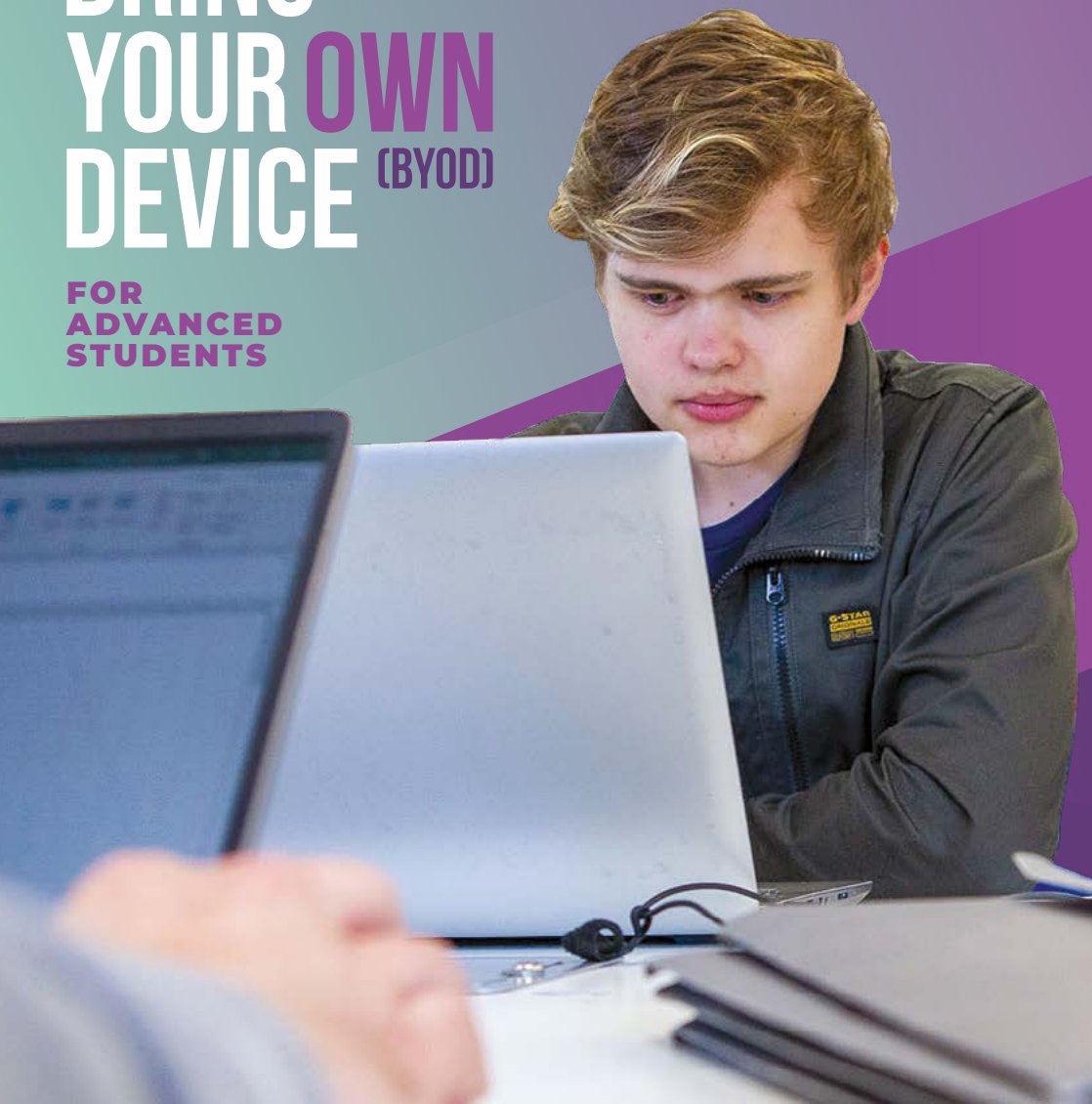NORTH EAST
SCOTLAND
COLLEGE

BRING
YOUR OWN
DEVICE (BYOD)

FOR
ADVANCED
STUDENTS

BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD) PROGRAMME

Thank you for choosing to study at North East Scotland College. The new academic term is just around the corner and I am sure that by now, you are beginning to get excited about the prospect of commencing or continuing your studies at the College.

The course that you have applied for is a Bring Your Own Device, or BYOD, programme. This means that you are required to have access to your own laptop computer, netbook or similar device in class each day that you are in college.

Having access to your own personal device will enable you to access appropriate materials during classes (using our wireless network) and will also allow you to undertake effective self-study both in the College and at home.

Bringing your own device with you will also provide you with unlimited access to Blackboard, the College's virtual learning environment. Blackboard provides a host of useful information and makes it possible to access learning materials and tools on most internet enabled devices from any location.

Blackboard contains all the vital information about your course and allows you to communicate with lecturers and other learners. You can access Blackboard even when you are not in College so you can easily catch-up or revise materials covered in class.

Through Blackboard you will be able to access interactive materials, stream videos & podcasts, and access other resources such as:

- Course announcements
- Course handbooks
- Lecture notes and handouts
- PowerPoint presentations
- Tests and quizzes
- Virtual classrooms such as Blackboard Collaborate Ultra
- Online resources
- Blogs & Wikis

DEVICE INFORMATION

During your course you will be required to undertake a large variety of tasks with your device including information searching, collaborative group work and using Office software applications.

For this reason a Windows-based Notebook or Laptop is the most suitable device to use. An Apple laptop is also suitable but not necessary for any course and you may find that the OSX operating system is not fully compatible with all applications available to you.

A tablet e.g. an iPad, Chromebook or mobile phone is not an acceptable device for a BYOD course since you cannot install the Office software on a Chromebook or a tablet/smartphone.

It is not necessary for you to purchase an expensive or high-end device for the purposes of BYOD and a minimum device specification can be found towards the end of this document. Suitable machines can be purchased from approximately £250 at most major retailers.

Once enrolled at College you will have access to a Microsoft Office 365 account. Not only does this give you access to your college email account but it also provides you with 1TB of cloud storage and access to the full suite of Office applications including Word, Excel, PowerPoint and MS Teams for the duration of your course. This means that you do not need to purchase the Microsoft Office software if you do not already have it, or purchase a device with a large hard drive, enabling you to purchase a cheaper device if you wish.

You may already own or have access to a laptop or similar device, however if you need to purchase a device before the start of your course a suggested specification is outlined later in this document. Please remember, for most courses, a Microsoft Windows 10 Notebook or Laptop is the most appropriate device.

If you do not already own a suitable device you can apply for a student loan from SAAS, if eligible, to fund the cost of purchasing a device. Successful applicants should apply for their loan as soon as they can to ensure that they receive their first payment early in the new term. Should anyone experience financial hardship then there will be help available via the College's Student Advice & Support team.

We may have a supply of loan laptops which you can apply for. Please complete the questionnaire sent to you so that you can let us know if you will need help with a device, internet connection or support to improve your digital skills

The following Notebook/Laptop specification is recommended as a minimum:

NOTEBOOK / LAPTOP SPECIFICATION

Operating System: Windows 10

Processor: Absolute minimum – 1.6 (GHz) equivalent or faster

Memory: Minimum - 2GB RAM

Storage: Minimum - 64GB with 4GB of available disk space (free 1Tb Office 365 OneDrive cloud storage is available to all students)

Display: Minimum 11" screen (1280 x 768)

Wireless: Networking - 802.11b/g/n (1x1)

Connectivity: USB / Bluetooth

Additional: Camera / Microphone

Battery Life: 5+ hours

Students who are required to undertake taught core IT units (such as ECDL or PC Passport) are advised to source a Windows-based Notebook or Laptop.

When you arrive at College a full induction will take place that will include the use of your computer, connection to the wireless network, access to and use of College resources and systems. In addition you will also be introduced to the excellent IT support services that you will be provided with whilst studying at College.

As is the case with other aspects of financing your way through College, if you think that you will experience hardship in funding the cost of a laptop computer or netbook, you can contact the College directly, via email on **studentadvice@nescol.ac.uk** or by telephone on **01224 612284** to arrange an appointment with a Student Adviser.

NORTH EAST SCOTLAND COLLEGE

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