

Personal Device Requirements

– Students Programs



As a UNSW College student, you will need a personal electronic device to enhance your learning, participate in class and study in your own time. We have prepared this guide to give you an overview of the types of devices you will need to complete your studies with us.

Selecting the right device laptop

- You must have a Windows or Apple Mac laptop (NOT an iPad, Android tablet, Mobile phone or Chromebook) that:
- Is less than 4 years old
- Is running at least Windows 11, or macOS 15 (Sequoia) in English
- Has Office 365 installed in English
- Has Google Chrome installed in English (you can download this on arrival)
- Has more than 80% battery life
- Meets the specifications in the tables below

Headphones

- Working headphones with microphone

Additional devices

Some courses require additional devices such as a stylus or tablet.

Diploma of Computer Science, Diploma of Engineering and Diploma of Science students require a laptop with a stylus, or (in addition to their laptop/notebook), a suitable writing tablet with a stylus (e.g. small Wacom, model number CTL-472/K0-CX, which is compatible with PC Windows 11 or newer and Mac OSx11 or newer).

Laptop specification requirement

Category	General		Architecture/Design	
	Windows	Mac OS	Windows	Mac OS
CPU	1.6GHz or faster	Intel processor	Intel 8th gen GHz, AMD 2000 Series {Zen+} or newer	Intel 8th gen 2GHz or newer, or Apple Silicon
Memory	8GB RAM (16 GB recommended)	8GB RAM (16 GB recommended)	8GB RAM (16GB recommended)	8GB RAM (16GB recommended)
Graphics	Graphics hardware accelerated (DirectX 12 or later)	No graphics requirements	DirectX 12 capable, 2GB dedicated GPU	Metal 12 capable, 2GB dedicated GPU
Storage	10GB of avail disk space	10GB of avail disk space	20GB SSD space	20GB SSD space
Display	1280 X 768	1280 X 800	1920 X 1080	1920 X 1080
Operating System	Windows 11 (64-bit) build 25H2	macOS 15 (Sequoia) or later	Windows 11 (64-bit) build 25H2	macOS 15 (Sequoia) or later

Personal Device Requirements

– IT Applied Degrees



Students enrolled in the Bachelor of Information Technology programs (Cyber Defence & Networking and Software Development) are expected to have access to a suitable personal computer for study, practice, assessment, and project work outside scheduled class hours. While UNSW College provides access to on-campus computer laboratories and teaching facilities, students may also bring and use their own laptop during classes if they wish.

On-Campus Computer Facilities

Students will have access to dedicated computer laboratories on campus equipped with the software and virtual environments required for practical classes. These facilities are used extensively during workshops, labs, and supervised assessment activities.

Students may:

- Use the provided campus computer laboratories
- Bring and use their own laptop during classes

Assessment Requirements

For security, standardisation, and technical support purposes, supervised in-class assessments, practical tests, and laboratory examinations must be completed using the official on-campus computer laboratory systems rather than personal laptops.

Personal Computer Requirements

- Some courses require students to run virtual machines, container platforms, networking simulators, cybersecurity tools, and development environments.
- Students are responsible for maintaining their own device and ensuring software is updated and appropriately licensed.
- Tablets and mobile devices alone are not suitable for practical IT activities or assessments.
- Students without a personal computer may find it difficult to complete homework, practice exercises, group projects, and assessment preparation outside scheduled class time.

Recommended Minimum Specifications for IT Programs

Because IT students will work with programming tools, virtual machines, cybersecurity platforms, databases, cloud tools, and AI applications, the following specifications are recommended:

Component	Applied Degrees Information Technology	
	Windows (Pref)	Mac OS
Processor	Intel Core i7 (11th Gen or newer) or AMD Ryzen 5 (5000 series or newer)	Apple Silicon M1/M2 or newer
Memory (RAM)	Minimum 16GB RAM (32GB recommended)	Minimum 16GB RAM (32GB recommended)
Storage	Minimum 512GB SSD	Minimum 512GB SSD
Operating System	Windows 11	macOS Sonoma (version 14 or newer)
Portable Device Battery Life	Minimum 6–8 hours recommended	Minimum 6–8 hours recommended
Accessories	Webcam, microphone, and headphones	Webcam, microphone, and headphones

Other considerations

Function	Minimum Requirement
Device hygiene	The device must have appropriate, up-to-date anti-virus and anti-spyware software installed at all times.
English language settings	Operating systems and all required software applications must be installed using English language settings.
Headphones	Where applicable to your course structure, we recommend using headphones with a microphone for online participation and specific exams.
Microphone / camera	A working camera and microphone are required for any scheduled online classes, remote collaboration, or online meetings (if applicable to your specific program).
Operating system licensing	The device must run a legitimate, properly licensed operating system.
Other considerations'	The device must support password-based authentication and automatic screen locking, which must be enabled and used at all times.
Software and licensing	Office 365: UNSW Foundation Studies, Diploma, and Applied Degrees students will be provided access to the core Microsoft Office 365 applications, Including Outlook, Word, Excel, and Power Point. Further details will be provided during the online IT induction. Specialist software: Certain courses, such as Design, Engineering and Information Technology, may require specialist software. Details will be included in the Pre-Arrival Information provided before orientation and, where relevant to a specific course, before the course commences. Other software: Students are responsible for ensuring all applications and operating systems installed on their devices are appropriately licensed, unless UNSW Collage has provided licensed copies.
Software Updates	Windows and other software updates should be installed as soon as possible to maintain system security.
Web browser	Any modern web browser (e.g. Chrome, Firefox, Edge, Safari) is acceptable. Ensure the browser is updated to the latest version.

Learning Activity	Device Suitability		
	Required	Optional ³	
	Laptop with stylus or Laptop with separate tablet ¹	Laptop/Notebook ²	Tablet
Simple web-based tasks	●	●	●
Short writing tasks	●	●	●
Writing tasks	●	●	●
Handwriting and sketching	●	●	●
Longer writing tasks	●	●	●
Complex or specialised tasks	●	●	●
Online exams	●	●	●
Practical IT activities (e.g., coding, cybersecurity)	●	●	●

1. Diploma in Computer Science, Diploma in Engineering and Diploma in Science students require a laptop with a stylus, or (in addition to their laptop/notebook), a suitable writing tablet with a stylus (e.g. small Wacom, model number CTL-472/K0-CX, which is compatible with PC Windows 7 or newer and Mac OSx10.10 or newer).

2. Required for all other programs (excluding Diploma in Computer Science, Diploma in Engineering and Diploma in Science students).

3. Tablets and Smart Phone devices are not appropriate for online exams, any Design courses, or practical IT activities and assessments.

Key

- Recommended for this activity
- Might be suitable for some students and some activities
- Not recommended for this activity

Studying on campus?

Wi-Fi

UNSW College students can access UNSW Wi-Fi while on campus.

Size and weight

Devices need to be brought to class daily so the device will need to be a practical weight and size to carry around all day.

We recommend a maximum weight of 2kg.

Battery life

There are limited opportunities to recharge devices during an academic day, so devices will need to have sufficient battery life to use for several hours without recharging.

An ideal battery life is 10 hours or more.

Support

Support and maintenance of your own device is your responsibility as a student.

For assistance with passwords for UNSW supplied systems or software please visit my.unswcollege.edu.au

For non-password related IT assistance email helpdesk@unswcollege.edu.au

For more information contact enquiries@unswcollege.edu.au