus pass during the months of June and July. This will guarantee that you'll have your pass in time for the start of term in September.

Depending on where you live, your bus pass could be provided by Cornwall Council, Devon Council or through the College's own transport network.

We do have bursaries available that can support eligible learners with the cost of travel. If you have any questions about travelling into college, please email bursaries@cornwall.ac.uk

FE Bursary funding

If you are under 19 years old on 31 August, your course won't cost you anything. For students aged 19 and over who may have to pay fees towards their tuition, guidance is available.

We offer a FE Bursary to support eligible students financially with access to transport, childcare, equipment and free college meals. If you have any further questions regarding financial support with your studies, please email bursaries@cornwall.ac.uk



Student Support

The College provides a supportive learning environment focused on student success and personal growth. Engagement and Progression Officers (EPOs) help with academic and personal challenges, and staff in learning centres offer study support and resources.

Students can take part in personal development activities such as trips, guest talks, and skill-building sessions. Health and wellbeing are also prioritised, with tailored activities across campuses to support mental and physical wellness.

Career guidance is available year-round through Careers Officers, who support university progression, job opportunities, and further training. Students also have access to online tools like Moodle and Teams.

The College values inclusivity and safety, offering SEND support, financial aid, and accommodation options. The Students' Union helps shape the student experience through representation and events.

Campus map


8
MARINE ENGINEERING ROOM
BOATBUILDING
7
6
MARINE ENGINEERING
4
THE COVE
SAILS CAFE
3
LEARNING CENTRE
5
MARINE SCIENCE
2
PV
1
RECEPTION

1 Reception

2 Learning Centre

3 Sails Cafe

4 The Cove (Student Union)

5 Marine Science

6 Marine Engineering

7 Boatbuilding

8 Marine Engine Room

PV Visitors Parking

Alumni spotlight



EMILY HARDISTY

Emily studied Marine Biology and Ecology at Falmouth Marine School, before going on to complete a BSc (hons) in Applied Zoology at Cornwall College University Centre Newquay and a master's in Marine Biology at the University of Plymouth.

Since then, Emily founded the Voices of Water Foundation – an organisation helping to reconnect people with land and water through science, creativity and spirit. She is also leading an ongoing movement for law change to better protect and restore our rivers.

Emily said: "If something inspires you, follow it, take the leap to follow and author your story. We all have power to make an impact."

How to apply

So you've decided which course is for you:



1 Apply

Complete an application form

You can apply through the relevant course page on our website using an online form. If you'd prefer a paper copy of the application form, call us and we can send one out to you.

2 Interview

We can't wait to meet you

You'll receive an invitation to meet with the course lecturer at an interview. This is likely to be at one of our scheduled interview events on a weekday evening. It's a perfect opportunity to talk about the course you're interested in and find out how it can help you achieve the goals you have for the future.

3 Accept your offer

You made it! Your college place is waiting

Exciting! Reserve your place as soon as possible. Please note, the offer you get may be conditional on you gaining certain GCSE grades. If you end up not getting the results you expected, there's no need to panic. Just get in touch and we'll help you explore your options.

4 Start course

Welcome to your local, outstanding college

We'll see you in September for your induction week!

GET IN TOUCH

If you have any other queries, please contact us on **0330 123 2523** or email **enquiries@cornwall.ac.uk**

SCAN THE CODE TO VISIT FALMOUTHMARINESCHOOL.AC.UK

Join us @ our next
FALMOUTH MARINE SCHOOL

OPEN EVENT

(includes Taster Session)

A great starting point for you and your family. Tour the campus, meet staff and students, and find out more about courses and college life.

Sat 17 Oct 2026	10am - 12pm
Sat 30 Jan 2027	10am - 12pm
Tue 18 May 2027	5pm - 7pm

FIND OUT MORE

Scan the code to visit falmouthmarineschool.ac.uk/events