

Recommended IT for Psychology students

This is the guidance for the academic year 21/22.

During 21/22 and future years of study you will need a personal computing device.

We have good quality IT workspaces and computing labs but due to the potential of ongoing social distancing, lockdowns or quarantines our advice is that during 21/22, you will need a personal computing device.

We recommend a laptop for portability, as you may need it on campus, in residences, in your home during term time and holidays.

Your device must support [Microsoft Office Pro Plus](#) (or equivalent), [Microsoft Teams](#) and [Moodle](#).

Some modules will use software which will not run on a mobile or tablet device.

If you already have a laptop and it is less than three years old it is likely to be sufficient. In general you do not have to buy a new device to study at Warwick as long as you have a reliable laptop. If you have an older laptop, we recommend “Intel® Core™ i5-7th generation) or higher”. If you want to check the specification of your existing laptop, go to Systems>Settings.

Minimum Technical Specification

This is what we recommend if you are buying a new device:

You may use a Windows machine or a Mac.

Minimum spec Windows laptop:

Intel Core i5 OR AMD Ryzen 5

8GB

256GB SSD

Windows 10

Minimum spec Mac:

Intel Core i5

8GB

256GB

If you know you want a Mac rather than a Windows Laptop then that is fine.

As a guide, you should expect to spend £500-600 to purchase a laptop of this spec (indicative prices given July 2021)

The central guidance has information on contacts for any concerns about device costs.

You should buy a warranty with your device.

A microphone/headset would be a good investment and can be obtained for £15-30.

To participate in some online sessions you will need access to a camera, ideally on a laptop (most laptops have built in webcams and mics). You could use a mobile phone instead but that might restrict your participation in some activities such as whiteboards or collaborative authoring.

You will be able to download Microsoft office products for free when you get your IT account in late August¹, so don't feel you have to buy a personal licence.

If you have a Windows machine you will have Windows Defender anti-virus software built in. If not we recommend <https://www.avg.com/en-us/free-antivirus-download>. You should enable that as soon as you start using your device.

If you have a Mac machine you will have [XProtect](#) but may wish to install additional anti-virus software.

On campus: There is unlimited free wi-fi for students on campus including in teaching rooms and social spaces.

If you are living in Residences: There is unlimited wi-fi throughout campus residences. However for optimum broadband, students in campus residences study bedrooms should use a wired connection. On campus study bedrooms have an ethernet socket for optimised broadband connection so bring an USB-to-ethernet adaptor if you don't have an ethernet port on your device.

If you are living off campus: Ensure you have a broadband contract or 4G data plan.

¹ https://warwick.ac.uk/services/its/guides/new_students