

## Equipment for studying in the School of Mathematics

As a student taking courses in the School of Mathematics, we assume that you will have:



Computer



Digital writing device



Smartphone



Good internet connection

The rest of this document gives some more specific advice about each item.



Please don't hesitate to contact [studentsupport@maths.ed.ac.uk](mailto:studentsupport@maths.ed.ac.uk) if you would like to discuss the content of these instructions.

In particular, if your financial circumstances or learning adjustment requirements create a barrier to full participation then please get in touch so we can talk about how we can support you.



### Computer

We recommend that you have a laptop rather than a desktop. You will be able to bring a laptop with you to any face-to-face teaching sessions.

You may be required to install software on your computer, and we will assume your operating system is Windows 10 (and not Windows 10S). We do not support any Linux operating system and do not guarantee that macOS versions of software will be available. However, as of the date given above, we are not aware of any software that is required which is unavailable for macOS.

We do not recommend any particular make or model of computer, but we do recommend the following minimum specifications if you are buying a new device:

- Intel i5 processor;
- 8 GB RAM;
- 256 GB hard disc;
- full HD (i.e. 1080p or 1920×1080 px) display.

You should make sure that you have:

- a physical keyboard;
- a camera, a microphone and speakers (or headphones) for joining video calls.

We do not recommend any particular supplier, but note that student discounts are available through manufacturer sites such as [HP](#) or student discount sites such as [UniDays](#).



Students on programmes run by the School of Mathematics can borrow a laptop from us – for details, please see our website:

<https://teaching.maths.ed.ac.uk/main/undergraduate/studies/equipment>

The University also has a Laptop Loan service: <https://edin.ac/2qmC0cF>

### *Optional equipment*

You might want additional screen space so that, for example, you can see a piece of mathematics at the same time as taking part in a video call. You can use your phone as an additional monitor, but you might also consider buying an additional monitor.

You might consider a microphone headset to improve sound quality and to eliminate audio feedback or background noise.



## Digital writing device

You must have a way of digitising your handwriting so that, for example, you can participate in a discussion using an online whiteboard.



Students on programmes run by the School of Mathematics can request an external writing tablet from us – for details, please see our website:

<https://teaching.maths.ed.ac.uk/main/undergraduate/studies/equipment>

### *Option 1: External writing tablet*

The least costly device for digital writing is an external writing tablet. We do not recommend any particular device; you should find a device that is right for you. Examples include:

- GAOMON S620 or M106K
- Wacom Intuos or Wacom One (each available in two sizes, S or M)

Writing on these tablets takes a bit of practice, as you need to get used to looking at the screen while writing. You may prefer to have a writing tablet with its own screen, though these are more expensive. There are various models available from GAOMON, Wacom and XP-PEN.

### *Option 2: Standalone tablet*

You may decide that you prefer to have a standalone tablet (e.g. Android tablet or iPad) instead of a basic external writing tablet to help with digital writing. This can act as a writing tablet, independently of your laptop, and may also be useful for reading. Some Windows laptops also support digital writing on the screen (e.g. the Microsoft Surface Pro).



## Smartphone

We recommend that you have a smartphone, running Android or iOS.

Some courses will use [Top Hat](#) for interactive voting, and you may find this easier to use on a smartphone than on a laptop.

You can also use a smartphone camera to scan handwritten work, which could be used for submitting written assignments.



## Good internet connection

You will need a broadband connection to be able to access video content, such as recorded lectures, and to participate in live video calls.

Connection speeds of 5 to 10Mbps should be sufficient, but higher speeds may be needed if the connection is shared with other users.

Data usage will depend on the particular courses you are taking and how often you need to view video content – but for reference, watching three hours of standard definition video content each day would require approximately 2.5GB of data per day, or 75GB per month.

