



IT purchasing guidance Department of Music 06.07.10

USSS, The University of Sheffield Sound Studios comprises 4 state of the art studios and a laboratory of 20 PCs with Windows and Ubuntu Linux containing all the 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 do not (indeed can not) make any specific recommendations here.

However, we strongly 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 of at least 4GB (< £10) and a portable USB hard drive of minimum 250GB (£50-£60). If students are considering working intensively with sound we would recommend the M-Audio Fast-Track Pro USB soundcard (£130) and a good pair of headphones (Sennheiser or Beyerdynamic - between £40 to £130) 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 / Nuendo and the Adobe Creative Suite. 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.