Using your own laptop in the studies

Along with e.g. different cloud services, Turku University of Applied Sciences will increasingly require students to have their own laptops during schooldays.

The campus area has free WiFi with good coverage. Most of TUAS' information systems used in the studies work with a browser, and thus you don't have to install anything on your computer.

TUAS offers you the most important basic software tools free of charge.

In some cases it is however possible that in addition to the basic software, you have to acquire some extra software at your own expense. This is addressed in more detail at the lessons of your degree programme and instructions will be provided in the course implementation plans.

We operate in the Windows environment

At TUAS we use the Windows environment, so we recommend that the operating system in your computer is Windows 10.

If you wish, you can also use the Apple OS X or Linux operating systems. In this case, however, you should be prepared for different compatibility problems. Please take into account that in this case, you might not get similar support for using your computer as for a Windows operating system.

In some cases you might manage with a tablet, but as in the practical work the computer is also used for writing, it should have a decent keyboard.

For the basic study-related needs a so-called standard laptop model is sufficient, but depending on the field of study, you might need to acquire a more efficient device.

The basic requirements for a suitable laptop include a wireless connection and a durable battery, because the classrooms may not always have enough plug sockets for everyone. In addition, in terms of usability, it is useful to have a decent keyboard, a digital connection for an external display and a USB-port (recommendation: USB-C) to connect it to the docking stations in TUAS' premises.

Please take these into account:

- the computer must be a laptop
- it has to be new enough and thus efficient enough for your own needs (please see the assembly examples below)
- you have to be able to connect to a wireless network
- all learning facilities might not have a plug socket nearby, so the battery has to be in good condition
- the student is always responsible for the computer being in working order and the software installations.

If you're not sure what kind of computer you will need, you can postpone acquiring it until the beginning of the studies.

Basic instructions for getting your own laptop

1. A basic device for writing and online access
   - almost any modern basic laptop is okay, example assembly:
     - Intel i3 9-series processor or newer
     - 8 GB RAM
     - Basic graphics card
     - Decent keyboard
     - At least 250 GB of storage
     - Windows 10 operating system and not IOS (MAC)
     - Wireless network connection (Wi-fi)
     - USB-port (recommendation: USB-C)
     - Digital connection for external display
     - Web camera
     - Integrated earphones/speakers and microphone or a connection for them
     - Good battery durability

2. A high-quality basic device for versatile use (e.g. light image processing)

- a mid-price device, example assembly:
  - Intel i5 9-series processor or newer
  - 16 GB RAM
  - A standard display adapter/screen driver suitable for light image processing, e.g. GTX 1070 or better
  - Decent keyboard
  - At least 250 GB SSD hard disk
  - Windows 10 operating system and not IOS (MAC)
  - Wireless network connection (Wi-fi)
  - USB-port (recommendation: USB-C)
  - Digital connection for external display
  - Web camera
  - Integrated earphones/speakers and microphone or a connection for them
  - Good battery durability

3. An efficient device (e.g. for demanding image processing or video editing)

- a more expensive device for demanding use, example assembly:
  - Intel i7 9-series processor or newer
  - At least 16 GB RAM
  - An efficient display adapter/screen driver suitable for image processing, with at least 8 GB memory (e.g. Nvidia Quadro series)
  - Decent keyboard
  - Wide screen display
  - At least 500 GB SSD hard disk
  - Windows 10 operating system and not IOS (MAC)
  - Wireless network connection (Wi-fi)
  - USB-port (recommendation: USB-C)
  - Digital connection for external display
  - Web camera
  - Integrated earphones/speakers and microphone or a connection for them
  - Good battery durability