



Responsible Officer	Director, IT at UNSW		
Contact Officer	IT Policy Officer		
Superseded Documents	This policy supersedes the 2004 and 1999 versions of the same document.		
Review	May 2010		
File Number			
Associated Documents	UNSW Guideline: Minimum Recommended Information Technology Specifications for UNSW Students		
Version	Authorisation	Approval Date	Effective Date
3.1	Administrative update by Head, Governance Support	18 February 2010	18 February 2010

1. Preamble

1.1 Purpose

This policy outlines the University's commitment to the continued use of information technology in its learning and teaching practice, as well as its commitment to provide appropriate IT resources on campus for those students who do not have access to these at home. The associated Guideline contains the current recommended minimum capabilities (hardware and software) for students' personally-owned computer equipment, in order to be able to access and use UNSW online and other services, such as MyUNSW and UNSW Blackboard.

1.2 Background

Information technology is now a standard tool in education, used widely by both staff and students. With an increasing focus on e-learning and the widespread use of sophisticated applications and programs, there is a need to provide both student access to appropriate IT technology on campus and some guidance on the set of IT tools that UNSW students should have available in their personally-owned computing equipment.

1.3 Principle

The University of New South Wales will continue to show leadership in the utilisation of information and communications technology to enhance the learning and research experience of its students.

While UNSW students are expected to have off-campus access to appropriate information technology resources, the University's commitment to equity will see it continue to provide on-campus computer facilities to those students unable to access these off-campus.

2. Scope

The associated Guideline recommends the IT hardware and software specifications that will allow access to most online and other IT services at UNSW. It is designed to assist students when selecting or upgrading personally-owned computing equipment.

3. Definitions

No terms have been defined.

4. Policy Statements

4.1 Student Access to Information Technology Resources

With the now widespread use of information technology in education, students should make every effort to have access to an off-campus computer.

UNSW programs will be developed and taught on the assumption that all students have access to appropriate information technology resources.

4.2 Equity principles and Legislative Requirements

The University is committed to the principles of equity and to legislative requirements, including provision of IT resources and appropriate assistive technologies.

UNSW will continue to provide on-campus computer facilities that meet the standards described in the associated Guideline “Minimum Recommended Information Technology Specifications for UNSW Students”.

4.3 Responsibilities of Faculties and School in providing IT Resources

Faculties and Schools should be mindful of the attached Guideline and ensure that they do not expect students to have access to computers with specifications beyond these, **unless** they provide adequate on-campus IT facilities and resources, funded from their own budgets.

5. Legal & Policy Framework

The University is committed to its principles and policies relating to equity and to legislative requirements, which includes the provision of on-campus IT resources and appropriate assistive technologies.

It is also mindful of the DEEWR requirement that “*Commonwealth supported students and domestic fee-paying students generally must be able to complete the requirements of their course of study without the imposition of fees that are additional to student contribution amounts or tuition fees*” (extract, DEEWR “Administrative Information for Providers (AIP): Student Support”, February 2010).

6. Implementation

6.1 Roles & Responsibilities

IT at UNSW, under the delegation of the Academic Board, has the responsibility for coordinating the implementation of this policy.

6.2 Support & Advice

Advice regarding this policy may be obtained from the IT Policy and Compliance Officer, IT at UNSW (contact details in policy heading).

Advice and assistance with use of the recommended specifications may be obtained from Faculty/School IT staff, or from the ‘IT at UNSW’ Service Desk.

6.3 Associated Documents

This policy has an associated UNSW Guideline “Minimum Recommended Information Technology Specifications for UNSW Students”.

7. Review

This policy will be due for review in May 2010. The associated Guideline will be updated annually.

Disclaimer

Although the University, its Faculties and Schools provide advice and software for home computers and for connecting to the UNSW network, no responsibility is taken with respect to individual student machines being able to use this software or access the network.

Appendix A: History

Version	Authorised by	Approval Date	Effective Date	Sections modified
1.0	Academic Board (AB99/66)	6 July 1999	6 July 1999	
2.0	Academic Board (AB04/30)	6 April 2004	6 April 2004	Full review
3.0	Academic Board (AB08/112)	2 September 2008	1 October 2008	Full review
3.1	Head, Governance Support	18 February 2010	18 February 2010	Section 1.1 and 5