EQUIPMENT LIST

Media & Equipment Guide for Foundation Students

(Degree & Certificate)

NOTE: If you already own some of these items or there are similar requirements between subjects, you are not required to have two of the same items. All the information provided here is a GUIDE to assist you in planning and budgeting for your studies. Lists are subject to change.

PC or MAC?

How do I know which computer will be best for me to use during my degree?

Let's set your mind at ease: you do not have to have a Mac to study any of the degrees at Open Window. Some students prefer working on a Mac interface and others prefer a PC. Mac tends to run graphic software (Adobe Suite) slightly smoother than PC and it has a more accurate colour display. It is worth noting that Mac is regarded as industry standard for some fields (such as design agencies) whereas PC is more common in rendering and game design fields. *It is not required that you have a Mac computer.*

ESSENTIAL HARDWARE SPECIFICATIONS:

*Please note: All students enrolled in programmes at The Open Window must have the essential hardware specifications (computer and internet access) prior to classes starting.

Overall recommended Specifications

Quad-core processor, 16GB RAM, 512GB SSD, 2GB GPU + 1TB external storage

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OTHER ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT FOR ALL STUDENTS

- 8GB (Minimum) memory stick
- Internet Connection & comfortable home work-space environment
- A web camera and headphones for online classes
- Smartphone

*Adobe Software is included in the Foundation level registration fee and is made available to students once term starts.

Subject specific minimum requirements

FILM & TV, PRODUCTION DESIGN, MOTION DESIGN, FILM & TV PRODUCTION CERTIFICATE

Minimum Requirements
Quad-core processor, 16GB RAM, 256GB SSD + 1TB external storage

3D ANIMATION, GAME DESIGN, 3D DESIGN, CERTIFICATE: 3D ANIMATION & VFX

Minimum Requirements
Quad-core processor, 16GB RAM, 256GB SSD, 2GB GPU + 512GB external storage

- *Please note that **3D Design** requires a Windows Operating System to be installed on the machine and **Game Design** students should aim for a VR-compatible GPU (4GB+), if possible.*

COMMUNICATION DESIGN, INTERACTION DESIGN, ILLUSTRATION, PHOTOGRAPHY & CERTIFICATE: DESIGN TECHNIQUES (VC & UID)

Minimum Requirements
Quad-core processor, 8GB RAM, 256GB SSD + 512GB external storage

SCREENWRITING, SCREEN ACTING, SOUND DESIGN and INTERACTIVE DEVELOPMENT

Minimum Requirements
Dual-core (64-bit) processor, 8GB RAM, 256GB SSD

DIGITAL DRAWING TABLETS

The digital drawing tablet is essential for students planning to Major in:
- 3D Animation

The digital drawing tablet is beneficial for:
- Game Design, Motion Design, Illustration, Communication Design & Production Design

DRAWING & NARRATIVE
Students receive the materials as part of their 'welcome pack'.

ACADEMIC PRACTICE / MEDIA PERSPECTIVES / THEORY
These subjects do not require any equipment, other than basic stationery, notebooks/journals, and at times, the printing of projects.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN VISUAL COMMUNICATION DESIGN

COMMUNICATION DESIGN 100
An amount of approximately R500 should be budgeted per term for projects.

ILLUSTRATION 100
- Artist fixative
- Woodless charcoal pencil H
- Woodless charcoal pencil M
- Woodless charcoal pencil S
- Charcoal willow 6 – 8mm
- Fabriano pad A4/160grm landscape hardcover
- Masonite board A2
- Palette 10 wells
- Smudge tools
- Visual diary A3 landscape hardcover
- Winsor & Newton gouache set x 5

The illustration package is available at Archneer, Hatfield, at an estimated cost of: R680

PHOTOGRAPHY 100
Please see the Photography camera buying guide for advice and recommendations
Estimated cost: R15 000
An additional amount (approximately R500<) should be budgeted per term for projects.

VERY IMPORTANT: At the start of the year, the Photography Department organises a day where suppliers provide photography related gear at discounted rates. Please be in contact with the necessary department for more information.

BACHELOR OF FILM ARTS

SCREENWRITING 100
No equipment is required other than a notepad and a pen.

FILM & TV 100
Every student needs to buy/have access to a DSLR camera with video capabilities.
Please see the FTV Camera Buying Guide for advice and recommendations

SCREEN ACTING 100
No equipment is required other than a notepad and a pen.
Students will be expected to wear comfortable clothing and shoes, as they will be participating in movement activities.

PRODUCTION DESIGN 100
Wacom Drawing Tablet: Recommended, but not compulsory.

SOUND DESIGN 100
Please see the Headphones for Sound Design buying guide for advice and recommendations
The only equipment you need to buy for SD100 is a pair of production/mix quality headphones. (This will also be required for all Sound Design subjects and modules in 2nd and 3rd year, and will be useful for other FA subjects too.) For SD100 term 1: please bring any pair of headphones or earphones that can plug into a standard audio jack (3.5mm TRS) port, so avoid Bluetooth headphones or those with other plugs (like Apple lightning). You only need to buy a proper pair of headphones by term 2.

3D ANIMATION, GAME DESIGN & MOTION DESIGN
Consider purchasing an SSD for external storage. Projects tend to consist of a large number of files

BACHELOR OF CREATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

PRODUCT DESIGN 100

- Vernier Caliper
- Visual diary A3 landscape hardcover
- 4 x Copic Markers (Three grey shades and a colour of your choice)
- Geometry set: protractor, compass, dividers, etc.
- Scale rule 1:20/1:25/1:50/1:100/1:200/1:500
- 8/10m length tape measure
- 2mm clutch pencil/s
- Clutch pencil sharpener
- Circle stencil
- NT cutter 18mm
- A1 or A2 cutting mat
- Steel straight edge 60cm
- Optional item: A1 drawing roll for transporting drawings
- Optional item: Steel straight edge 30cm
- Consumable: 2mm clutch pencil leads B, HB, H, 2H, 1 set of each
- Consumable: Staedtler Traditional eraser
- Consumable: Putty eraser
- Consumable: Masking tape
- Consumable: Replacement NT Cutting Knife blades 18mm

An additional amount of approximately R200 should be budgeted per term for projects.
Above items are available from Archneer, Park Street, Hatfield.

INTERACTIVE DEVELOPMENT 100
No additional equipment is required

INTERACTION DESIGN 100
No additional equipment is required

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATE PROGRAMMES

FET CERTIFICATE: PHOTOGRAPHY

It is essential that students have access to/purchase a digital DSLR camera body or Interchangeable Mirrorless camera.
In addition to the above, students require:

- A good multi-purpose zoom lens, wide to telephoto range (16-55mm) (Generic lenses like SIGMA and Tamron are more than adequate)
- A reflector board no smaller than 107 - 110cm
- A sturdy tripod that supports your camera and lens
- A cable release
- An extra camera battery
- A memory care (write speed of at least 150mb/s)
- A grey card Cleaning kit

Please discuss your options with the relevant service providers attached in the camera buying document guide or contact the photography department for more information.

NATIONAL CERTIFICATE: FILM & TV PRODUCTION

It is essential that every student purchases/has access to a DSLR camera with HD video capabilities from the beginning of Term 1.
Please see the FTV Camera Buying Guide for advice and recommendations

Headphones for Sound Design

Minimum requirements

You need a pair of production / mix quality headphones for Sound Design. Bring them every week. The entry level pair that we recommend is the Sennheiser HD200. They are definitely not the best out there, but at the price, probably the most sensible option. They cost around R1500, but can be a bit less if you shop around. They seal well and will work both on-location and in class/studio. They are a step up from the Sennheiser HD202 that we used to recommend. (The 202 has been discontinued, but will also be sufficient if you can find a pair.)

Stick with the big brands:
Sennheiser, Shure, Sony, AKG, Fostex, Audio Technica & Beyerdynamic.
(You can also get usable pairs from Presonus, Focusrite, Roland, and M-Audio)

Fit

Headphones are not just about sound quality, but also how they fit. If at all possible, try a pair on before buying it. It gets very annoying (especially with extended use) if your pair does not fit your head properly.

Avoid

Try to avoid ear buds, noise cancelling headphones, headphones that process the sound (virtual surround, etc.), and to some extent, gaming headsets. Get something with a normal 3.5mm headphone jack rather than Bluetooth, or an Apple lightning connector.

The List

If you want to get something different / fancier, there are many other options available. For critical sound purposes (editing, mixing, recording, etc) you need headphones with a flat frequency response. Here is a list of other models that you may want to consider.

This list is by no means comprehensive.
- AKG: K72 K121 K171 K240 K271 K612 K702 (also K44 K77 K99)
- Alesis SRP100
- Audio Technica: ATH M20x ATH M30x ATH M40x ATH M50x
- Beyerdynamic: DT100 DT770 DT880
- Fostex T20RP
- Roland: RH200 RH300
- Sennheiser: HD200 HD205 HD206 HD419 HD439
- Shure: SRH240 SRH440 SRH840 SRH940
- Sony: MDR-7506 MDR-7509

The Sennheiser HD2xx and HD4xx series (without the Pro) are not technically made for studio use, but they will definitely be good enough for SD100 use. All these brands also have more higher end models. I tried to keep to around R2-3k maximum for the list.

Open vs Closed

Open or Closed-Back headphones refer to their construction, and how well they block out external sound. For best all-round use we recommend you get closed-back headphones. Please note that a number of the models on the list are open-back. That means that they will not be great for field recording or recording on a film set as they don't isolate your ears from external noise. (Models like the AKG K77, K99 and K240 are all open back.) Please check the specifications of each model if you are specifically looking for closed back headphones.

Favourites

My most used pair is the Sennheiser HD380Pro. Excellent quality, great for location sound, and they fold up in a good case. For pro use, the Sennheiser HD25Pro and Sony MDR-7506/09 are somewhat of a standard. I find the AKG series the most comfortable and I really like using the K240 (open) and K271 (closed). The two most popular pairs with Sound Design major students have been the ATH M40x and the Sennheiser HD380Pro.

Where to buy :

1. Sennheiser HD 206 (R689 @ Takealot)
2. Sennheiser HD 200 pro (R1570 @ Bothners) Recommended
3. AKG K72 PERCEPTION (R1130 @ MiTech) Recommended
4. Audio Technica ATH-M20X (R1139 @ SoundSelect/AudioMart) Recommended
5. Audio Technica ATH-M30X (R1580 @ SoundSelect)

MiTech has a large headphone display room if you want to go try some pairs on. They are close to the Allandale offramp (N1Midrand). You can see the building from the highway; also says Stage Audio Works.

PHOTOGRAPHY

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

FIRST YEAR / ONE YEAR PROGRAM

- Digital DSLR camera body or Interchangeable Mirrorless camera
- 1x Good multi-purpose zoom lens, wide to telephoto range (16-55mm)
  (Generic lenses like SIGMA and Tamron is more than adequate. Please discuss your options with the relevant service providers attached later in the document.)
- 1x Reflector board (107 - 110cm). Please do not buy a reflector smaller than this.
- 1x Strong sturdy tripod (invest in a good tripod that can support your camera and lens)
- 1x Cable Release (When purchasing please specify what camera brand and model you have)
- 1x Extra Camera battery
- 2x Memory card (with a write speed of atleast 150mb/s)
- 1x Grey card
- Cleaning kit
- SD Card Reader (if computer does not come with one built in)

Recommended Camera Bodies:

FujiFilm, Nikon, Canon and Sony are the only four digital camera brands we recommend. Although there are other great brands on the market; we have found that in terms of product range and support these brands have a very strong presence in South Africa.
The following camera bodies are especially popular:
(Please refer to the FAQ section for more information)

FUJIFILM MIRRORLESS CAMERAS

FUJIFILM X-T30 II

FUJIFILM X-T3

FUJIFILM X-S10

FUJIFILM X-T4

FUJIFILM GFX-100S

FUJIFILM GFX-50SII

FUJIFILM LENSES

FUJIFILM XF 16 – 55MM F2.8

FUJIFILM XF 18 – 55MM F2.8 - 4

NICE TO HAVE (FUJIFILM XF 80MM F2.8 MACRO)

NICE TO HAVE (FUJIFILM XF 56MM F1.2)

NIKON MIRRORLESS

NIKON Z6 II

NIKON Z7 II

NIKON Z5

NIKON Z50

NIKON Zfc

NIKON MIRRORLESS LENSES

NIKON FTZ ADAPTER

Nikon Z 85mm F1.8 S

NIKON Z 24-70MM F4 S

NIKON DSLR CAMERAS

NIKON D7500

NIKON D500

NIKON D850

NIKON D780

NIKON DSLR LENSES

CROP SENSOR: (D7500 AND D500)

> Nikon DX 17 – 55mm
Sigma or Tamron

FULL FRAME: (D780 AND D850)

> Nikon FX 24 – 70mm F2.8
Sigma or Tamron

Nikon DX 17 – 55mm

Nikon FX 24 – 70mm F2.8

Please do not invest in a Nikon D3000 series body. If you do however own one please talk to your lecturer.

CANON MIRRORLESS

CANON EOS R

CANON EOS RP

CANON EOS R5

CANON EOS R6

CANON MIRRORLESS LENSES

CANON MIRRORLES

Canon RF 24-70mm F2.8

Canon Mount RF-EF Adapter EF-EOS R

CANON MOUNT RF-EF ADAPTER EF-EOS R

CANON RF 24-105MM F4-F7.1

CANON DSLR CAMERAS

CANON EOS 6D MARK II

CANON EOS 90D

CANON EOS 5D MARK IV

CANON EOS 80D

CANON DSLR LENSES

CROP SENSOR: (80D AND 7D MARK II)

Canon EF 17 – 55mm
Sigma or Tamron

FULL FRAME: (5D MARK IV, 5DS, 5DS R AND 6D MARK II)

Canon EF 24-70mm F2.8
Sigma or Tamron are generic lenses you can also consider

CANON EF 17 – 55MM

CANON EF 24-70MM F2.8

Please do not invest in the following models, Canon 250D, Canon 1200D, Canon 2000D, Canon 4000D.
If you do however own one please talk to your lecturer.

SONY MIRRORLESS

SONY a6400

SONY a7R IV

SONY a7 IV

SONY a9 II

SONY LENSES

SONY FE 85MM F1.8

SONY FE 24-70MM F2.8 GE

EXTRAS

5-IN-ONE REFLECTOR
(107CM/ 109CM/ 110CM)

TRIPOD
(Be mindful of the entry-level
tripods, refer to the supplier list in
this document for guidance)

CABLE RELEASE

30C FLEXIBLE GREY CARD

CLEANING KIT

SECOND YEAR / ONE YEAR PROGRAM

FIRST YEAR EQUIPMENT PLUS:

- 1x Speedlight flash
(Generic brands like the Yungnuo and Godox flashes are more than adequate)

- 1x wireless flash trigger

- 1x Studio Light with Battery Pack.

- 1x Light stand
(Recommended boom stand) - C-stands is expensive but durable

- 1x Sand bag

- 1x Big soft light shaper

- (Umbrella, beauty dish, softbox)

- 1x Hard light shaper

- (Zoom reflector)

- 8x AA batteries
(Recyko or similar) with a charger

- 8x AAA batteries
(We found that Duracell actually lasts longer than rechargeable AAA's)

- A nice to have but by no means a must-have: (It is recommended to acquire 1x good portrait lens (i.e the Nikon 105mm Macro f2.8 lens or the Fuji XF 50-140mm F2.8R LM WR lens).

Second-year equipment is an extension of gear already purchased in the first year. If a student does not have a proper DSLR camera it is recommended to purchase one in the second year, as students are already encouraged to do real industry-related assignments from the second semester in second year. It is always great to have one professional lens. (Consult the list of recommended camera dealers).

Keep in mind that in commercial photography professionals always make sure they have one good portrait lens, as people are more often a photographer's subject matter, irrespective of the genre of photography you end up pursuing. Students will by no means be penalised if they cannot acquire such a lens at this stage. Studio and flash (Strobist) photography make out a big part of a professional's kit. Students need to purchase at least one Speedlight. FujiFilm, Nikon and Canon flashes are very expensive so we always recommend that students settle for generic brands like Yongnuo and Godox flashes. Our students have been using them frequently in the past and we are confident in endorsing them.

PROFOTO is the top professional studio lighting equipment brand on the market. If the student has the budget to purchase a PROFOTO the B1 or B2 lighting kit is recommended, but Camera Stuff and Kameraz in Johannesburg and Outdoor photo in Pretoria offer a wide range of generic lighting equipment at a third of the price. Please refer to the list of retailers. They will be able to assist you in buying the right equipment within your budget.

STUDIO AND FLASH LIGHTING EQUIPMENT & TRIGGERS

PROFOTO B10 PLUS WITH RADIO TRIGGER

GODOX AD600PRO WITSTRO ALL-IN-ONE OUTDOOR FLASH

GODOX AD300

GODOX TT685 MII TTL FLASH

GODOX V860III TTL LI-ION FLASH KIT

GODOX XPRO TTL WIRELESS FLASH TRIGGER

GODOX X2T TTL WIRELESS FLASH TRIGGER TRANSMITTER

GODOX AD200 PRO TTL POCKET FLASH KIT

THIRD YEAR

SECOND YEAR EQUIPMENT PLUS:

- 1x Studio Light with Battery pack

- 1x Light stand (recommended boom stand) – Manfrotto and/or C-stands are expensive but durable

- 1x Any light shaper

Most gear has already been purchased in the first and second year. A student now only needs to acquire one extra studio light to make them ready for the industry. Third-year is about introducing students to the market and kick-starting their business, in order to do that students not only need to have the right equipment, but they must also be familiar with their equipment.

SERVICE PROVIDERS

Buying equipment is more than just finding the best bargain or buying the cheapest camera available. It is also about building relationships. The following list of service providers are people that we have found are not only committed to giving our student's good deals and outstanding service but also committed in supporting students in establishing their careers.

Look at the table below to see some recommended service providers.

NAME	SURNAME	SERVICE
ATPHOTO Henry Tope	(012) 348 4890 info@atphoto.co.za henry@atphoto.co.za Unit C One Highveld Centre 5 Bellingham Street Centurion	• Printing lab

CAMERASTUFF Leanne Knuist	(011) 880 4155 leanne@camerastuff.co.za 473 Jan Smuts Ave, Blairgowrie, Randburg	• Flash equipment • Reflector boards • Cable releases • Studio lighting • Location lighting • Light stands • Light shapers • Rechargeable batteries
GLOWHIRE Chantell Fegen	(011) 880 8124 chantell@glowhire.co.za 70 Oxford Rd, Riviera, Johannesburg	• Camera and equipment rentals
OUTDOOR PHOTO Lundi Mbanga Devan Reynders Bernard Koch	(012) 348 3693 lundi@outdoorphoto.co.za devan@outdoorphoto.co.za bernard@outdoorphoto.co.za 322 Garsfontein Road, Waterkloof Glen, Pretoria	• Second-hand equipment • As well as everything else
KAMERAZ Martin Wright Ryan Cumming	(011) 880 2885 martin@kameraz.co.za ryan@kameraz.co.za Shop 101A Rosebank Mall, 50 Bath Avenue	• Second-hand equipment • As well as everything else

FAQ

Q: I am a first-year student and already have a camera. Can I just use the one I have?

A: The list that we have compiled was done in such a way to assist students who would like to pursue photography as a career in the future. Entry-level cameras (even those not on the list) should be fine for first year, but when you enter second year you will be competing with professionals and unfortunately better equipment give better results. First-year is your most expensive year, as you have to lay the foundation for future purchases. Please do not invest in the following models, Canon 2000D, Canon 1200D, Canon 250D, Canon 4000D and the Nikon D3000 series. If you however do own one of these camera bodies they will work for your first year. There are limitations to these cameras that can be problematic, especially on second and third year level. If you do however do own one of these cameras they will work for your first year.

Q: I don't want to invest in an expensive camera only to find that I am not interested in pursuing photography as a major in second year.

A: If you buy one of the cameras on the list we can assure you that we will be able to sell it at second-hand value (60% of the purchase value) to a first-year the following year. Provided that the camera is in good condition.

Q: What else should I budget for?

A: (All students): We are committed to giving students a pleasant learning experience, therefore, we always organise field trips and workshops outside usual class times as practical exercises. All students can expect an additional fee of R600 per year that should cover these field trips. Also, printing is an integral part of photography. Students are therefore expected to complete on printed assignment per term.

Second and Third Years: students will be working on professional portfolios and sourcing models, make-up artists, procuring props for shoots and location scouting can be a costly exercise. A maximum of R2000 per term should cover these expenses. Creative solutions go a long way to keep these costs down.

Third Years: Should budget for approximately R5000 for the printing of their final portfolios and artist book at the end of the year, plus an additional R2000 for exhibitions and material for their darkroom and fine arts module in term 2.

Q: How relevant is photography as a career today?

A: The short answer is: Very!

In many ways the doom and gloom talk on the future of photography is actually fuelled more by the fear of change than the reality of the art form. Yes analogue photography together with chemicals and silver halide crystals might have died a quick death so without question photography has changed and we are all having to adapt as a result.

The good news is that the ease of travel, the availability of cameras, the opportunity to reach a global audience thanks to the Internet, have contributed to it being one of the most exciting times in history to become a photographer. Not to mention the fact that technology itself has brought wonderful tools with it to create different and exciting new imagery with this medium.

If anything, we are witnessing a grand revival of the art. More photographs are created and sold today than ever before. The creative elite of every generation has always, by definition, sat ahead of the masses who followed. And make no mistake The Open Window Photography department is very much a part of that elite.

Q: When do I need to purchase the equipment?

A: You can plan your year according to the following:

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
First Year				
	Camera	Reflector Board	Printing	Photobook
	Tripod	Printing		
	Grey Card			
	Cable Release			
Second Year				
	Flash with a flash trigger	Studio Light		Portfolio
		Location Light		
Third Year				
	Studio Light	Fine Arts Photography module – material,		Exhibition and portfolio printing

		darkroom rental and exhibition print and framing		
One Year Program				
	Camera Tripod Grey card Cable release	Reflector board Printing	Location light Flash and trigger	End of year portfolio: Printing Portfolio book