NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY
YUNIBESITI YA BOKONE-BOPHIRIMA
NOORDWES-UNIVERSITEIT

Information Technology

RECOMMENDATIONS RE: LAPTOPS FOR STUDENTS 2021

The following table contains 5 different categories of laptops the NWU can advise students to buy for 2021.
It is important for Faculties to advise us which categories will fit their programs the best. This will be published on different forums, so students, parents and others can make informed decisions as to what to buy.

Avoid the following:
- ✕ Promotional and less reputable brands, might impact support
- ✕ 32-bit CPU's, very limited performance (only buy 64-bit capable devices)
- ✕ internal storage with less than 120GB storage, operating system with programs will at the very least usually take up more than 40GB, not including updates leaving you with very little storage space to install additional software and to save assignments.
- ✕ Less than one-year warranty, preferably extend to 3 years if possible.

1.1 Categories

Level of Use	Currently own that could work	Suggested buying options	Suggested usage
Bare Necessity	6th gen Intel upwards Core2Duo/Celeron 2GB RAM (preferred upgradable to 4GB RAM) 320GB+ HDD	Intel N3000/4000 dual core Celeron or AMD Athlon Silver 3050U 4GB RAM 250GB HDD / suggested 250GB SSD	- MS Office suite and browsing internet only, this unit is meant to be nothing more than a laptop to type on and do basic tasks, we would however advise entry-level and up where possible. eFundi will work!
Entry Level	Intel i3 6th gen + / AMD Ryzen 3 2nd gen + 2GB+ DDR3+ RAM 320GB+ HDD/SSD	Intel i3 10110U or AMD Ryzen 3 4300U 4GB DDR4 RAM 500GB HDD / suggested 250GB SSD	- Basic MS Office - Multimedia presentations and projects - E.g Educational sciences, Theology, Sports diploma's, Arts
Mid-Level	Intel i5 6th gen + / AMD Ryzen 5 2nd gen + 4GB+ DDR3+ RAM 500GB+ HDD/SSD Optional dedicated graphics card	Intel i5 10310U or AMD Ryzen 5 4600U/H 4-8GB DDR4 RAM 500GB M.2 NVMe Optional dedicated graphics card	- Good all-round performance vs. value - Coding and mid-level assignments - E.g Mathematics, IT, most B.Sc, any degree with more than basic device needs.
High-end	Intel i7 6th gen + / AMD Ryzen 7 2nd gen + 8GB+ DDR3+ RAM 250GB+ SSD	Intel i7 10875H or AMD Ryzen 7 4800H 8-16GB DDR4 RAM 500GB M.2 NVMe	- Performance focused device - Advanced analytics and coding, running simulations

	Suggested dedicated graphics card	Suggested dedicated graphics card	- E.g Mech. Engineering, Bio-informatic sciences
Specialized		Apple OSX	
		Intel i5/i7 newest gen possible 16GB RAM (Recommended) 500 GB SSD NVMe Dedicated graphics card 4GB+ GDDR6 (Standard on most Macs)	These units are for specialized use e.g. advanced video editing or graphic design. For any other alternatives or info, please contact your local IT department.

1.2 Faculty breakdown

Faculty	Suggested device
Economic & Management Sciences	Mid-Level preferred
- Information Systems	High-End
Education (incl. Comp. Appl. Technology)	Entry Level for most
- B.Ed Information Technology, Geography, Sciences, Engineering Graphics Design	Mid-Level or higher (pref. 16GB RAM)
Engineering	High-End (or upgraded Mid-level) (16GB RAM + dedicated graphics)
Natural and Agricultural Sciences	Mid-Level or higher
- B.Sc Information Technology	High-End preferred
Health Sciences	Entry Level
Humanities	Mid-Level
- Graphical Design	Specialized
Law	Entry Level
Theology	Entry Level

1.3 Important information (read through carefully)

- ✓ **Please consult your relevant faculty to confirm software-specific requirements**
- ✓ When buying a laptop please consider including a locking kit to lower chances of unit being stolen (a high-quality steel cable with tumbler or key to lock that connects to the device securing it to a table, pole or loop)
- ✓ Most laptops come standard with a webcam and mic, please confirm it, a webcam slider helps ensuring privacy on a hardware level, remember to open before joining interactive online classes.
- ✓ Some laptops might be eligible for purchase using a lay-by of credit option (e.g Fundi, Banks, etc)
- ✓ Software discounts – as a student there are various software you receive at a discount (e.g. Microsoft Windows and Office) keep this in mind when buying as it might impact your total cost.
- ✓ When hunting specials remember to think of support and warranty returns as couriers and time without your device will hamper your studies, rather buy from local or reputable sources.
- ✓ **NSFAS students – you may have a different configured laptop; we hold no jurisdiction towards laptops provided to you by NSFAS.**