



Basic IT equipment for students

You would like to start your studies at Ulm University in the coming winter semester 2020/21 and are wondering whether you can continue to use your existing laptop or tablet in your studies or what kind of device will best support you in your studies? Here we answer the most important questions about online teaching at Ulm University.

Which device do I need? Desktop PC, laptop, convertible, Chromebook, tablet or smartphone?

The number of device classes has expanded considerably in recent years. Basically, you can use the teaching-related software systems of Ulm University with all device classes, albeit with restrictions if necessary. We recommend that you do not rely exclusively on the use of a smartphone. Even the combined use of a smartphone and a tablet may not lead to the desired result. As an all-round device, we recommend using a laptop or a convertible with pen controls with a current operating system, a screen size of at least 13 inches, good (built-in) webcam, good microphone and sound system.

What should I look for when choosing my device?

Due to the increased use of lecture recordings and video conferences, the requirements profile for laptops and tablets is also changing. Up to now, weight, battery life, processor and storage capacity have been and will continue to be important features.

Other important features for optimal participation in online teaching are:

- Camera and microphone:
With the increased use of video conferencing and lecture recording, the quality of the microphone, speakers and video camera are becoming more important. A good built-in camera with good light intensity and resolution is very helpful. If necessary, it is worth buying an external webcam with a microphone.
- Headset:
We recommend that you use a comfortable, high-quality headset. During the winter semester, you will probably participate relatively often in lectures via video conferencing and spend a relatively large amount of time at the university or on the road watching and listening to recordings of lectures.
- External hard drive:
Depending on your personal learning style, we also recommend that you download the video recording of your lectures so that you can access your learning content



independently of an internet connection. If necessary, it may be helpful to use an additional external hard drive with a high capacity for this purpose.

Which Android / iOS / iPadOS / macOS / Windows / Linux operating system do I need?

Like the device classes, the operating systems have also diversified considerably in recent years. As with the device classes, it is basically possible to use the teaching-related software systems with all operating systems and a current browser, but with restrictions if necessary. The exclusive use of Android, iOS, iPadOS or ChromeOS is certainly possible in individual cases depending on the subject, but is generally not recommended.

You are on the safe side with current Linux, macOS or Windows.

Some subject-specific software may only be available for individual operating systems.

Please ask your subject advisor what special requirements there are for your subject.

What should my internet connection at home be capable of?

- Internet connection at home:

It makes sense to have a wired internet connection with at least 10 Mbit/s data rate and no limit to the data volume. Downloading video data generates large amounts of data.

You can test the quality of your Internet connection on this website:

<http://speedtest.belwue.net/browser-speedtest/>

Relevant for the fast download of large amounts of data is the information under Download: the larger the better.

- Video conferencing via WLAN?

For interactive video conferences, we recommend a wired connection to your Internet router. With a WLAN connection, signal delays can occur for various reasons, which can lead to an unsatisfactory or poor quality of the video conference. Please also remember to deactivate the WLAN connection after you have established the cable connection.

You can test the quality of your Internet connection on this website:

<http://speedtest.belwue.net/browser-speedtest/>

Ulm University will be using Zoom as its video conferencing system for teaching from the summer semester of 2021.

We have compiled a guide and the most frequently asked questions about Zoom:

<https://www.uni-ulm.de/index.php?id=119021>



You can also find information on using Zoom in teaching on the page "Moodle: Zoom Activity: Handout for Students".

<https://www.uni-ulm.de/index.php?id=118875>

Our "Consultation hour on online teaching" with experts from ZLE, kiz and the eEducation Competence Centre is offered at the following times:

Tuesdays 14:00-14:30

Thursdays 9:00-9:30

<https://moodle.uni-ulm.de/course/view.php?id=15159>

And if things don't go so well?

- [Backup your data](#)

Familiarise yourself with the backup functions of your operating system at an early stage and use them, either with one or more external hard drives or, if necessary, backup options with cloud providers.

- [IT consultation hours, here you will find help!](#)

Trained staff members of the Communication and Information Centre of Ulm University advise members of the university e.g. on the purchase of PC hardware, the installation of operating systems and application programs, help with the configuration of network access (WLAN, LAN, VPN), combating viruses and the elimination of minor faults of all kinds.

The service is aimed in particular (but not only) at users of mobile devices (notebooks, tablets) and is provided as a "walk-in" service on the premises of the kiz and not on site at the user's premises.

<https://www.uni-ulm.de/index.php?id=10167>

- [Helpdesk](#)

The helpdesk is the central point of contact for questions regarding the use of the kiz services as well as for reporting and solving problems and malfunctions in connection with these services. You can reach the helpdesk by telephone at +49 (0) 731 / 50 - 30000 and by e-mail at helpdesk@uni-ulm.de.