
Laptop Specifications

2023 entry

These specifications are recommended to ensure that your machine is capable of using the programs that your course commonly uses, and to cope with the rigors of everyday use at a digital institution for the duration of your course. Students planning to use their Aspire bursary can find suitable machines on the John Smith's website.

For questions about these specifications, please email hello@rave.ac.uk or speak to your course leader.

Architecture

Course	Operating system	Recommended RAM	Graphics card	Additional notes
BA (Hons) Architecture	Mac or Windows	16GB – minimum 32GB – recommended	Dedicated video card minimum 4GB Windows: Nvidia Mac: AMD graphics processor	Minimum 512GB storage
BA (Hons) Interior Design Environment Architecture (IDEAs)	Mac or Windows	16GB – minimum 32GB – recommended	Dedicated video card minimum 4GB Windows: Nvidia Mac: AMD graphics processor	Minimum 512GB storage
BA (Hons) Urban Landscape Architecture	Mac or Windows	16GB – minimum 32GB – recommended	Dedicated video card minimum 4GB Windows: Nvidia Mac: AMD graphics processor	Minimum 512GB storage

Business & Computing

Course	Operating system	Recommended RAM	Graphics card	Additional notes
BSc (Hons) Business Management	Mac or Windows	16GB – minimum	Yes	
BSc (Hons) Computer Science	Mac or Windows	16GB – minimum	4GB	You must have enough processing power to run Unity and Unreal engine
BSc (Hons) Creative Computing	Mac or Windows	16GB – minimum	4GB	You must have enough processing power to run Unity and Unreal engine
BSc (Hons) Cyber Security	Windows	32GB – minimum	Required	Windows 10 or 11 Minimum 512GB storage with at least intel 7 processor, i9 processor is recommended Sufficient processing power to run Virtual Machines
BSc (Hons) Digital Marketing	Mac or Windows	8GB – minimum	Required	
MSc Computer Science	Mac or Windows	16GB – minimum	4GB	You must have enough processing power to run Unity and Unreal engine

Business & Computing (continued)

Course	Operating system	Recommended RAM	Graphics card	Additional notes
MSc Cyber Security	Windows	32GB – minimum	Required	Windows 10 or 11 Minimum 512GB storage with at least intel 7 processor, i9 processor is recommended Sufficient processing power to run Virtual Machines
MSc Digital Marketing	Mac or Windows	8GB – minimum	Required	
MSc Project Management	Mac or Windows	4GB – minimum 8GB – recommended	Not required	
Master of Business Management	Mac or Windows	4GB – minimum 8GB – recommended	Not required	

Design Practice

Course	Operating system	Recommended RAM	Graphics card	Additional notes
BA (Hons) Advertising and Brand Design	Mac preferred	16GB – minimum 32GB – recommended	Required	You must have enough processing power to run Adobe After Effects / Premiere
BA (Hons) Digital Content Creation	Mac or Windows	16GB – minimum 32GB – recommended	Required	You must have enough processing power to run Adobe After Effects / Premiere
BA (Hons) Graphic Design	Mac preferred	16GB – minimum 32GB – recommended	Required	
BA (Hons) Illustration for Communication	Mac or Windows	16GB – minimum 32GB – recommended	Required	You must have enough processing power to run Adobe After Effects / Premiere
BA (Hons) Motion Graphics	Windows	32GB – minimum	16GB NVIDIA	4.5 to 5.2Ghz Processor (AMD or Intel) and minimum 1TB SSD or M drive
BA (Hons) Product Design	Windows	16GB – minimum 32GB – recommended	4GB minimum AMD or NVIDIA. Ideally as much processing power as possible	Minimum i7 processor required for SolidWorks 3D CAD software Hard drive 1TB or higher SSD recommended for optimal performance
BA (Hons) User-Experience and User-Interface (UX/UI) Design	Mac	16GB	Required	MacBook Pro recommended

Design Practice (continued)

Course	Operating system	Recommended RAM	Graphics card	Additional notes
MA Design Management	Mac or Windows	16GB	Required	
MA Design Communication	Mac or Windows	16GB – minimum 32GB – recommended	Required	
MA Illustration	Mac or Windows	16GB – minimum 32GB – recommended	Required	

Fashion

Course	Operating system	Recommended RAM	Graphics card	Additional notes
BA (Hons) Fashion	Mac or Windows	16GB	Required	MacBook pro is recommended Windows 10 or 11 intel core i7/i9 either will be appropriate. 512GB hard drive recommended, External hard drive 512GB essential
BA (Hons) Fashion Buying and Brand Management	Mac	16GB	Required	512GB hard drive recommended, external hard drive 512GB essential
BA (Hons) Fashion Promotion	Mac	16GB	Required	MacBook Pro is recommended 512GB hard drive recommended, external hard drive 512GB essential
MA Luxury Brand Management	Mac or Windows	16GB	Required	

Media Lab

Course	Operating system	Recommended RAM	Graphics card	Additional notes
BA (Hons) Animation (inc. with year 0)	Windows	16GB – minimum 32GB – recommended	NVIDIA GeForce RTX 3050 (4GB) or AMD equivalent – minimum NVIDIA GeForce RTX 4060 (8GB or above) or AMD equivalent – recommended	Windows 10 or 11 Intel core i7/i9 or AMD Ryzen 7/9 8 cores + 1 TB or above or 512GB as a minimum Screen size 15 inches 1920x1080 Full HD
BA (Hons) Digital Photography	Mac	16GB	Not required	MacBook Pro is recommended
BA (Hons) Games Development (inc. with year 0)	Windows	32GB – minimum	RTX 20 series graphics card – DDR6 8GB VRAM minimum RTX 3070 or better or DDR6 12GB VRAM – recommended	Windows 11 22H2 Hard drive: 1 TB SSD partitioned between OS and work area i7 processor or equivalent 17" screen size Not an M1 or M2 MacBook Pro
BSc (Hons) Games Programming	Windows	32GB – minimum 64GB – recommended	NVIDIA RTX 20xx series – minimum NVIDIA RTX 30xx series – recommended	

Media & Film

Course	Operating system	Recommended RAM	Graphics card	Additional notes
BA (Hons) Digital Film Production	Mac or Windows	16GB – minimum 32GB – recommended	4GB VRAM	Windows: OpenGL 4.1 video card and 64-bit Intel Core Processor (i7 2GHz or faster recommended) Mac: AMD graphics processor and M2, M3, or Intel Dual Core i7 or faster Minimum 512GB storage. Recommend external hard drive on top of computer with 1TB memory
BA (Hons) Digital Television Production	Mac or Windows	16GB – minimum 32GB – recommended	4GB VRAM	Windows: OpenGL 4.1 video card and 64-bit Intel Core Processor (i7 2GHz or faster recommended) Mac: AMD graphics processor and M2, M3, or Intel Dual Core i7 or faster Minimum 512GB storage. Recommend external hard drive on top of computer with 1TB memory
BA (Hons) Editing and Post Production	Mac or Windows	16GB – minimum 32GB – recommended	2GB – minimum 6GB – recommended	A 4K-compatible laptop is preferable with 1TB SSD or larger required

Media & Film (continued)

Course	Operating system	Recommended RAM	Graphics card	Additional notes
BA (Hons) Music and Sound Design	Mac or Windows	8GB minimum	Required	<p>Mac: macOS Catalina 10.15.7 or later. M2, M1, or Intel Dual Core i5 or faster</p> <p>Windows: Windows 10 or later. 64-bit Intel Core Processor (i3 2GHz or faster recommended)</p> <p>High performance laptops will help with running audio software on the course, but students can purchase additional hardware to support this if needed.</p>
BSc (Hons) Broadcast Engineering	Windows	8GB – minimum 16GB – recommended	Required	<p>A Mac computer is not suitable for this course.</p> <p>We strongly recommend a Thinkpad, this could be a refurbished one. They are designed to be maintained and have components swapped out when needed. T470 and T480 models would be ideal for the course. 1TB SSD is desirable.</p>

Further Education

Course	Operating system	Recommended RAM	Graphics card	Additional notes
Access to Higher Education	Mac or Windows	8GB	Required	These specs are provided with a future degree in mind. Please consider your future degree pathway (if you know it) and research best models accordingly.
Foundation Diploma in Art and Design (Design and Media)	Mac	16GB	Required	These specs are provided with a future degree in mind. Please consider your future degree pathway (if you know it) and research best models accordingly.
Foundation Diploma in Art and Design (Fashion and Textiles)	Mac	8GB	Required	These specs are provided with a future degree in mind. Please consider your future degree pathway (if you know it) and research best models accordingly.
Foundation Diploma in Art and Design (Media Production)	Mac	8GB – minimum 16GB – recommended	Required – 4GB	These specs are provided with a future degree in mind. Please consider your future degree pathway (if you know it) and research best models accordingly.