



03.09.08

Department of Music.  
Guidance for purchasing a computer and software.

USSS, The University of Sheffield Sound Studios has recently been re-equipped and comprises 20 PCs with Windows and Ubuntu Linux and all necessary software for students to complete their work.

It is not a requirement that students have their own computer but you may already own one or be in the process of buying one.

We recommend that students have a good means of backing up their work (DVD writers) and some means of transporting their work between home and the University (pen drives, portable USB hard drives).

If students are considering working intensively with sound we would recommend the M-Audio Fast-Track Pro USB soundcard (£105) and a good pair of headphones to accompany their computer.

During semester 1 we will be able to provide a number of links to open source (free to use) software that will enable students to complete work at home.

This includes the open office suite <http://www.openoffice.org/>  
Pure data <http://puredata.info/downloads>  
Csound <http://www.csounds.com/> and blue <http://www.csounds.com/stevenyi/blue/>  
Firefox web browser <http://www.mozilla.org/>  
Thunderbird email client <http://www.mozilla.org/>  
Audacity audio editor <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>  
Sonic Visualiser editor <http://www.sonicvisualiser.org/>

We also use a number of commercial software packages including

Sibelius  
Cubase  
Max/MSP

These are quite expensive and there is no need to purchase an individual copy. Please be aware that, should you wish to do so, there are student licences available often requiring proof of enrolment, so purchase may be best left until after October.