

First Year Studies Materials Checklist

NCAD | Common Entry, Art, Design & Education

2022/23

NCAD DUBLIN

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

Digital Equipment Checklist

All students use digital equipment such as a laptop and a camera to support their studies at NCAD. Here are the recommendations for each:

USB

64Gb USB 3.0 stick as standard (can be purchased on Amazon).

HDMI cable for connections.

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, PC or MAC should have the optimum specification. Once students are in the Communication Design Specialist Department of Study from the final Module of year one onwards, most teaching will be done on the MAC platform although you will not be required to purchase a MAC laptop. 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.

EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE

1Tb rugged external hard drive such as this one: <https://amzn.to/3MPxeys>

Standard small form factor external hard drives are flimsy and can break very easily.

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 available, along with sales events in November for Adobe products (providing significant discounts). There are a number of software enabled desktops available in the department for use onsite.

Recommended Minimum Specification for a Laptop

School of Fine Art	School of Design
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 8GB RAM (minimum) ● A dedicated graphics card, for example, GEforce or Radeon (Integrated GPU like Vega or Intel Xe Is not recommended) ● USB 3.0 (minimum) ● A minimum of 500GB internal hard drive (more hard drive is preferable, NVME solid state hard drives are even better) ● Recommendations for all courses in Fine Art: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A PC (Windows) laptop which meets the above specifications such as this one (rough pricing: €800) https://bit.ly/3t2mm8l ● <i>or</i> ● A MacBook Pro (Apple). If you choose a Mac please note that the lowest-priced Mac Air machines are not appropriate. The lowest recommended spec is this one (€1600), and upgrades after purchasing are no longer available: https://apple.co/3NBS6sN ● 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8GB RAM (minimum) • A dedicated graphics card, for example, GEforce or Radeon (Vega Graphics Card or Intel Xe Is not recommended) • USB 3.0 (minimum) • A minimum of 500GB internal hard drive (more hard drive space is preferable) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1tb External Hard drive, rugged and fast write speed. Connections: USB, HDMI <p>Recommendations for Communication Design, Product Design, and Interaction Design and Jewellery & Objects, Fashion Design and Textile Surface Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A PC (Windows) laptop which meets the above specifications (rough pricing: €700) <p><i>or</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A MacBook Pro (Apple). If you choose a Mac please note that the lowest-priced Mac Air machines are not appropriate. The lowest recommended spec is this one (€1600), and upgrades after purchasing are no longer available: https://apple.co/3NBS6sN