UNIVERSITY COLLEGE BIRMINGHAM

STANDARD HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE
SPECIFICATION

The Information Technology Development Committee (ITDC) approves standards for minimum configuration of desktop systems for use in the University. These standards will be the first of many, which will work to better define a broad University IT architecture capable of working effectively and efficiently within the existing infrastructure, and optimise support requirements and resources.

The standards will be reviewed and updated regularly and new ones added as appropriate.   The development of a recommended minimum desktop system configuration is based upon the assumption that desktop systems will be used for standard desktop applications as well as access to the core applications used by the University. The most commonly used desktop application suite is Microsoft Office. Later releases of operating systems, desktop applications and other desktop application software not listed may require additional hardware.   In most instances, a faster processor and/or additional memory will result in faster system interaction; however, the recommendations are based upon a minimum workable configuration that meets the needs of users accessing core applications. Configurations of personal computers change regularly depending upon the technology available from vendors.   When purchasing PC's, staff should contact the central IT purchasing team to take advantage of the latest prices and updated specifications.

The ITDC has considered, in detail, the use of PC compatibles and Apple Mac machines. It has been agreed to use PC's in the mainstream of the curriculum and administration, as they are most popular in industry and commerce. A large volume of software is also available for PC's. Apple Macs do, however, attract keen support for particular jobs in areas where they have a strong reputation. These areas include multimedia applications and the creative media, arts and marketing fields.   The University has therefore decided to only purchase Apple Macs for departments that specifically need this capability.

Upgrade/Replacement of PC's

Any PC that cannot effectively run Windows 10 operating system will be replaced.

Any PC systems which are capable of running Windows 10 but lack the appropriate amount of RAM or hard drive space will be upgraded as follows:

- Upgrade to at least 4GB of RAM
- Upgrade to at least 128GB SSD hard disk drive
- Upgrade to Windows 10

Minimum configuration for new purchases of PC's:

- Windows 10
- Intel 10th Generation Core i5
- 8GB RAM
- 23 inch monitor for desktops / 14 inch monitor for laptops
- 256GB SSD hard disk drive
- Gigabit network card

Upgrade/Replacement of Apple computers

Any Apple computer that cannot effectively run the currently used software by the University will be replaced.

Any Apple computers that can be upgraded will be upgraded as follows:

- Upgrade to at least 8GB of RAM
- Upgrade to at least 512GB SSD

Minimum configuration for new purchases of Apple computers:

- Mac OS – latest version
- iMac Apple M1 chip
- 8GB RAM
- 23 inch monitor for desktops / 13 inch monitor for laptops
- 512GB SSD hard disk drive
- Gigabit network card