



Disabled Students' 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 1st July 2026 and should be used for any equipment supplied on or after the 1st July 2026.

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.

Table 1 – Computer Types

Type	Description
WKH	General purpose for demanding software
VI	Higher specification for visual impairment software
WCR	Lightweight notebook
UWCR	Ultra lightweight machine

Table 2 – Computer Specifications**Desktops**

Reference	Minimum Screen Size (inches)	Processor	Memory	Storage	Graphics	Operating System	Max Weight
WKH	21.5	Intel i5 10 th generation or AMD Ryzen 5 4000	8 GB	500 SSD	Onboard	Windows 10 64 Bit	N/A
VI	21.5	Intel i7 10 th generation or 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	Minimum Screen Size (inches)	Processor	Memory	Storage	Graphics	Operating System	Max Weight
WKH	15.6	Intel i5 10 th generation or AMD Ryzen 5 4000	8 GB	500 SSD	Onboard	Windows 10 64 Bit	2 kg
VI15	15.6	Intel i7 10 th generation or AMD Ryzen 5 4000	16 GB	500 SSD	Onboard	Windows 10 64 Bit	3 kg
VI17	16 / 17**	Intel i7 10 th generation or AMD Ryzen 5 4000	16 GB	500 SSD	Onboard	Windows 10 64 Bit	4 kg
WCR	Minimum 12.5 / 13.3	Intel i5 10 th generation or AMD Ryzen 5 4000	8 GB	500 SSD	Onboard	Windows 10 64 Bit	1.5 kg
UWCR	12.3 / 13.3	Intel i5 10 th generation or AMD Ryzen 5 4000	8 GB	128 GB	Onboard	Windows 10 64 Bit	1.1 kg

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.

**The VI17 can be supplied as a 16” where the actual screen size of the 16” is comparable with the 17” and the cost is cheaper. This is due to a reduction in the bezel size around screens in recent years meaning a 16” and 17” can have a similar actual screen size in some cases.

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

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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

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.

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

All tablets should also have:

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

Table 3 – Other Equipment

Item	Default Requirements
Additional Monitors	Digital connectivity supplied 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 Automatic Duplex Wireless
Headset for voice input software	Noise cancelling microphone Compatible USB connection Minimum – mute and volume control options

Version Control

1	August 2019	SLC version published
2	November 2019	VI specifications updated
3	November 2020	AMD processors added, move to specify SSD 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
5	July 2026	Added advice around allowing 16" under the VI17 spec