

## High Performance Laptop for Students

The College of Engineering and Informatics recommended laptop for students.

[Read more...](#)



## Background

The University will have a New Engineering Building (NEB) in 2011; a purpose built 14,000 square meter building with 36 laboratories, lecture rooms and classrooms as well as staff facilities. Not since 1973 have all the Engineering Disciplines operated under one roof with Information Technology in the Orbson Building since 2002.

When developing the design brief for the NEB we looked at how technology would be employed to support the teaching and learning of our students and one strand that emerged from this was personal computing. Our students use computers everyday and many have their own personal computers which they use at lectures, in the labs, library and in their accommodation. Unfortunately some of these laptops do not meet the specification needed required and this can be frustrating for the student. Even when the laptop does meet the criteria, poor vendor support and service are sometimes less than ideal.

As Engineers ourselves, we realised that this was less than satisfactory situation and that we should try and work more closely with our students on the purchase and support of their laptop. This led to the development in 2009 of the High Performance Laptop Programme that covers all Engineering and Informatics students.



## How does the programme work?

NUI Galway has joined forces with Lenovo and Compupac to provide Lenovo ThinkPad T410 notebooks to students at the College of Engineering & Informatics at a discounted price. The initiative was introduced by the College to ensure that all students in the engineering and informatics have access to a quality laptop with the capability to meet the demands and challenges of a student on campus as well as having the performance specification required to run advanced applications.

The high performance laptops are specifically built to last for the four-year duration of the degree programmes and the graphics engine is designed to support AutoCAD and image intensive programming.

When students purchase a Lenovo ThinkPad T410 laptop they will have access to on-campus repair services, next working-day consulting facilities, warranty and a four-year accidental damage insurance to protect their investment – all provided by Compupac and Lenovo.

Lenovo is an approved supplier to the University and the programme is monitored by the College to ensure it delivers on its promises.

### ThinkPad T410

- Intel® Core™ i5 processor
- Genuine Windows® 7 Professional 64-bit
- 4GB memory
- 320GB hard disk drive
- 14.1" WXGA TFT display
- NVIDIA® NVS 3100M Graphics 512MB DDR3
- AMT Intel® Centrino® Advanced-N 6200 (2x2 AGN) wireless
- 3G Enabled (Just add sim)
- Weighs 2.23kg
- boots up to 57% faster
- 40% discount

## What software is preloaded?

A laptop without software is of limited value. Add some incredible applications such as AutoCAD and the latest version of MS Office and the device becomes a sophisticated tool for any student.

The laptop is preloaded with software used by the student in their studies. This is under constant review and we are working with the software vendors to get the best possible value for our students.

For example by preloading software onto the laptop we have been able to develop alternative supply chains that eliminate handling, transport and packing and the savings are passed onto the student.

We are developing links with the international software vendors who develop and market engineering applications and with the assistance of Lenovo Education Division in the US are lobbying for changes in the deployment and pricing of student software.

### Software preloaded

- Windows® 7 Professional 64-bit
- AutoCAD
- Labview 2010
- OrCAD Spice
- Microsoft Visual Studio Express 2008.
- Microsoft® Office Pro Plus 2010
  - Word
  - Excel
  - PowerPoint
  - Outlook
  - OneNote
  - Publisher
  - Access

## Student Support

Compupac, a well-established IT company and approved supplier to the University manage the programme on a day-to-day basis. Based in Sligo, they will provide web and phone support. If a problem arises with a laptop, which cannot be repaired remotely, then Compupac will pick up the device from the student on campus. The repaired unit will be returned to the campus within 48 hours.

Compac have a sales and support website to support the NUIG High Performance Laptop and one of its features is a comprehensive and regularly updated FAQ section.

Students taking delivery of a laptop will be invited to attend a Lenovo workshop where they will learn about the operation and care of their new laptop. At the workshop special emphasis is placed on battery care because it has a limited 12 month warranty but if well cared for should last much longer.

### Peace of Mind

- A full 4-year warranty
- Next business day on-campus support
- Workshops on campus
- 4-year accidental damage cover
- Spill protection keyboard
- Hard Disk Drive protection
- Peer support from students

## Finance

The College has negotiated a credit agreement with the local branch of Bank of Ireland which will allow students the option of paying for the laptop over 3 years.

Further details on the Laptop Site or drop in Bank of Ireland, NUIG Concourse.



**Bank of Ireland** 

### Looking for a laptop?

To find out more about arranging finance for your new laptop

**Talk to Bank of Ireland NUIG today**

Lending criteria, terms and conditions apply.  
Bank of Ireland is regulated by the Financial Regulator.



## Using the Laptop

With the campus wireless environment and your laptop, you can access the internet, e-mail, library databases and other resources from 85 wireless hotspots across the campus.

In addition, the laptop includes a number of novel and useful features such as 3G wireless (just add sim) modem which can be used with the special HEAnet O2 deal an anti spill keyboard and continuous backup protection designed to protect your data in the event of a corruption.



**New student offer** with O2 and HEAnet  
Mobile Broadband from only **€9.95 per month**  
Available 1st September 2009

## Programme Outcome

The College of Engineering and Informatics at NUI Galway new educational strategy will enhance the learning experience for students, and will ensure that graduates will be to the forefront as Ireland continues to develop into a knowledge economy. The introduction of new advanced teaching methods will see an increased usage of computing and laptop technologies in the upcoming academic year across all programmes in the College.

This initiative is the first of its kind in Ireland and was rolled out to students for the first time at the start of the 2009 academic year. A survey last April of students who took up the offer indicated that 4 out of 5 students would recommend the scheme to a friend.

David O'Sullivan, College of Engineering and Informatics and Director of Quality, NUI Galway, said: *"We are very excited about this new initiative. Our students will have round-the-clock access to all of our information tools and resources. We anticipate that this will have a significant and positive effect on learning outcomes for our students"*.

NUI Galway Students Union now support this initiative.



## The Vendors

NUI Galway has chosen Lenovo as its preferred PC vendor due its expertise in the education sector and the ThinkPad University programme.

Lenovo operate on campus through Compupac a Sligo based company with a 25-year track record. To support the unique initiative, Compupac have installed a maintenance management system, which will ensure students receive the very best support.

Globally, Lenovo has invested in similar initiatives across 500 universities. Some of the leading universities in the world have adopted the initiative such as St John's University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Wake Forest University. In addition, most top business schools in the US choose ThinkPad as their standard platform.



## Where to go from here?

Further information on this offer can be found by going to the support website <http://nuiglaptops4students.compupacit.ie/>

If you experience any difficulties with the programme, please do not hesitate to contact the College though:

Aodh Dalton

College of Engineering & Informatics.

[aodh.dalton@nuigalway.ie](mailto:aodh.dalton@nuigalway.ie)

Tel 091 495288

