

NORTH EAST  
SCOTLAND  
COLLEGE



# WILL I NEED A LAPTOP?

(For Non BYOD Students)



## **STUDYING AT NORTH EAST SCOTLAND COLLEGE**

Thank you for applying to study at North East Scotland College. The new academic year 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.

While at College we want you to improve your digital skills, regardless of which course you have applied for. Most courses will be delivered using a Blended Delivery Model, where some of your classes are on campus, and some are on line. You may be thinking about buying a device so that you can attend online. You may want a device so that you can store all your college work online rather than using paper notebooks. We have charging points around our campuses for you to use MyNESCol, the college's virtual learning environment, provides a host of useful information about student life and contains all the vital information about your course. MyNESCol also allows you to communicate with lecturers and other learners. You can access MyNESCol from any internet enabled location.

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

- **Course announcements**
- **Course handbooks**
- **Lecture notes and handouts**
- **PowerPoint presentations**
- **Tests and quizzes**
- **Online classrooms such as Microsoft Teams**
- **Online resources**
- **Blogs & Wikis**

You may already own or have access to a laptop or similar device, however if you want 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 10/11 Notebook or Laptop is the most appropriate device.

We will have a supply of loan laptops which you can borrow on a daily basis from our lapsafes. These are located throughout the college and can be helpful for short term requirements but must be returned on the day. Please ensure that you complete the survey linked to this email to let us know if you need support with improving your digital skills, internet connections or accessing a device.

## NOTEBOOK / LAPTOP SPECIFICATION

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

Operating System:	Windows 10/11
Processor:	Absolute minimum – 1.6 (GHz) equivalent or faster
Memory:	Minimum - 4GB RAM
Storage:	Minimum - 128GB 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

Having access to your own personal device will enable you to undertake effective self-study at home. You may want to bring your device to college so you can take notes in class.

Bringing your own device with you will also provide you with unlimited access to MyNESCol.

## DEVICE INFORMATION

During your course you will be required to undertake a large variety of tasks including information searching, collaborative group work and using Microsoft 365 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 Mac 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 recommended for your college work.

It is not necessary for you to purchase an expensive or high-end device. Please refer to the minimum device specification on the previous page. Suitable machines can be purchased from approximately £250 at most major retailers.

Once enrolled at College you will have access to a Microsoft 365 account. Not only does this give you access to your college email account but it also provides you with 1TB of OneDrive cloud storage and access to the full suite of Microsoft 365 applications including Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Microsoft 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.

Students who are required to undertake taught core IT units (such as ICDL / 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](mailto:studentadvice@nescol.ac.uk) or by telephone on **01224 612284** to arrange an appointment with a Student Adviser.



**[www.nescol.ac.uk](http://www.nescol.ac.uk)**

**T: 0300 330 5550**

**E: [enquiry@nescol.ac.uk](mailto:enquiry@nescol.ac.uk)**