



## Disabled Student Allowance (DSA)

## Computer Equipment Specifications

This document supersedes any previous versions of the document.

These specifications should be adhered to for equipment quotes generated on or after the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 and should be used for any equipment supplied on or after the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

These specifications relate to equipment supplied by companies to students who are in receipt of DSA support administered by Student Finance England and Student Finance Wales.

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Needs Assessors should request a computer using the codes which are detailed in table 1 below. The computer which is quoted for and supplied should be no less<sup>1</sup> than the specification detailed in table 2 of this document.

**Note:** The codes are provided for guidance only – Needs Assessors with specific disability related requirements should request these as an adjustment to an existing reference, list the required specification or request a specific model. Suppliers will make best endeavours to provide an appropriate machine.

**Table 1**

| <b>Code</b> | <b>Usage</b>  |
|-------------|---|
| WKH         | General purpose text-to-speech, speech-to-text      |
| VI          | Higher specification for Visual Impairment software |
| WCR         | Lightweight notebook                                |
| UWCR        | Ultra lightweight machine                           |

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<sup>1</sup> The specifications detailed are minimum specifications. Suppliers can offer a higher specification when constrained by availability of the minimum specification or when more competitive pricing can be obtained using a higher specification. The specification must exceed or match the quoted minimum in all respects.

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**Table 2 – Computer Specifications****Desktop**

| Reference | Minimum Screen Size (inches) | Processor  | Memory | Storage | Graphics | Operating System  | Max weight |
|-----------|------------------------------|--|--------|---------|----------|-------------------|------------|
| WKH       | 21.5                         | Intel i5 10 <sup>th</sup> generation<br>or<br>AMD Ryzen 5 4000 | 8 GB   | 500 SSD | Onboard  | Windows 10 64 Bit | N/A        |
| VI        | 21.5                         | Intel i7 10 <sup>th</sup> generation<br>or<br>AMD Ryzen 5 4000 | 16 GB  | 500 SSD | Onboard  | Windows 10 64 Bit | N/A        |

For desktop PCs the standard monitor size should be a minimum of 21.5", the monitor should be without speakers and have digital connectivity, in addition they must be supplied with a wired/USB keyboard and mouse, external speakers, webcam and Wi-Fi. Desktops to be provided with six USB ports (at least 1 USB3 port) and be metal cased.

**Portable Computers**

| Reference | Screen Size (inches) | Processor  | Memory | Internal Storage* | Graphics | Operating System  | Max weight |
|-----------|----------------------|--|--------|-------------------|----------|-------------------|------------|
| WKH       | 15.6                 | Intel i5 10 <sup>th</sup> generation<br>or<br>AMD Ryzen 5 4000 | 8 GB   | 500 SSD           | Onboard  | Windows 10 64 Bit | 2.0 kg     |
| VI15      | 15.6                 | Intel i7 10 <sup>th</sup> generation<br>or                     | 16 GB  | 500 SSD           | Onboard  | Windows 10 64 Bit | 3 kg       |

|             |                      |   |       |         |         |                      |                     |
|-------------|----------------------|---|-------|---------|---------|----------------------|---------------------|
|             |                      | AMD Ryzen 5 4000  |       |         |         |                      |                     |
| <b>VI17</b> | 17.3                 | Intel i7 10 <sup>th</sup><br>generation<br>or<br>AMD Ryzen 5 4000 | 16 GB | 500 SSD | Onboard | Windows<br>10 64 Bit | 4 kg                |
| <b>WCR</b>  | Minimum<br>12.5/13.3 | Intel i5 10 <sup>th</sup><br>generation<br>or<br>AMD Ryzen 5 4000 | 8 GB  | 500 SSD | Onboard | Windows<br>10 64 Bit | 1.5 kg              |
| <b>UWCR</b> | 12.3/13.3            | Intel i5 10 <sup>th</sup><br>generation<br>or<br>AMD Ryzen 5 4000 | 8 GB  | 128 GB  | Onboard | Windows<br>10 64 Bit | 1.1.kg <sup>2</sup> |

Portable Computers to be provided with no less than 2 USB ports – if a device does not meet these requirements then a USB hub should be provided.

**Please note:** optical drives are not a requirement unless specifically requested by the Needs Assessor

### Mac Computers

The minimum specification offered by Apple in each category (subject to usual justification) to be default recommendation, must be a minimum of i5 processor. In the case of a desktop Mac, the Mac-Mini can be considered equivalent to the WKH/Classic PC specification. This computer should be supplied with an Apple compatible wired keyboard (with Apple layout and marked specialist keys), wired mouse, together with a compatible 21.5” monitor.

Mac computers with USB-C connectors should be supplied with a USB Type C to 4 Port USB 3.0 Hub.

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<sup>2</sup> Combined weight including keyboard

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**Tablet Computers**

These specifications relate specifically to android tablets which are required by a student for portability, they are not intended to replace a portable computer and would not be applicable to those students who require a portable device to support a visual impairment.

| <b>Reference</b> | <b>Display Screen Size (inches)</b> | <b>Display</b> | <b>Processor</b>                 | <b>Memory</b> | <b>Storage</b> | <b>Battery</b> |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Tab8</b>      | 8                                   | HD 1080p       | 1.7Ghz<br>Octa-Core<br>processor | 3 GB          | 64GB           | 5000 mAh       |
| <b>Tab10</b>     | 10                                  | HD 1080p       | 1.7Ghz<br>Octa-Core<br>processor | 4 GB          | 64GB           | 5000 mAh       |

All tablets should also have:

- Micro SD slot
- Compatible USB connection
- Mains charging
- Wi-fi

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**Table 3 – Other equipment**

| Item                                     | Default Requirements  |
|--|---|
| Additional Monitors                      | Digital connectivity supplied<br>21.5” or above   |
| Printer or Multifunction Printer/Scanner | Either 1 black and 1 colour ink cartridge, or 1 black and multiple individual colour ink cartridges<br>Automatic Duplex<br>Wireless |
| Headset for voice input software         | Noise cancelling microphone<br>Compatible USB connection<br>Minimum – mute and volume control options                               |

The above minimum requirements should be used when a Needs Assessor omits to specify a make or model of the item.

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**Version Control**

|   |               |  |
|---|---------------|--|
| 1 | August 2019   | SLC version published  |
| 2 | November 2019 | VI specifications updated  |
| 3 | November 2020 | AMD processors added, move to specify SDD as standard and correction to screen size of UWCR.   |
| 4 | November 2021 | Tablet and monitor spec added, monitor screen size increased from 19". Changed printer spec from individual cartridges to twin cartridges. |