

Equipment List for Journalism Students

Students often say one of the best aspects of the journalism program is getting to tell stories with professional gear. It is an upfront cost but it is also how we get you out in the field as quickly as possible. **If taken care of, this gear should last for the entirety of your degree and early into your career.** In our latest survey, the majority of 4th year students said the initial purchase is a worthwhile investment.

If you have equivalent pieces (i.e. headphones, camera bag) feel free to use your own. Buying used equipment is also an option and we have provided a document to walk you through this (info at bottom). If you have your own camera already, please refer to the information below to see if it meets our classroom requirements.

For the Fall 2021 semester:

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|---|------------|
| • External hard disk drive with USB 3.0 connection | \$75-150 |
| • Zoom H1n audio recorder and 16GB microSD card | \$160 |
| • Canon T6i/T7i/T8i DSLR camera with 18-55mm IS lens | \$800-1200 |
| • Audio-Technica ATR3350xiS lavalier microphone | \$50 |
| • Over-the-ear headphones without noise cancellation (i.e. Sony) | \$30-50 |
| • 16-32GB SDHC Class 10 (C10) & (U3) media card – SanDisk Class 10 Extreme PLUS (80MB/s write speed or higher) or similar | \$20 |
| • Camera bag (i.e. Lowepro) | \$20-50 |
| • 'USB 2.0 to USB 2.0 Micro B' cable | \$10 |

Total for fall Multimedia Journalism kit:

range \$1165-1690

You may substitute the Nikon D7200/D7500 for the Canon T6i/T7i/T8i however MRU has a much greater selection of Canon lenses and flashes to loan than Nikon.

Note: Should you own a DSLR/mirrorless camera, are confident it has the required features (i.e. capable of recording audio and video) and are comfortable using it on your own (i.e. not requiring instructor support), then you are welcome to use this for the duration of the program. It is strongly recommended that you contact Paul Coates (pcoates@mtroyal.ca) to discuss your specific model and the required features.

Explanation...



An external hard disk drive is required for saving the files you create during your time in the Journalism program. These files will form the basis of your all-important **portfolio**, which you'll use to obtain your workterm and any communications employment. A hard drive that is rugged, a decent size (ie, 1 TB) and has USB 3.0 is essential. Recommended brands are Western Digital, LaCie Rugged, G-DRIVE and Transcend StoreJet.

The Zoom H1n is an inexpensive audio recorder that will record in WAV or MP3 formats. We use WAV and MP3 when editing audio and video. A microSD card is also required.



The Canon T6i/T7i/T8i DSLR is a good base model camera that has an external audio jack and menu adjustments for sound recording when shooting video. Additional suggestions below.

The ATR3350xiS lavalier microphone is a must when recording someone's voice. It is a corded, battery-operated (button cell) mic that plugs into your camera/audio recorder and also into a smartphone if desired. (*You do not need the very expensive wireless style lavs.*)



Over-the-ear headphones reduce ambient sound so that you can hear the interviewee as you are recording. Ear buds and noise-cancelling headphones are not recommended.

A fast SD media card (80MB/s write speed, or faster) for the DSLR cameras, Class 10 (C10) & (U3), and 16GB or larger.



A decent, padded camera bag is an essential item to store and protect the equipment above. A bag can be purchased in the \$20-50 range and should be adequate.

Explanation...

The adjustable hot shoe mount adapter allows you to mount the Zoom H1n (or an accessory, i.e. light) onto the camera when recording video and position it the way you require, for easy viewing of audio levels for example.



The telephone recording device (adapter) allows you to plug in your audio recorder when recording over the phone interviews. Optionally, the use of a smartphone app such as 'TapeACall' (free) will work.

Other information:

If you wish to buy used flashes, here are some suggestions:

- The Canon 430EX, 430EXII, 430EXIII RT, 580EX or 580EXII flash.
- The Nikon SB600, SB700 or SB800 flash.

MRU Journalism equipment loans:

The Journalism program has several Canon DSLRs, as well as many accessory lenses and flashes to fit Canon (and a smaller number to fit Nikon), which students can sign out once they are enrolled in the program. We also have numerous lighting, audio, stands/tripods and video camera kits, which are available to loan as well.

MRU Library equipment loans:

The MRU library (RLLC) also has audio recorders, tripods, video cameras, DSLRs and 360 VR cameras available to loan.

Stores to purchase Journalism equipment:

The Camera Store <http://www.thecamerastore.com/> NOTE: As of Jan 2021, The Camera Store offers a discount to MRU Journalism students; call to get pricing.

Vistek <https://www.vistek.ca/>

Amazon www.amazon.ca

Long & McQuade <https://www.long-mcquade.com/> London

Drugs <http://www.londondrugs.com/>

Memory Express <https://www.memoryexpress.com/>

Henry's <http://www.henrys.com/>

BHPhotoVideo <http://www.bhphotovideo.com/> (US supplier)

Smartphones:

If you are looking to upgrade/purchase a smartphone, the iPhone is the best for journalists (i.e. CBC and other media outlets often use them for work) due to compatibility/availability of apps for recording and editing. That said, Android devices will work well therefore, if you currently have an Android device, there is no need to change what you are using. Contact Jason Kokot (jkokot@mtroyal.ca) to discuss your specific model if you have questions.

Software:

We use the Adobe CC Suite for layout, photography and video, however all of our lab computers have this software installed therefore it is not a requirement for you to lease this software package. If you decide to purchase the Adobe CC Suite for your personal computer, you can secure student pricing on your own or await instructions in early fall from MRU about how to secure an even better rate.

Adobe CC subscription - \$19.99US/mo. for 12 month student subscription...

<https://www.adobe.com/ca/creativecloud/buy/students.html>

List of available freeware...

MediaInfo – free, safe download, gives you important info about a media file (bitrate, codec, length, aspect ratio, resolution, etc), great for troubleshooting.

VLC player – free, safe download, media player which plays most media files regardless of codec, etc.

Audacity – free, safe download, audio editor

Laptops (specifications):

Although not a requirement for the program, having a laptop is strongly recommended and you are advised to follow the specifications recommended below if you decide to purchase one for school.

| Mid-range laptop (general use) | Video editing laptop (performance) |
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| Intel i5 or i7 processor | Intel quad-core i7/i9 (9 th generation and up) or Xeon processor (faster clock speed = better performance) or AMD equivalent (Ryzen 7 or 9) |
| 8 GB RAM or more | 8 GB RAM minimum, 16 GB or more highly recommended |
| 500 GB capacity or higher hard drive | 500 GB capacity or higher hard drive. SSD or 7200 RPM recommended. |
| On-board Intel GPU will suffice | Dedicated Nvidia GPU with DDR3 or DDR5 RAM (2 GB or higher recommended) |
| USB 3.0 ports | USB 3.0 and/or USB-C ports |
| 14-15" display, FHD (1920x1080) resolution | 14" minimum display, 17" recommended, FHD (1920x1080) or higher resolution |
| Built-in SD card reader is useful | Built-in SD card reader is useful |
| Headphone/mic jacks are recommended | Headphone/mic jacks are recommended |

For more detailed advice regarding laptop purchases, including recommendations for entry- and mid-range purchases, and tips about buying used camera equipment please visit the scsbulletin.ca Student Resources page to learn more.

For more information, contact:

Jason Kokot (Head of Video Production) for video questions at 403-999-0060 or at jkokot@mtroyal.ca or

Paul Coates (photography instructor) for DSLR photo questions at 403-440-6975 or at pcoates@mtroyal.ca.