

Dear student,

You have been accepted to the CentraleSupélec Bachelor's program. Congratulations! Among the numerous legitimate questions you might have, perhaps are you asking yourself what kind of computer you should own to follow along during the next four years. This document is here to address this point.

In fact, contrary to what one might expect from programming classes, little resource is necessary. The programs we will ask you to implement and run on your computer should be small enough that most recent devices can execute them without any problem. As a rule of thumb, we consider the following specifications to be sufficient:

- 8GB of RAM (Memory) or more (which is standard in today's laptops).
- 512GB of disk space or more (again, quite standard).

And that's it! On the other hand, our experience taught us that it is best to avoid computers equipped with ChromeOS (usually called Chromebooks), because of how tedious it can be to setup a proper development environment. Do your best to avoid this option.

What matters the most is the general state of your machine: if it is more than 7 or 8 years old and / or in bad condition—large bruises, damaged screen or keyboard, fast heating, unexpected freezes causing the computer to be rebooted, etc.—then perhaps is it a good idea to look for a new one. Otherwise, your current computer should do just fine. One important thing to note, though: **tablets and laptops are not the same thing. A tablet will simply not do in a programming class.** If you only own the latter, then you need to look for an actual laptop.

Please note that these recommendations only apply to programming courses. If you expect your computer to run under heavy workload such as video editing or similar tasks, then it is up to you to find something with a tad more firepower.

According to the U.N., 62 million tons of electronic waste was produced in 2022. Therefore, if you are planning to buy a new computer, we can only recommend that you do it with a long-term perspective in mind: look for a machine that will last you as long as possible. A cheap computer may seem like a good option at first, but the risk is that you have to change it fast because of computational limitations or premature aging. Moreover, do not hesitate to buy refurbished or second-hand equipment; there are plenty of offers today in many stores. Finally, treat your computer with care: it will likely make it last longer.

There is a plethora of tests and recommendation guides online to help you choose the best option: do not hesitate to consult them before you buy something. Informed buyers usually make better choices.