

BA (Hons) Graphic Design Student Starter Kit 2026/27

Essential Equipment

Sketchbook

- A3, A4 or A5 sketchbook (*esp helpful for the 401/402 unit*)
- Plain cartridge or Grid paper preferred

Used for:

- Visual research
 - Idea development
 - Drawing
 - Planning projects
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Drawing Materials

Basic kit: (*esp helpful for the 401/402 unit*)

- HB and 2B pencils
- Fineliners
- Eraser
- Sharpener
- Metal ruler
- Black markers

We also encourage students to continue working with materials they enjoy, e.g Posca Pens.

Optional Extras! (Not mandatory)

Laptop

Students are strongly encouraged to have their own laptop for working outside of taught sessions, although fully equipped machines are available in T1.22 and T1.21 (10 machines total).

Recommended specifications for students, considering unit assessment outcomes and potential file sizes:

- Apple MacBook Air (M2/M3) or MacBook Pro
- Windows laptop with:
 - Intel Core i5/i7 or AMD Ryzen 5/7
 - 16GB RAM (minimum)
 - 512GB SSD storage
 - Dedicated graphics card preferred but not essential
- 13–15" display
- Good battery life *(you can also get approved second hand machines from Apple with good battery life)*

Suitable examples:

- Apple MacBook Air M3
 - Dell XPS 13
 - ThinkPad
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Adobe Creative Cloud

Although students have **free access to Adobe programs on all university computers**, purchasing a personal Adobe Creative Cloud subscription is **optional**, but recommended if you wish to:

- Work from home
- Continue projects off-campus
- Sync files across devices
- Access the latest software on your own laptop

Key applications used throughout the course include:

- Adobe Photoshop
- Adobe Illustrator
- Adobe InDesign
- Adobe After Effects
- Adobe Lightroom
- Adobe Acrobat

Students should be eligible for discounted Adobe Creative Cloud student pricing, although this is largely only for the first year, and prices increase dramatically.