

# Requirements for the CAD Course

## SketchUp Pro

To use SketchUp for garden design, you will need to subscribe and download SketchUp Pro (not SketchUp Go or the free version).

The programme is licensed in the UK through a small network of resellers.

Find one here: <https://www.sketchup.com/resellers>

Make sure you select an Education Partner, so you can subscribe at the student rate.

You will also need to check that your computer has the minimum system requirements – better still, that it has the recommended requirements.

Once you're all set up you can start familiarising yourself with the SketchUp Pro software by following the free tutorials: *SketchUp Fundamentals* (see below).

### System requirements (SketchUp Pro)

The minimum system requirements are available on the SketchUp website:

<https://help.sketchup.com/en/sketchup/system-requirements>

Here is a quick summary of the recommended requirements:

#### WINDOWS

– **Software Requirements:**

- An internet connection both to install and authorize your subscription. Some features within SketchUp also require an internet connection.
- SketchUp requires .NET Framework version 4.5.2.

– **Recommended Hardware Requirements:**

- A 2+ GHz processor.
- A graphics card that's separate from the CPU, also known as a discrete graphics card. Most current generation AMD or NVIDIA cards on the market are considered discrete.
- At least 8GB of RAM.
- At least 2GB of available hard disk space.
- A modern GPU with at least 1GB of memory. SketchUp's classic renderer requires OpenGL 3.1 support. SketchUp's performance relies on your graphics card driver and its ability to support OpenGL 3.1 or higher.
- A 3-button, scroll-wheel mouse.

## MAC OS

This applies up to OS13, Sonoma is not supported at present.

### – **Software Requirements:**

- An internet connection both to install and authorize your subscription. Some features within SketchUp also require an internet connection.
- QuickTime 5.0 and web browser for multimedia tutorials.
- Safari.

### – **Recommended Hardware Requirements:**

- 2.1+ GHz processor or current generation Apple M1 processor
- 8GB of RAM
- 2GB of available hard-disk space
- A modern GPU with at least 1GB of memory. SketchUp's classic renderer requires OpenGL 3.1 support.
- A 3-button, scroll-wheel mouse

Three-button mouse If you are going to use SketchUp properly, and regularly, you should also invest in an ergonomic, three-button scroll-wheel mouse. Mac users: the Magic Mouse is not appropriate. Consider instead the Logitech ergonomic mouse.

## SketchUp Fundamentals

Once you've subscribed to SketchUp, you will be able to access the SketchUp Campus, which will give you access to a series of free training courses: <https://learn.sketchup.com>

SketchUp Fundamentals: <https://learn.sketchup.com/courses/sketchupfundamentals-part-1>

Modelling Practice course:

<https://learn.sketchup.com/courses/sketchupfundamentals-practice-playground><https://learn.sketchup.com/courses/sketchup-landscape-site-design>.

## SketchUp Essentials

There is no shortage of SketchUp videos online, and one of the skills you'll need to develop is finding a reliable source for solutions. A good place to start is a YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/thesketchupessentials> set up by US architect designer Justin Geis, who runs his own SketchUp training programme. High-paced and a little idiosyncratic but focused and super useful series of free YouTube videos.