

Technical specifications

– For study in an online environment

This document lists the technology required for BrisbaneSDE students to successfully study in an online environment.



Essential requirements

Windows or Mac

- A desktop computer or laptop (see computer specification requirements)
- An internet connection with at least 4 megabytes per second download speed
- Headset with microphone
- Microsoft Office (a free copy of Office 365 is offered to all students)
- Adobe Acrobat Reader (to read PDF files)
- Mozilla Firefox and/or Google Chrome (to be used as the default browser)
- USB flash drive (any brand, model and storage space)
- USB external hard drive for backup (may use USB flash drive if it has at least 80 gigabytes of storage space)
- Printer (any model or brand) or easy access to a printer

Computer specification requirements

Windows, any brand

- Intel Core i5 Quad Core Processor or AMD equivalent (minimum requirement)
- 4 gigabytes of RAM / memory
- At least 250 gigabytes storage space (HDD or SSD)
- Windows 10 or higher (Enterprise or Professional edition is optional)



Mac

- OSX Catalina (OSX 10.15) or higher
- iMac – 2020 or later
- MacBook Air – 2020 or later
- MacBook Pro – 2020 or later

Optional accessories and software

Windows or Mac

- External USB mouse
 - Recommended for all laptops
 - Dependent on the students' preference between using a laptop touch-pad or a mouse
- External additional monitor
 - Recommended for all small laptops to prevent eye strain
- External USB drawing pad
 - May be beneficial if enrolling in Years 11 and 12 Art or similar courses
 - Discuss with your teacher before purchase
- GeForce GTX 1070 graphics card or higher (or another equivalent brand)
 - May be beneficial if enrolling in Years 11 and 12 Graphic Design or similar courses
- A subscription to virus protection software
 - Common protection software includes Norton, McAfee, and Avast
 - BrisbaneSDE urges families to be mindful of their cybersecurity
- Software for vision impairment
 - Vision-impaired students may be required to access additional software
 - Additional software accessed is at the user's discretion
- Parental controls
 - If you intend to use parental controls on the computer, it is recommended you use the default Windows parental control system or Mac equivalent as third-party programs have been known to cause issues.
 - BrisbaneSDE does not recommend nor endorse the use of any parental control software.
- Tablets
 - Android based computing devices such as Chromebooks or other similar devices are not suitable devices and are not supported.
 - Tablet devices, including iPads, may function as a suitable device temporarily to attend classes or view lesson recordings but students will require access to a laptop for lessons and assessment.