First Year Studies Materials Checklist

NCAD | Common Entry, Art, Design & Education

2023/24

Digital Equipment Checklist

All students use digital equipment such as a laptop and a camera to support their studies at NCAD.
It is ideal if students purchase a laptop in readiness to be able to complete work for all your modules for Trimester 1 with ease. If you feel unconfident making this purchase you can wait to purchase equipment with advice after beginning your course. If you have existing equipment you can bring it to college to see if it is sufficient to support your college work.
If the purchase of equipment is a cause of financial concern there are some limited supports available to students through the laptop loan scheme which is managed by the NCAD Access Office.

Here are the recommendations for each:

USB Memory stick
128Gb USB 3.0 stick as standard (can be purchased on Amazon). Example - https://bit.ly/43F7Kf4

HDMI cable for connections to screens & projectors. (USB-C to HDMI adapter depending on the ports of your laptop)

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 Windows PC or MAC is up to individual personal preference, however the Windows PC or MAC should have the optimum specification in mind for the Department specialism. The machine needs to be powerful enough to run specialist design software such as Adobe Creative Suite or 3D rendering programs such as Solid Works/Rhino. Students will need laptops with very good batteries to use in seminar rooms.
Important! Chromebooks, iPads, and any other devices that cannot run either a full Windows or Mac operating system are NOT acceptable alternatives.

EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE
1Tb rugged external hard drive such as this one: https://bit.ly/45HnrV3
A rugged portable hard drive can store and transport data in harsh environments, such as studio, workshop. They can have features like water resistance, drop-proofing and shock and vibration protection. Standard small form factor external hard drives 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 are available, along with sales events in November for Adobe products (providing significant discounts). There are several software enabled desktops available in the department for use onsite.

Recommended Minimum Specification for a Laptop

School of Fine Art	School of Design
16GB RAM (minimum) - A dedicated graphics card – GeForce or Radeon (Integrated GPU like Vega or Intel Xe is not suitable) - A minimum of 500GB internal hard drive (more hard drive space is preferable) **Recommendations for all courses in Fine Art:** A Windows PC laptop which meets the above specifications such as this one (rough pricing: €900) - https://bit.ly/3WSEkbm *or* - A MacBook Pro (Apple). If you choose a Mac please note that the lowest-priced Mac Air is NOT appropriate. The RAM requirements also apply to Apple laptops. The standard specification Macbook Pro from Apple - the 13" comes in at €1500, students will need to upgrade the RAM to 16Gb and the storage to 512Gb, this brings the cost to nearly €2000. Or the recently released 14" model which has faster GPU and processor a larger screen the standard model for the 14" is €2300	16GB RAM (minimum) - A dedicated graphics card – GeForce or Radeon (Integrated GPU like Vega or Intel Xe is not suitable) - A minimum of 500GB internal hard drive (more hard drive space is preferable) **Recommendations for Communication Design, Product Design, and Interaction Design and Jewellery & Objects, Fashion Design and Textile Surface Design** A Windows PC laptop which meets the above specifications such as this one (rough pricing: €900) - https://bit.ly/3WSEkbm *or* - A MacBook Pro (Apple). If you choose a Mac please note that the lowest-priced Mac Air is NOT appropriate. The RAM requirements also apply to Apple laptops. The standard specification Macbook Pro from Apple - the 13" comes in at €1500, students will need to upgrade the RAM to 16Gb and the storage to 512Gb, this brings the cost to nearly €2000. Or the recently released 14" model which has faster GPU and processor a larger screen the standard model for the 14" is €2300

NOTES:

- **Second-hand / Reconditioned:**
  It is possible to purchase a good quality, powerful, second-hand / refurbished machine that has all the required spec. Be aware of the age, support lifetime of the computer / operating system.

- **Important!** Chromebooks, iPads, and any other devices that cannot run either a full Windows or Mac operating system are NOT acceptable alternatives.

- **Student Discounts –** if you are purchasing a device check for student discounts.
  Student beans – discounts for students
  Apple - go to the Apple education store as you will get approx. 5% discount.
  Microsoft - go to the Microsoft education store for a 10% discount.
  Acer – Student store 15% discount
  HEAnet - Student deals