

Computer Specifications 2026

The recommended computer specifications come directly from the [Autodesk AutoCAD 2024 minimum system requirements](#). Note that most computers purchased in 2024/25 will match or better these specifications, so try to increase the recommended upgrades listed below to fit within your budget.

WINDOWS		
Operating System	64-bit Microsoft® Windows® 11 and Windows 10 version 1809 or above.	
Memory	Basic	8G
	Recommended	32G
Display Resolution	Conventional Displays	1920 x 1080 with True Colour
	High Resolution & 4K Displays	Resolutions up to 3840 x 2160 (with "Recommended" display card)
Display (Graphics) Card	Basic	2GB GPU with 29 GB/s Bandwidth and DirectX 11 compliant
	Conventional	8GB GPU with 106 GB/s Bandwidth and DirectX 12 compliant
Multiple Processors	Supported by the application	
Disk Space	10.0 GB (suggested SSD)	

MAC		
<p><i>We strongly recommend looking at similarly priced PCs when considering purchasing a Mac, as you can sometimes get much higher spec hardware for the same price in a PC.</i></p> <p>Architecture and Landscape Architecture are taught on PCs at the School. Most of the software packages taught can run on the Apple operating system but there are a handful of packages that only run on Windows. For the packages that only run on Windows you will need to use a virtual Windows computer (using Vmware fusion, virtualbox or Parallels etc.) or install Windows on your Mac via Boot Camp. Note that you will also need to purchase a license of Windows before you can install it on your Mac (either Boot Camp or Virtual).</p>		
Operating System	Apple® macOS® Tahoe v26 (requires Update 2024.3); Apple macOS Sequoia v15 (requires Update 2024.2); Apple macOS Sonoma v14 (requires Update 2024.1); Apple macOS Ventura v13; Apple macOS Monterey v12; Apple macOS Big Sur v11	
Model	Apple Mac® computers compatible with macOS Big Sur or above Recommended: Apple Mac models supporting Metal Graphics Engine	
CPU Type	64-bit Intel CPU Apple M series CPU	
Memory	Basic	4G
	Recommended	8GB or higher
Display Resolution	Basic	1280 x 800 display
	High Resolution	2880 x 1800 with Retina Display
Display (Graphics) Card	Recommended	Mac native installed graphics cards
Multiple Processors	Supported by the application	
Disk Space	6 GB free disk space for download and installation	

Additional Requirements for 3D modelling	
Memory	16GB RAM or more
Disk Space	6 GB free hard disk available, not including installation requirements
Display Card	3840 x 2160 (4K) or greater True Color video display adapter; 12GB VRAM or greater; Pixel Shader 3.0 or greater; DirectX-capable workstation class graphics card

Recommended	Not Recommended
Extend warranty to 3 years – Check the conditions of the warranty before buying the laptop!	17" laptops
Increase processor speed. Quad-core processors (e.g. Intel Core i7) are highly recommended.	On-board graphics cards (e.g. Intel graphics media accelerator).
Increase Hard Drive size or change to Solid State Disk (SSD).	

SOFTWARE
<p>Below are some of the common software packages that are used in the School of Design courses. Students can purchase these at discounted rates and in some cases for free.</p>
<p>Adobe Creative Cloud</p> <p>Creative Cloud includes Acrobat, InDesign, Illustrator and Photoshop and all are used throughout your course. This suite can be purchased for either Apple Mac or Windows.</p> <p>Design students receive a free Creative Cloud subscription through UWA. To download Creative Cloud, we recommend you download the desktop app, and then sign in with your UniID and password to get started.</p> <p>Please contact schoolops-nedlands@uwa.edu.au if you encounter any issues with your Adobe licensing.</p>
<p>Autodesk – Version 2024</p> <p>You will use a number of Autodesk programs including: AutoCAD, 3Ds Max Design, and Revit. We are currently using the 2024 versions.</p> <p>Students have access to the entire suite of Autodesk software for free. You can download the software by going to http://students.autodesk.com – you need to register using your UWA email address to access the site.</p>
<p>Microsoft Office – Office 365</p> <p>UWA students have access to the Student Advantage program which provides up to 4 years access to Microsoft Office 365 for no cost.</p> <p>To get started, simply visit https://office.com/Getoffice365 and using your <studentnumber>@student.uwa.edu.au email address to register, follow the prompts and download the software. Note that the password you set during this process will be separate from your UWA login password so make sure you memorise it!</p>