

## MEDIA & EQUIPMENT GUIDE FOR FOUNDATION STUDENTS (DEGREE & CERTIFICATE) 2023/2024<sup>1</sup>

*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. It is suggested that students opt to purchase a portable device (laptop) due to the multimodal learning & teaching model adopted at Open Window.*

#### ***Overall recommended Specifications for devices***

Modern multi-core processor, 16GB RAM, a minimum 512GB SSD, 2GB GPU + 1TB external SSD (via USB-C)

*\*Please note that the new Apple M1 & M2 chip architecture has integrated memory and should be benchmarked against the recommended specifications*

### **OTHER ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT FOR ALL STUDENTS**

- Stable internet connection that allows students to join online classes & 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.*

---

<sup>1</sup> Please note that this list is written for 2023 and can be used as a guide for 2024 budgeting.

## **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 SSD

### **3D ANIMATION, GAME DESIGN, CERTIFICATE: 3D ANIMATION & VFX & PRODUCT DESIGN**

#### *Minimum Requirements*

Quad-core processor, 16GB RAM, 256GB SSD, 2GB GPU + 1TB external SSD

- Please note that **Product 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, ILLUSTRATION, PHOTOGRAPHY & CERTIFICATE: DESIGN TECHNIQUES (VC & UID) & USER EXPERIENCE DESIGN & INTERACTIVE DEVELOPMENT**

#### *Minimum Requirements*

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

### **SCREENWRITING, SCREEN ACTING, SOUND DESIGN**

#### *Minimum Requirements*

Dual-core (64-bit) processor, 8GB RAM, 512GB SSD

### **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.

### **DIGITAL DRAWING TABLETS**

The digital drawing tablet is essential for students planning to enrol in:

- 2D or 3D Animation

The digital drawing tablet is beneficial for:

- Game Design, Motion Design, Illustration, Communication Design & Production Design

# BACHELOR OF ARTS IN VISUAL COMMUNICATION DESIGN

## COMMUNICATION DESIGN 100

An amount of approximately R800 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 A4/160gsm landscape hardcover
- Palette 10 wells
- Smudge tools
- Visual diary A3 landscape hardcover
- Winsor & Newton gouache set x 5
- Fabriano Illustration Board

The illustration package is available at Archneer, Hatfield, at an estimated cost of: R1500

## PHOTOGRAPHY 100

*Please see the Photography camera buying guide for advice and recommendations.*

*We recommend that students purchase their cameras at the photography expo that we host at the start of the academic year.*

***Estimated cost: R20 000***

An additional amount (approximately R500<) should be budgeted per term for projects

***VERY IMPORTANT:*** *At the start of the year, the Photography & Film Departments organise an on campus expowhere suppliers provide photography related gear It is preferable that students purchase their cameras from these suppliers at the expo, as the latest equipment will be available here at discounted rates. Suppliers will also be able to provide additional technical info on the camera. 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

Every student needs to buy/have access to a DSLR or mirrorless camera with video capabilities.

***Estimated cost: R20 000 - 30 000 (depending on brand)***

*NOTE: FV100 students only need cameras from Term 3. Should they have decided at that point that majoring in the subject is unlikely - we do have rental options rather than purchasing options.*

***For more information: please see the FV Camera Buying Guide (2022).***

## 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

Using an SSD for external storage is essential. Projects tend to consist of a large number of files that are often cross-referenced - SSDs allow you to copy files quickly or work directly from the external drive.

# BACHELOR OF CREATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

## PRODUCT DESIGN 100

- Vernier Caliper
- Visual diary A3 landscape hardcover
- 4 x Copic Markers (Three [Lighter] grey shades and a colour of your choice)
- 8/10m length tape measure
- 2mm clutch pencil/s
- Clutch pencil sharpener
- NT cutter 18mm
- A1 or A2 cutting mat
- Optional Consumable: 2mm clutch pencil leads B, HB, H, 2H, 1 set of each
- Consumable: Staedtler Traditional eraser
- Consumable: Putty eraser
- Consumable: Replacement NT Cutting Knife blades 18mm

An additional amount of approximately R500 should be budgeted per term for projects. Above items are available from Archneer, Park Street, Hatfield.

## INTERACTIVE DEVELOPMENT 100

No additional equipment is required

## USER EXPERIENCE 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 card (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.

### ***Estimated cost: R20 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 an on campus expo day where suppliers provide photography related gear at discounted rates. It is preferable that students purchase their cameras from these suppliers at the expo, as the latest equipment will be available here at discounted rates. Suppliers will also be able to provide additional technical info on the camera. Please be in contact with the necessary department for more information.

## NATIONAL CERTIFICATE: FILM & TV PRODUCTION

It is essential that every student purchases/has access to a DSLR or mirrorless camera with HD video capabilities from the beginning of Term 1.

### ***Estimated cost: R15 000***

Please see the FTV Camera Buying Guide for advice and recommendations

## DESIGN TECHNIQUES (COMMUNICATION DESIGN) / (USER INTERFACE DESIGN) & 3D ANIMATION & VFX

No additional equipment is required.