School of Design Computer Specifications 2019

Hardware

The recommended computer specifications come directly from the Autodesk AutoCAD 2019 minimum system requirements. Note that most computers purchased in 2018/19 will match or better these specifications so try to increase the recommended upgrades listed below to fit within your budget.

Windows 10
Intel Core i5 processor or AMD Athlon Dual Core @ 2.0GHz or greater
8 GB RAM or greater
Direct3D-capable graphics card with at least 1GB dedicated memory. Look for NVidia or ATI in the specifications.

Recommended extras/upgrades (highest priority upgrades listed at the top)

• Extend warranty to 3 years – Check the conditions of the warranty before buying the laptop!
• Increase processor speed. Quad core processors (eg. Intel Core i7) are highly recommended
• Increase Hard Drive size or change to Solid State Disk (SSD)

Not recommended

17" laptops

On board graphics cards (eg Intel graphics media accelerator)

4K Screens

School of Design Lab computer specifications

Windows 7 x64

Intel Xeon e3 @ 3.50GHz

16GB RAM

nVidia Quadro K2100 (4GB VRAM) DVD/RW drive

500GB SSD

23" LCD screen

Apple Computers

Architecture and Landscape Architecture are taught on PCs at the School. Most of the software packages taught can run on the Apple operating system but there are a handful of packages that only run on Windows.

For the packages that only run on Windows you will need to use a virtual Windows computer (using Vmware fusion, virtualbox or Parallels etc.) or install Windows on your Mac via Boot Camp. Note that you will also need to purchase a license of Windows before you can install it on your Mac (either Boot Camp or Virtual).

We strongly recommend looking at similarly priced PCs when considering purchasing a Mac, as you can sometimes get much higher spec hardware for the same price in a PC.

Software

Below are some of the common software packages that are used in the School of Design courses. Students are able to purchase these at discounted rates and in some cases for free.

Note that all course related software is available on all computers in the School of Design computer labs and you are not required to purchase these programs.

Adobe Creative Cloud

Creative Cloud includes Acrobat, InDesign, Illustrator and Photoshop and all are used throughout your course. This suite can be purchased for either Apple Mac or Windows.

Students are able to purchase a subscription directly from http://www.adobe.com/au/creativecloud/buy/students.html for $28.59 per month.

Autodesk – Version 2019

You will use a number of Autodesk programs including: AutoCAD, 3Ds Max Design, and Revit. We are currently using the 2019 versions.

Students have access to the entire suite of Autodesk software for free. You can download the software by going to http://students.autodesk.com – you need to register using your UWA email address to access the site.

Microsoft Office – Office 365

UWA students have access to the Student Advantage program which provides up to 4 years access to Microsoft Office 365 for no cost.

To get started, simply visit https://office.com/Getoffice365 and using your *<studentnumber>*@student.uwa.edu.au e-mail address to register, follow the prompts and download the software. Note that the password you set during this process will be separate from your UWA login password so make sure you memorise it!