

# First Year Studies Materials Checklist

NCAD | Common Entry, Art, Design & Education  
2019/20

**NCAD** **DUBLIN**

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

## Studio Checklist

You will require the following materials and equipment when you commence the course:

### Essential

- Portfolio A1/A2 size (Can be a simple cardboard or plastic folder)
- A4 Notebook with blank pages
- A selection pencils (HB and B)
- Eraser/Pencil sharpener
- Charcoal (medium willow charcoal and compressed charcoal)
- Chunky black marker
- 1 box of student quality acrylic colour paints - primary colours and black and white only
- A selection of paint brushes
- Retractable Blade Utility knife/or SCALPEL BLADE (Stanley knife type) – with no long break off blades.
- Pair of Scissors
- Metal ruler
- Pritt stick
- Masking Tape
- A5 or larger notebook (unlined – plain paper)

### Optional

- 1 box of chalk pastels (assorted colours) or 1 box of oil pastels (assorted colours)
- **A staple gun** and box of staples
- GLUE GUN - EVEN A SMALL
- Small claw hammer
- Needlenose pliers (small)
- Wire-cutters/Snips

## Workshop Checklist

Students must also equip themselves with the following basic set of tools which are used during many projects and for setting up your space for studio assessments. You will need:

Mobile storage box for materials with maximum external dimensions of 48cm X 30cm X 63cm : Recommended type : Stanley Mobile Work Centre 48cm X 30cm X 63cm or an old suitcase of similar outside dimensions.

Suggested supplier Woodie's. Lockers are also available near the studio spaces to augment the mobile work centre which fits under the desk.

## Digital Equipment Checklist

Some projects require digital equipment such as a laptop or 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.

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### 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. **It is recommended that students wait until after the start of the first semester and seek advice from our staff and technicians especially if they wish to purchase a reconditioned model.**

The recommended hardware specifications are listed below

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 the 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. Free trials (often only last less than one month) and student discount subscriptions and free/open source options are available.

Once students are in the Communication Design specialist department from the final module of year one onwards all teaching will be done on the MAC platform and the industry standard is Apple MAC.

See all specs and recommendations on the next page:

School of Fine Art	School of Design
<p>8GB Ram (minimum)  i5, dual core processor (minimum)  Independent graphics card (desired but not essential)  USB 3.0 (minimum)  256/128 Gigabyte <b>internal</b> Solid State Drive <b>and</b>  1Terabyte external hard drive for storage this can be sourced for less than €100 (example €72.56 below)  <a href="https://www.memoryc.com/14136-1tb-transcend-usb3-0-storejet-25-mobile-external-2-5-inch-hard-drive-shock-resistant.html">https://www.memoryc.com/14136-1tb-transcend-usb3-0-storejet-25-mobile-external-2-5-inch-hard-drive-shock-resistant.html</a></p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>Windows Machine to the above spec, rough pricing: €700,  Apple MacBook Pro (Cheapest Option): €1,456.32</p> <p><b>**Secondhand reconditioned:</b>  It is possible to purchase a light, portable, good quality, powerful, secondhand machine that has all the above spec at a much reduced cost.</p>	<p>8GB Ram (minimum)  i5, dual core processor (minimum)  Independent graphics card (desired but not essential)  USB 3.0 (minimum)  256 Gigabyte <b>internal</b> Solid State Drive  256 Gigabyte <b>external</b> Solid State Drive <b>or</b>  1Terabyte external hard drive or (minimum),</p> <p><b>Recommendations for Communication Design and Interaction Design</b></p> <p>Apple MacBook Pro (Cheapest Option): €1,456.32</p> <p><b>Product Design and Jewellery &amp; Objects, Fashion Design and Textile Surface Design</b>  students can also consider - Windows Machine to the above spec, approx pricing: €700.</p> <p><b>Subscription</b></p> <p>Subscription to Adobe Creative Cloud: €19.99 p/m will become essential for most design pathways later in the academic year.  <b>Product Design and Jewellery &amp; Objects</b> students will also require a subscription to Rhino.</p>

**Reference list**

## General

### Reading list

- 1st Year Studies staff recommend the following:

- ‘The Drawing Book’ By Sarah Simblet, published by DK (Dorling Kindersley) ISBN 978 1 4053 4123 3 - See more at:  
<http://www.ncad.ie/undergraduate/first-year/#sthash.UCup7fAM.dpuf>
- “The Medium is the Message“ by Marshal McLuhan
- “Lateral Thinking: Creativity Step by Step“ by Edward de Bono
- “The Art of Looking Sideways“ by Alan Fletcher
- “ Folding Techniques for Designers: From Sheet to Form“ by Paul Jackson
- “The Art of Manipulating Fabric“ by Colette Wolff

## Where to Source Materials

Art supply shops include:

- Evans Art Supplies  
5-6 Meetinghouse Lane, Mary’s Abbey, Dublin 7.
- Show NCAD acceptance letter to Evans to prove that you are a student, 10% discount.
- Kennedy’s Art supplies, 12 Harcourt Street, Dublin.
- Some supermarkets may have special offers on tools.

## First Day Studio Checklist

Check to make sure you have all of the items with you when you start on your first day.

- Your completed Sourcing Project
- A representative sample of work from your portfolio (include notebooks).
- Art materials/tool kit.
- Storage container (detailed above) to hold materials and equipment under your desk.
- Your own working mobile phone and an emergency contact number.