# **Guidance on recommended student technology**

**Introduction**

We recognise that the necessary move to hybrid teaching, where you’ll receive your teaching via on-campus and digital learning, will raise questions regarding the type of technology you might need, to ensure you get the best possible teaching experience.

Below we have outlined our recommendations in terms of device and network connectivity that you will need to have when engaging with hybrid teaching.

## **Standards/recommendations**

### Device

Our advice is based on recommendations if you are purchasing a new device, rather than the level of technology we expect a student to have access to. You may well find ways of being able to engage with our services with lower cost devices, and you shouldn’t be required to re-purchase new kit as it is likely that your current device will be sufficient.

**Standard minimum specification**

A laptop computer is the recommended device for your University education.

The recommendation for a common minimum standard device specification if you are purchasing a new device would be:

* Processor: Intel i5-8365U or AMD Ryzen 5 3500U
* Ram: 8Gb DDR4 2400
* HDD: 256GB SSD
* Battery: 3 Cell 50 WHr Long Life
* Display: 14 inch FHD (1920x1080)

It is recognised that for some areas of the University an Intel i3 processor may be sufficient, however for Science subjects this will not normally be the case. The recommendation for an i5 processor is based on future-proofing, ensuring the device purchased will be sufficient for the duration of your University education.

An estimated cost for this specification of device for consumer purchasing would be approximately £550.

While the University does not offer direct purchasing routes for technology, we will signpost discounts available to students, for example through manufacturer sites such as [HP](http://hp.com/uk/students) or student discount sites such as [UniDays](https://www.myunidays.com/GB/en-GB/category/all-technology_laptops-and-tablets).

**Programme specific guidance**

It is important to note that different disciplines will have different requirements, and recommendations need to be geared towards the right tool for the job.

Connectivity

For our on-campus students, there is good WiFi connectivity and access across the University estate, including in University halls of residence.

Physical distancing will reduce the ability for students to use University provided Open Access PCs, with initial modelling suggesting an average of 1 in 3 computers being available in open access labs. It is expected that the majority of students will be required to access content using their personal laptop from other locations, both within Edinburgh and beyond.

**Broadband**

Connectivity requirements for learning will be determined by the streaming services used to access University content, and will be no greater than the connectivity requirements of standard video streaming services such as Netflix or BBC iPlayer. As a rule, 5 to 10Mbs will be sufficient, but please note that broadband performance is most often limited by internal building WiFi signal and is also a shared resource both within the property and in the area. A shared student flat with five students each trying to access content simultaneously will require greater bandwidth.

**Mobile data**

Typically a 4G connection from a mobile phone will provide minimum connectivity requirements, but connection speed is variable depending on location and time of day/usage.

**Data usage**

Dependent on contracts, both broadband and mobile data contracts may have limits on the volume of monthly data used. Watching three hours of standard definition video content per day would require approx. 2.5GB of data, and so approx. 75GB per month. Your data requirement will depend on the volume of content you consume e.g. the number of lectures you need to attend and the number of times you review content.

## **Further information**

Full details of IT support and guidance for students can be found on our [website](https://www.ed.ac.uk/information-services/students).