SAB Specialist Computer Lab

Level 5

General description
The lab offers facilities for teacher-led laboratory experiences using specialist IT hardware.
Both individual and group work will be supported with a high level of integration for efficient sharing of computer-based information. The lab will focus on facilitator-led project work although traditional didactic delivery will also be supported.
It is expected that specialist PC hardware will support some aspects of video and audio switching.

Supported learning modes
Didactic / lecture presentation
In didactic mode, the facilitator will present information on a single main projection display located at the notional ‘front’ of the room. Secondary displays may be located at other locations throughout the room.

Collaborative / group work
In collaborative mode, group work will be supported by sharing of electronic work with the main presentation or secondary displays.
The sharing of student work with the room will be facilitated either by direct connection of student PCs to display and audio systems or by an asynchronous method, whereby students upload materials to a digital ‘drop box’ controlled at the facilitator’s station.

Self-directed / individual work
Individual work will utilise AV systems as in collaborative mode although students will focus on their own monitor with options to view content on the secondary group or main display.
Students may also engage in collaborative sharing of information via a digital ‘drop box’ (or otherwise) when required.

Video Display
Single projection on a nominated wall will be provided in a wide aspect ratio, sized and specified primarily for the presentation of data.
Secondary displays will be provided on the side and/or rear walls.
• In didactic mode, these displays will act as cue monitors for the presenter.
• In collaborative mode, these displays will support large group learning activities and will be routable from any source.
The teacher will have the ability to route any one source to any or all displays.

Control
The primary system control position will be provided at the control station although as the rooms will be used for collaborative learning portable operations will also be provided.
The following portable presentation technologies will be considered:
• A speech reinforcement system allowing use of radio microphones at any location within the theatre without audible feedback.
• A wall-mounted, removable (password-protected) wireless room controller.

Interactivity and collaboration
The lab will support collaborative work at a number of levels:
• At tables: Individual student devices to share signals between specialist PC equipment.
• Groups of tables: sharing a larger secondary wall monitor.
• Whole room: displaying any student device to the front screen or all screens.
• Didactic delivery will also be supported in these spaces.

One connection point will be provided for each student PC with a specialist hardware device allowing selection of inputs to student desktop monitors.
The use of software constituting a digital ‘drop box’, on-line message boards or other asynchronous means of sharing real-time information will be considered.

For more information contact your Academic Development Group