TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS
DISTANCE LEARNING

If you are studying a distance learning course at Leeds Beckett University, we are sure that you will want to know what technical specifications are necessary in order to make your learning journey with us as smooth and trouble-free as possible. This guide talks you through the technical requirements for our distance learning courses.

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SNAPSHOT RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are our preferred recommendations, but other hardware, browsers and operating systems will work and are detailed in later sections of this guide.

- Broadband Internet connection with speed of 2mbps or more
- Chrome browser with HTML5 support (or I.E. v9 or above, or Edge v1 or above)
- Java, Adobe Flash Player and Adobe Acrobat Reader enabled
- Windows OS 7 or higher
- Minimum screen size of 1024 x 768

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Our Learning Systems team have developed a website which has lots of resources for technical support. You can access their page on Essential Browsers, Software and Plugins for more information. You can also email the Learning Systems team on learningsystems@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

YOUR HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS

Whatever PC, laptop or device that you are using, we recommend the following hardware specifications:

Hardware	Minimum	Recommended
Operating system	Windows Vista, 7, 8, or 10 Mac OSX 10.6, 10.7, 10.8, or 10.9	Windows 7, 8, or 10 Mac OSX 10.7, 10.8, or 10.9
Processor	1 GHz processor	2 GHz or faster processor
Memory	512 MB of RAM	2 GB of RAM or higher
Monitor resolution	1024 x 768	1024 x 768 or higher
Free Hard disk space	5 GB of free disk space	20 GB or higher of free space

YOUR INTERNET CONNECTION

Your learning content consists of media-rich webpages, audiovisual content and files to download.

We would normally recommend a minimum internet speed of at least a **broadband connection**, operating at least **at 2Mbps or more** for a reasonable user experience, e.g. when downloading/uploading files or when viewing video and listening to audio. However, Blackboard will operate between 0.2Mbps and 2Mbps albeit with an extremely slow download and upload speeds and with choppy audio and video.
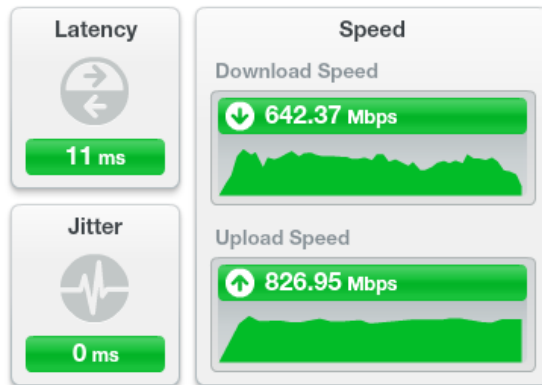
CHECKING YOUR INTERNET SPEED

You can check your internet speed using PC Pitstop: http://pcpitstop.com/internet/bw.asp . Select the London option to see how quickly you are connected to our servers here in the UK.

The graph below shows the general speed at which our campus student PCs work.

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PC Pitstop

OOKLA

Test Again | New Server

Latency	Speed
11 ms	Download Speed: 642.37 Mbps
Jitter	Upload Speed: 826.95 Mbps
0 ms	

🏠 Client: 160.9.192.63 - Leeds Metropolitan University
🏢 Server: London, U.K.

Last Result:
Download Speed: 642373 kbps (80296.6 KB/sec transfer rate)
Upload Speed: 826954 kbps (103369.3 KB/sec transfer rate)
Latency: 11 ms
Jitter: 0 ms
1/21/2016, 1:47:59 PM

YOUR BROWSER

We recommend using Chrome browser as the most effective and supportive browser for MyBeckett and HTML5. The best supported versions of all browsers are detailed here:

- **Chrome** Versions 36+
- **Edge** Versions 1+
- **Firefox** Versions 31+
- **Internet Explorer** Versions 9+ (Windows only)
- **Safari** Versions 6+ (MacOS only)

Most content is produced in HTML5 so you will need to use a browser which supports HTML5. You can copy the following link into your browser to see if it supports HTML5: https://html5test.com/compare/browser/chrome-44/firefox-40/ie-10/ie-8/ie-Edge.html.

YOUR PLUGINS

You will need the following plugins enabled:

- Adobe Acrobat Reader

It would be useful to have the following plugins enabled, but they are not essential to your learning content:

- Adobe Flash Player
    o If you can't access HTML5 content, we provide an alternative format which requires Adobe Flash Player to run

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- Javascript
  - If you want to upload multiple files you will need Javascript enabled. However, this is not supported on Chrome browsers 42+

MYBECKETT – YOUR VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT (VLE)

MyBeckett is the virtual learning environment (VLE) where you access and study your course materials. The software is provided by Blackboard, a leading online-learning company used by universities around the world to deliver distance learning to millions of students every year.

Blackboard supports the following Desktop browser versions:

- **Chrome** Versions 36+
- **Edge** Versions 1+
- **Firefox** Versions 31+
- **Internet Explorer** Versions 9+ (Windows only)
- **Safari** Versions 6+ (MacOS only)

You can get further information from the Blackboard website: https://en-us.help.blackboard.com/Learn/9.1_2014_04/Student/015_Browser_Support/012_Browser_Support_for_Q4_2015

BLACKBOARD BROWSER CHECKER

Blackboard provide a tool where you can check whether your browser is optimized to support Blackboard's VLE.

Copy and paste the following URL into the browser you wish to test: https://en-us.help.blackboard.com/Learn/9.1_2014_04/Student/015_Browser_Support/Browser_Checker

YOUR LEARNING CONTENT

Your learning content is designed to be delivered online, with streaming presentations and online activities. There may be some material for you to download and access offline, but it is only in exceptional cases that a whole course may be available offline. You should be prepared to study online.

ARTICULATE STORYLINE

Our interactive presentations are delivered in Articulate Storyline 2. Primarily content is delivered through HTML5, but we also provide an alternative Flash version for students who have difficulty accessing HTML5 content. We also provide printed versions of the slides and are currently implementing transcripts for all audiovisual presentations.

MOBILE LEARNING

Your learning content is accessible through mobile devices but is not designed specifically for mobile learning.

There is a MyBeckett mobile app which you can learn more about here: http://learningsystems.m.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/blackboard-learn/staff-information/blackboard-mobile-learn/

For Articulate content on mobile operating systems, you will need the following minimum OS specifications:

- **Apple Ios:** Articulate Mobile Player in Apple Ios 7 or later on iPad
- **Android OS** Articulate Mobile player in Android OS 4.1 or later (optimized for tablets)

ACCESSIBILITY COMPLIANCE

Our content is designed to be compliant with accessibility needs for learners who may need to use assistive software. As already stated, we are also implementing transcripts for all audiovisual content.

You can see how MyBeckett is compliant here: https://en-us.help.blackboard.com//Learn/9.1_2014_04/Administrator/030_Accessibility

You can see how Articulate Storyline is compliant here: https://www.articulate.com/products/storyline-section-508.php