First Year Studies Materials Checklist

NCAD | Common Entry, Art, Design & Education
2020/21

NCAD DUBLIN

National College of Art and Design
A Recognised College of University College Dublin

Digital Equipment Checklist

Blended learning during COVID will require that all students have digital equipment such as a laptop and a camera. Here are the recommendations for each:

USB
16Gb USB 3.0 stick as standard (can be purchased on Amazon for £5.99).

DIGITAL CAMERA
The quality of cameras on modern smartphones is generally acceptable for first year.

LAPTOP
It is required that all students have a laptop for writing, research and carrying out digital editing for studio, professional practice and visual culture work.

The recommended hardware specifications are listed on the next page.

The choice between PC or MAC is up to individual personal preference, it should be noted that for students choosing to do Communication Design or Interaction Design, that MAC is the industry standard.

Once students are in Communication Design Specialist Department of Study from the final Module of year one onwards, all teaching will be done on the MAC platform.

The machine needs to be powerful enough to run specialist design software such as Adobe Creative Suite or 3D rendering programme such as Solid Works/Rhino. Older machines can have a very short battery life, students will need laptops with very good batteries to use in seminar rooms.

SOFTWARE
The software you will require will depend on your chosen department of study, the most commonly used are Adobe Creative Suite and Microsoft Office. Seek advice in October, as there are often free trials available and student discount subscriptions, there are also free/open source options are available.

Recommended Minimum Specification for a Laptop

School of Fine Art	School of Design
• 8GB RAM (minimum) • A dedicated graphics card, for example, GEforce or Radeon (Vega Graphics Card Is not recommended) • USB 3.0 (minimum) • A minimum of **250GB internal hard drive** (A 500GB or more hard drive is preferable, solid state hard drives are even better) **Recommendations for all courses in Fine Art:** • A PC (Windows) laptop which meets the above specifications (rough pricing: €700) or • An MacBook Pro (Apple) **NOTE:** **Secondhand Reconditioned:** It is possible to purchase a light, portable, good quality, powerful, secondhand machine that has all the above spec at a much-reduced cost.	• 8GB RAM (minimum) • A dedicated graphics card, for example, GEforce or Radeon (Vega Graphics Card Is not recommended) • USB 3.0 (minimum) • A minimum of **500GB internal hard drive** (more hard drive space is preferable) **Recommendations for Communication** **Recommendations for Product Design and Jewellery & Objects, Fashion Design and Textile Surface Design** • A PC (Windows) laptop which meets the above specifications (rough pricing: €700) or • A MacBook Pro (Apple) **Design and Interaction Design:** • Apple MacBook Pro (Apple) **RECOMMENDED SUBSCRIPTION** • A subscription to the Student Adobe Creative Cloud package with access to Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign is recommended. This costs €19.99 per month and will be essential for most design pathways in the second half of the academic year