

Materials & Equipment for Photography

Compulsory – you are required to have the following:

1. Laptop/computer
2. Camera
3. SD Card
4. External Hardrive

Laptop/computer

Strong and fast enough to work with large files and photo processing software. At least 16GB of RAM is recommended. A reliable internet connection is also very important.

Camera

Any camera brand is suitable, including DSLR and mirrorless cameras, as long as it offers full manual control. You need to be able to manually adjust the aperture, shutter speed, and ISO.

If you already own a camera, especially an older model, please check with your tutor to ensure it is suitable. Some compact cameras (such as Canon PowerShot models) do not provide full manual controls and may make it difficult to complete some course activities.

Note about smartphones: Most smartphones have a fixed physical aperture and do not allow full manual control of aperture, shutter speed, and ISO. For this reason, they are not ideal for learning full manual exposure. However, it is still possible to complete this course using a smartphone with guidance from your tutor, although some activities may need to be adapted.

Recommendations (NMIT uses Canon Cameras)

One [example](#) is the Canon EOS 3000D DSLR



Second-hand cameras

Buying a second-hand camera is an excellent way to save money. You can often afford a higher-quality camera with more features than a new entry-level model for the same price. Many second-hand cameras are still capable of producing excellent image quality and are ideal for learning photography.

Canon or Nikon

It really doesn't matter which brand you choose, as both Canon and Nikon produce excellent cameras that are well suited to learning photography.

At NMIT, we use Canon cameras, and your tutor is very familiar with the Canon system. If you are studying on campus rather than fully online and own a Canon camera, you will also be able to borrow compatible equipment, such as a range of lenses, from NMIT.

Making Your Purchase

Before purchasing a camera, it's worth comparing prices to ensure you're getting the best deal. You can use PriceSpy to compare prices from a range of retailers:

<https://pricespy.co.nz>

You can purchase cameras from major retailers such as Noel Leeming and Harvey Norman.

Some competitively priced online retailers include:

Rubber Monkey – <https://www.rubbermonkey.co.nz>

Photo Warehouse – <https://www.photowarehouse.co.nz>

Supero – <https://supero.co.nz>

BecexTech – <https://www.becextech.co.nz>

If you're considering a second-hand camera, you can also look on Facebook Marketplace, Trade Me, or ask in New Zealand photography groups on Facebook if anyone is selling suitable equipment.

One popular group is:

NZ Photography Classifieds – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/nzphotographyclassifieds/>

SD Card

64GB recommended (or 32GB minimum)

Class 10



NOW \$80.00



SanDisk Extreme Pro 64GB SD Card

This is an [example](#) from Noel Leeming

External Hard Drive

It is important to back up your files and work.



This is a WD Elements SE 1TB Portable Hard Drive [example](#) from Noel Leeming

Adobe Creative Cloud

At NMIT, we use Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Bridge, and Adobe Lightroom Classic as our primary image editing and workflow software. These applications are included in Adobe Creative Cloud.

During your studies, you can subscribe to Adobe Creative Cloud at a discounted student rate.

You can find more information and purchase a student subscription here:

<https://www.adobe.com/nz/creativecloud/buy/students.html>

If you are studying on campus, Adobe Creative Cloud is available on NMIT computers, so you do not need to purchase your own subscription to use the software during your classes.

Students also have access to the computer lab in G Block, Room G101, after hours and on weekends. Access is available 7 days a week from 7:30 am to 9:45 pm (excluding public holidays) using your activated NMIT student ID swipe card. This allows you to continue working on your assessments outside of scheduled class times.

If you prefer not to use Adobe software, there are alternative image editing programs available, such as Affinity Photo. However, this course is taught using Adobe software, so if you choose to use an alternative program, it will be your responsibility to learn how to complete the course activities using that software.

Optional

The below items are great if you have them and extend your learning, but not required to complete the course.

- Tripod
- External Flash – one lower price [example](#) to start learning with is the Godox TT685C II Flash