



# \*TECH SPECS

## Technical Requirements for Interactive Media Programs

**IMPORTANT:** As students you qualify for a number of discounts, both for software and hardware. Do not pay anything without researching educational pricing (which requires your student ID – see links below)

### **What computer should I buy?**

While you can adapt most computers and operating systems to work for your IMG program, a Mac laptop (or desktop) is recommended. Both Mac and Windows will be used in the programs and as Mac has a dual booting option (which allows MS Windows to run on the same machine), we recommend students buy a Mac. If a student decides to purchase a Windows PC after all, that will work too. Research your choices well. Remember, you can run Windows software on a Mac. <http://www.apple.com/support/bootcamp/>

### **Does the operating system matter?**

It is important that your operating system and computer are relatively new. If purchasing a Mac you will have Mac OS X, then you can have a free copy of Window OS under the DreamSpark agreement. In the program you will also learn and use other Windows and open source software. The good news is, as a registered IMG student, most of these programs can be freely downloaded from the DreamSpark site or from the web.

### **How much ram/ storage/ size of screen – is there a minimum?**

- 8Gb of RAM, 500Gb of storage on the hard drive is the minimum requirement.
- Eyes get tired when squinting at a tiny screen for any length of time. Think of your computer as an investment in your future.

### **What software is used in the program?**

- Adobe Creative Cloud (CC)—see Adobe link below for educational pricing
- You will also learn and use other Windows and open source software in the program. The good news is, for registered IMG students, most of these programs can be downloaded for free from DreamSpark site or from the web.

### **Extras**

- An external hard drive for backing up files would be useful, though not required (if you have a Mac, you might consider an AirPort Time Capsule).
- Memory stick (Flash Drive): 8 –16 GB capacity
- For Mobile Development Certificate and 2nd year Web Development diploma students: an up-to-date Android device & Apple iOS device would be desirable, though not required.

### **Links:**

[http://store.apple.com/ca/browse/campaigns/education\\_pricing](http://store.apple.com/ca/browse/campaigns/education_pricing)  
<http://www.adobe.com/education/students.edu.html?showEduReq=no>  
<https://www.dreamspark.com/Student/Software-Catalog.aspx>  
<http://www.techradar.com/reviews/pc-mac/pc-mac-desktops?>  
<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/computers/buying-guide.htm>  
<http://store.apple.com/ca/product/ME177/airport-time-capsule-2tb>  
<http://laptops-and-notebooks.findthebest.com>

**Look for educational pricing before you buy.**