

Computer recommendations and advice

This document has been written with the intention of providing guidance towards IT equipment, which will be beneficial during your studies at Newcastle University, and in particular the Geospatial Engineering degrees programmes. This document is not saying that you should buy a new laptop if you already have one, it is just guidance if you are considering to buy one before university.

Laptops:

If you are looking to purchase a new laptop, you should consider a windows based laptop. All of our software, used during your degree course, is based on the windows operating system and is therefore not able to run on iOS operating system (MacBooks etc.).

Suggested minimum specifications for a laptop would be:

- I5 core processor
- 8GB RAM
- Minimum of Windows 10 operating system (The University computer run on Windows 10)
- 256GB Storage minimum but 512GB or more is better

Macs:

If you already own a MacBook, then there is no need to buy a new laptop but you need to consider the following options to run Windows based software :

1. Use of the remote desktop for Windows 10 app. This app allows your Mac to connect to the university computer service remotely so that you can access your on-campus profile and have access to all the software that is needed.
2. Partition the hard drive on the Mac and load on windows 10 and this will allow both IOS and windows operating systems. This can be done through the boot camp app on your Mac. This is a reversible change so if you decide that it is not working then it can be removed. (A product key for windows will be needed).

A link below is provide of how to do this from the apple website or if you need further information.

<https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT201468>

Portable external hard drives:

A Portable external hard drive would be a useful item to have, as this will be useful to save your university work on or have back up of your computer on. Most hard drives are compatible for windows and macs but have left a couple of suggestions.

- WD My Passport Portable Hard Drive - 2 TB
- WD 2 TB My Passport for Mac Portable Hard Drive

Cloud storage:

As a student of Newcastle University, you have access to OneDrive by Microsoft office which we suggest you use to back up all university work on as well as an easy way to always be able to access your work. You will have access to 5TB of storage.

File management:

Every year there is always a problem of work being lost, we suggest that every time you make significant progress on a working document that you save it as a different version. Therefore, if the latest version is lost you have a previous version to start from and not from the beginning.

If you would like any more information about suggestions or if you would like assistance, please get in contact with our course director Henny Mills or our technicians James Goodyear and we will assist and answer any queries or questions you might have.

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