

Frequently Asked Questions for Notebook Specifications (*For Full Time Students)

1. Do I need to get a notebook before semester start in Apr?

Please note that ALL DMAD students will only be confirmed into their specialisation AFTER the Foundry Programme at the end of Semester 1. They are encouraged to use their existing laptop until they have confirmed their placement in their specialisation. Purchasing of the laptop from the recommended SP vendor can still be done in Semester 1 after placement in Specialisation has been confirmed.

2. Is it compulsory to buy a Mac?

For most of the specializations in DMAD it is **NOT** necessary. You can buy any notebook from our approved vendors. However we would advise students if they can wait, to use an existing laptop till they have been posted into their specialisation before purchasing a new laptop.

For **SM only**: Yes, DMAD (SM) students make extensive use of the computer for music composition and production, and their primary tool is the industry standard Macintosh application LogicPro X.

For **XPD & SCC** only: Students are able to use either a Windows or Mac OS for their course of study. However, as the industry is generally Mac based, it may benefit the students from getting a Mac laptop.

3. If I buy a Mac, can I buy it from the Apple Store?

It is recommended that you buy from the school's approved vendor as a 3-year warranty and other freebies are included. If you have decided not to get from our approved vendor, you are recommended to buy online from Apple's Education store as you would get an educational discount. Please make sure the configuration matches the models sold by our approved vendor.

You can access our mac vendor's website here -> <https://academic.com.sg/collections/sp>

4. Should I buy a Macbook Air?

Macbook Air are NOT recommended unless it comes with a M1 chip or better. In addition, it should meet the minimum hardware specification requirement too.

5. Can I use ipad or tablet during my course of study in MAD?

It is possible that using an iPad/tablet for media and design courses may not provide you with all the necessary tools and capabilities required for the course. Media and Design courses often require specific software, hardware, and capabilities that may not be fully supported on an iPad/tablet. Additionally, the screen size, processing power, and storage capacity of an iPad/tablet may not be sufficient for the demands of media and design coursework.

6. Can I use an existing hand-me-down notebook first and purchase a laptop later?

Yes, you may use it. Should you decide to buy one later, you can still purchase it at a later date via the vendor website indicated on the Notebook PC Corner (<https://www.sp.edu.sg/sp/student-services/it-services/it-support/specifications-promotions>)

Including students who have been enroll thru Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP) and also to consider Question 1 in this FAQ before purchase.

7. Are the prices of the notebook the cheapest from your approved vendors?

We do not determine the prices of the notebook. We are just providing a service for your convenience. The prices are determined by the vendors.

When you compare prices, it is important that you compare the specifications to ensure that the models are comparable. For example, a vendor may sell a notebook at a cheaper price with a specification that shows only 4GB RAM and not 8 GB RAM, or the hard disk capacity may be lower, etc.

8. Are there financial assistance provided by SP?

There are two schemes – Notebook Subsidy and IMDA Neu PC Plus Programme. Information can be found at <https://www.sp.edu.sg/financial-assistance>

Please note that there are deadlines and apply before the application closes. You can also approach the customer service officers at Student Services Centre for assistance.

9. What are the software provided by the School and what software is required for my course?

For notebook configuration support, please refer to SP website at [Student FAQ::Service Listing::Course Specific Software](#)

You will need your iChat account and password to access the software list. Installation and configuration guides are provided.

10. When will the SP Notebook PC corner portal will get updated?

Usually it will be updated between Mid March to Early April of the year.

11. Who should I refer to when I encounter problem with my notebook?

Technical support should be referred to the SPICE Service Desk.

Phone: +65-6772-1260

Email: servicedeskmail@sp.edu.sg

You may refer to the [Support page](#) for more details.