



TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCESSING LEARNING ONLINE

In order to be fully equipped for your college course next year, the following is the technical guidance that we need to give you, so have a quick read through, but please always remember that we are here to help, so if you have any questions or queries, please get in touch with us via email at leRegistry@uhi.ac.uk.

Don't feel daunted by this. If you have, like us, been spending quite a bit of time staying in touch with family and friends through things like Facebook Messenger or Zoom etc, then the pc; laptop or tablet that you have just now should be just fine for your course.

General Information about software

- The online parts of our courses will be delivered through a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) called Brightspace. [Brightspace system check](#) is useful for checking the compatibility if you already have a pc/laptop.
- We use Office365 for student and staff email, there are certain browsers and operating systems that work best with this. You can check what is supported this via the [Microsoft Website](#).
- As a student, you can download some software for free through our license agreements, this includes [Microsoft Office 365](#). See our [Software Downloads](#) pages for more details.
- Information on the video conferencing software you may use is here [VC software](#)
- Occasionally you may be asked to use a different internet browser due to compatibility, but you will be told if this is likely to be the case.
- You should ensure that any device you bring onto the university network (via our [UHI WiFi](#)) has up to date anti virus software and that updates are regularly applied (please see the [Acceptable use policy](#) for more details).
- Many of the applications the university provides are available from the [MyUHI](#) service, without having to install applications on your own machine.

Recommended minimum computer specifications

A desktop or laptop computer is recommended.

Some devices are more suited to working with a lot of text, other devices are better for dealing with creative software applications - the course tutor will be able to advise on the format of your assessments and course materials which may help you make a decision.

Some courses may require the use of very specialist software or devices, **you will be advised of this by the Course Tutor before you begin your studies.**

Where laptop specs differ from desktop specs, laptop specs are provided immediately below the desktop specs.

UHI minimum system requirements		
	Windows	Mac
Operating system	Windows 10	Mac OS 10.10.x or newer
Processor	1.5GHz or better	
Graphics	1-2Gb Graphics card (manufactured in last 2 years) will suit most needs.	
RAM	4GB or more (the more the better)	
Monitor	17" or larger (the bigger the better) (Laptop: 15" or larger screen)	
Microphone headphones	/ USB headset with microphone	
Webcam	Built-in or external (it is easier to adjust the camera angle with an external)	
Broadband	Reliable connection required, minimum 2MB upload and download	
You may be required to have an optical drive – as always please check with your tutor!		

At this time unfortunately Chromebooks are not compatible with UHI softwares and services. We are also unable to provide remote support onto these devices.

As a final point, should you find yourself struggling for bandwidth, it is a good idea to disconnect other devices that are attached to prioritise you! You can always reconnect them later 😊

Best of luck with your studies!