

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 (NESCol).

During your time at NESCol, we want you to improve your digital skills, regardless of which course you are studying. Most courses will be delivered using a blended delivery model, where some of your classes are in-person on campus, and some may be online. You might be thinking about getting a device so you can attend online classes or keep all your college work in one place, rather than using paper notebooks.

To make things easier, we have charging points available across our campuses for you to use.

MyNESCol, the College's virtual learning environment, is a really useful space where you'll find everything you need for your course, along with helpful information about student life. It also lets you stay connected with your lecturers and other students. You can access MyNESCol anytime, from any location with an internet connection.

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. For most courses, a Microsoft Windows 11 Notebook or Laptop is the most appropriate device.

We have a supply of loan laptops which you can borrow on a daily basis from our Lapsafe Lockers. These are available at Aberdeen Altens, Aberdeen City, and Fraserburgh campuses and are useful for short-term requirements, but must be returned on the same day. 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:	256GB 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

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. It will also provide you with full access to MyNESCOl.

DEVICE INFORMATION

During your course you may 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.

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.

A tablet e.g. an iPad, Chromebook or mobile phone is not recommended for your college work.

Please refer to the minimum device specification on the above page. Suitable machines can be purchased from approximately £450 - £500 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 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.

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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