

Maastricht University device recommendations for students

General

During your study at Maastricht University you will need a suitable laptop. It needs to be powerful enough to run software required for education, such as statistical or analytical software. On this page, you will find a list of recommended specifications and laptops.

Please note: this information applies to education only. Digital exams are made on UM-Chromebooks and will be facilitated for every student.

Recommended laptop specifications

The specifications below ensure compatibility with common university software:

- Processor: Intel core i5 processor or higher
- Memory: at least 16 GB RAM (preferably 32 GB)
- Storage: at least 512 GB SSD (preferably 1 TB)
- Operating System: Windows 11 in English or Dutch
- Network adapter: Wi-Fi 6 (preferably Intel WiFi 6E or 7)
- Battery life: at least 3 hours
- Built-in webcam and microphone
- At least two free USB 2.0 (or higher) ports
- Screen size between 13" and 17", Full HD

It is advisable to choose a laptop with an easily replaceable battery. After three years of intensive academic use, battery performance declines while the rest of the hardware remains fully functional. Replacing a laptop battery is usually inexpensive (around €50) and can significantly extend the device's lifespan.

Recommended laptops:

- Dell XPS or Inspiron
- Lenovo ThinkPad or IdeaPad
- HP ProBook or Envy
- Microsoft Surface Laptop (not Surface Go)

Important: avoid Tablets (iPad, Android) and Chromebooks as a primary device because they do not meet all the requirements mentioned above. Chromebooks do not allow the installation of much of the software commonly used in education.

Windows is the best choice for statistics and business software due to broad compatibility, and because the university uses a lot of freeware that is only compatible with Windows computers.

However, If you choose a MacBook, it is important to be aware that in some cases you may need to run Windows software, depending on your programme or specific course requirements. In general, we advise looking into virtualization software that allows you to run Windows on macOS. An example of such a solution is [Parallels Desktop for Mac](#) (available via Surfspot at a reduced price).

The requirements for a MacBook are the same as for a Windows laptop, you will need additional disk space to run Windows.