



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 1st November 2019 and should be used for any equipment supplied on or after the 18th November 2019.

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.

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 less¹ 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

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

¹ 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.

Table 2 – Computer Specifications**Desktop**

Reference	Screen Size (inches)	Processor	Chipset	Memory	Storage	Graphics	Operating System	Max weight
WKH	19	i5	7 th generation	8 GB	500GB	Onboard	Windows 10 64 Bit	N/A
VI	19	i7	7 th generation	16 GB	1000GB	Onboard	Windows 10 64 Bit	N/A

For desktop PCs the standard monitor size should be 19", in addition they must be supplied with a wired/USB keyboard and mouse, external speakers (if not part of monitor) as standard 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	Chipset	Memory	Internal Storage*	Graphics	Operating System	Max weight
WKH	15.6	i5	7 th generation	8 GB	320GB	Onboard	Windows 10 64 Bit	2.8 kg
VI15	15.6	i7	7 th generation	16 GB	256GB SSD	Onboard	Windows 10 64 Bit	3 kg
VI17	17.3	i7	7 th generation	16 GB	256GB SSD	Onboard	Windows 10 64 Bit	4 kg
WCR	12.5/13.3	i5	7 th generation	8 GB	320GB	Onboard	Windows 10 64 Bit	1.6 kg
UWCR	12.5/13.3	i5	7 th generation	8 GB	128 GB	Onboard	Windows 10 64 Bit	1.1.kg ²

Portable Computers to be provided with no less than 2 USB2 ports (at least 1 USB3 port) – 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

² Combined weight including keyboard

Please note*: storage must be within the laptop and can be either HDD or SSD or a combination to meet the required capacity at the most cost effective price.

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 19" monitor.

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

Table 3 – Other equipment

Item	Default Requirements
Printer or Multifunction Printer/Scanner	Separate ink cartridges (individual colour cartridges) Automatic Duplex Wireless
Printer – to be supplied with a separate Bookscanner	Separate ink cartridges (individual colour cartridges) Automatic Duplex Wireless Stackable
Headset for voice input software	Nuance certified USB connection 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.

Version 2 –November 2019

Version Control

1	August 2019	SLC version published
2	November 2019	VI specifications updated