

Department of Veterinary Medicine

Accessing online resources – student laptops

The following information is provided from advice given by the IT team within the Department.

Machine Specifications

All machines should be fully updated, and running a current antimalware program
For laptops - they should be running Windows 7 or 10; or Mac OS10.9 or higher
Tablets should be running Android 5 or higher or iOS 9 or higher.

File types

Most content uploaded to Moodle will use the following standard formats:

MS Office Formats – doc(x), xls(x), ppt(x)

MP4 Video

PDF Documents

Browsers

Moodle is designed to work with all browsers. There may be times when a browser update causes incompatibilities with Moodle.

There should be alternative browser such as Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox installed as well as the inbuilt browser (most commonly Internet Explorer, Microsoft Edge or Safari).

Data size

Some resources on Moodle, such as videos and some powerpoint presentations, can be 500mb +

So be aware when accessing on mobile data connections.

Media Player

In the event that the inbuilt media player on the device cannot play a media file, an alternative media player can be useful.

One recommendation is VLC Player (available for Win, Mac OS, Android & iOS)

Indicative costs (March 2018)

There are many machines/devices that conform with the above specification. The following is purely an illustrative example and in no way specifically recommends the particular manufacturers mentioned. The prices quoted here were the retail prices at a major UK electrical store and are given as illustrative prices only.

The basic spec is i3 processor, 4GB RAM, 128GB of hard disk space.

This rules out the Chromebook which operate at 4GB RAM and 64GB of hard disk space, and this runs at £329 anyway.

Instead one can get, for example:

- Lenovo Ideapad 14" screen for £329.99
- Lenovo Yoga 2 in 1 (detachable keyboard so it can work like a tablet) £529.99

But for a slightly better spec, which is recommended: i5 processor, 8GB ram and 215GB of hard disk space, one can get:

- Medion 13.3" screen laptop for £599 (never heard of this make though, says vet school IT)
- Dell Inspiron 15" screen for £679
- Dell Inspiron 2 in 1 for £689
- MacBook version of this spec runs at £1,549

Should a student go for i5 processor, 8GB ram but the smaller 128 GB hard disk, they can pick up the Lenovo Ideapad for £479.

NOTE: As students, you will probably get an additional 10% discount on electronic devices. It may depend where you shop.

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