

MSc Forest Ecosystem Management by Distance Learning

The **minimum** computing specification required for the course is:

Processor : Pentium III 900MHz / Apple G3

Processor speed isn't all that important (certainly not as much as many advertisers and manufacturers would have you believe!). Things will work, but will be slow with a slow processor – as software rarely fails to work just because the processor speed is too slow. If your machine is capable of running a web browser, acrobat reader and a word processor you'll be fine.

Memory (RAM): 256MB

You will get better performance if you have more memory than this minimum - aim to double it. If you have Windows 2000 or XP you need this as a minimum in any case.

Operating system: Windows 2000/XP / Mac OS X

If you have Windows Vista or Linux systems you will be able to use the course material but will have to take responsibility for updates and plug-ins yourself.

CD/DVD-ROM drive: 6x CD-ROM

Access to a DVD drive is also highly recommended, however course materials will be made available on CD as standard.

Additional Hardware:

The following items are standard on computers and should be compatible with the general specification of the computer. They include:

- Colour monitor, 15" capable of displaying 800x600 resolution and "High Color" with appropriate video card to support this. (1024 x 768 resolution is recommended)
- Hard disc drive, at least 10GB
- Pointing device (mouse, trackball, pen/pad, voice-activated)
- Keyboard
- Colour printer (not essential but desirable)
- Modem – 56kbps minimum, broadband *highly* recommended.
- Sound card - *recommended, or another means of playing mp3 audio files.*

Software requirements

- **Web Browser** – Internet Explorer 6+ or Mozilla FireFox are both recommended. Safari may also be used by Mac users.
- **Office software.** If you do not have Microsoft Office or Microsoft Works we recommend you download the free 'OpenOffice' software which allows you to open and create office documents in standard formats using a free CD from <http://openoffice.org>
- **Adobe Acrobat Reader** – this is available free from <http://www.adobe.com/downloads/>
- **Flash Player** – this is included with most browsers now, and is available to download free at <http://www.adobe.com/downloads/>