

NORTH EAST
SCOTLAND
COLLEGE



BRING **YOUR OWN** DEVICE (BYOD)



BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD) PROGRAMME

Thank you for applying to study at North East Scotland College (NESCol).

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 MyNESCol, the College's virtual learning environment. MyNESCol provides a host of useful information about student life and makes it possible to access learning materials and tools on most internet enabled devices from any location. We have charging points around our campuses for you to use.

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

Through MyNESCol 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**
- **Online resources**
- **Blogs & Wikis**

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. For most courses, a Microsoft Windows 11 notebook or laptop is the most suitable device.

If you are studying a course at SCQF Level 6 or below and require support to pay for a device, we may be able to provide you with a contribution towards the cost. This contribution is only available to students who apply for and are entitled to a college bursary. You must apply for your bursary as soon as you receive the application link via email. These are sent to all applicants with conditional or full offers from June onwards each year.

If you are studying an HNC or HND course you can apply for a student loan from SAAS if eligible, to fund the cost of purchasing a device. Applicants should apply for their loan from Student Award Agency Scotland (SAAS) as soon as possible to ensure that you receive your first payment as early as possible in the new term (you will not receive any loan payment until at least the first day of the course).

Should any student experience financial hardship, there may be help available via the College's Student Advice Centre teams. We may have a supply of loan laptops which you can apply for.

Please note that all full-time applicants will be asked to complete an IT survey as part of the enrolment process to determine any support you may require with improving your digital skills, internet connection or accessing a device.

NOTEBOOK / LAPTOP SPECIFICATION

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

Operating System:	Windows 11
Processor:	Intel Core i5 (11th gen or newer) / AMD Ryzen 5 or better
Memory:	8GB minimum (16GB ideal)
Storage:	56GB SSD minimum (512GB recommended) (OneDrive cloud storage is available to all students)
Display:	13" – 15.6" Full HD (1920×1080)
Wireless:	Wi-Fi 5 (802.11ac) or Wi-Fi 6
Connectivity:	USB-A + USB-C ports, Headphone jack
Additional:	Webcam + microphone (for Teams)
Battery Life:	8+ hours real-world use

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 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 OSX operating system is not fully compatible with all applications available to you.

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.

A tablet e.g. an iPad, Chromebook or mobile phone is not an acceptable device for a BYOD course since you cannot install the Microsoft 365 software locally on a Chromebook or a tablet/smartphone.

For the purposes of BYOD and a minimum device specification can be found above. Suitable machines can be purchased from approximately around £450 - £500 at most major retailers.

Once enrolled at NESCol 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 cloud storage and access to the full suite of Microsoft 365 applications including Word, Excel, PowerPoint and MS Teams for the duration of your course. This means you don't need to purchase Microsoft 365 software if you don't already have it, nor do you need a device with a large hard drive—allowing you to choose a more affordable device if you wish.

At the beginning of term, a full induction will take place that includes the use of your device, connection to the wireless network and access to and use of College resources and systems 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. You will also be introduced to the excellent IT support services available including ITHelpZone.

If you think you may experience financial difficulty covering the cost of a laptop or netbook, you can contact the College directly. Email studentadvice@nescol.ac.uk or call **01224 612284** to arrange an appointment with a Student Adviser.



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