

Computer Systems & Video Projection in the Ian Gulland Lecture Theatre and other locations with video projectors

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The Ian Gulland Lecture Theatre (IGLT), Cinema, and other locations around the College all have facilities for the display of data, video and overhead transparencies. Some locations also have audio facilities for use with computer, CD-audio disks or cassette tape and comprehensive lighting settings for different types of lecture/presentation. The Cinema also has specialist DVD facilities. All users are encouraged to seek training with the use of these facilities if they have not used them previously. This can be obtained from the staff of the Media Equipment Centre, as can the keys to access the audio and video equipment.

Apart from the basic facilities, anyone wishing to use a Macintosh or PC computer system in the IGLT or elsewhere also needs to be aware of the hardware and cabling required to use the equipment for the display of computer data and/or playback of computer-based audio (CD or native audio files).

Points to note

1. A PC system is permanently located in the IGLT and a Macintosh in the Cinema. Other locations all require either personal or a booked laptop. It is therefore necessary either to arrange to bring your own system for connection to the video projector provided, or book a laptop from the Media Equipment Centre (MEC) for your presentation. You will clearly need to ensure in both cases that the data files you are going to use are installed on the system to be used, and that appropriate presentation software is available on the system. The portable system already has Microsoft PowerPoint installed.
2. There is a internet network connection available in all locations.
3. The video output from either a Mac or PC is connected to the input socket on the video projector interface unit (in the VCR cupboard in the IGLT). The same cable can be used by both Macs and PCs at the interface end, although old Macintosh systems may need an additional, labeled, adaptor plug. At the present time this cable can only be accessed by obtaining the key to the VCR cupboard in the IGLT.
4. PC (VGA) video output is in the form of a 15-pin, three row 'female' connector on the back of the computer. The cable that is connected to the interface box should simply connect to this port, i.e. it has, standard, a 15-pin 3-row male connector.
5. Current Macintosh desktop systems all have an identical (VGA) video output to PCs, as well as a combined digital video/screen power output port. Macintosh portables (PowerBooks and iBooks) may require a special external video port adaptor cable that provides this type of connector. Such cables are supplied with the machines and are the responsibility of the owner to supply, although if this has been mislaid, then a loan cable **must** be pre-booked with the MEC as it is often used with other installations around the College and may not be immediately available.
6. In the IGLT a monitor display is available if required on request to the MEC. This provides feedback for the lecturer at the dais. It is connected to a second, output, connector on the video projector interface box and should operate correctly with either a Macintosh or PC attached to the input.
7. A stereo mini-jack plug to twin RCA-phono plug audio lead is also required if the audio facilities are to be used. The twin RCA-phono sockets are located on the back wall of the VCR cupboard.

It is extremely important to ensure that if the booking schedule permits that you give yourself plenty of time to set up equipment and test that all facilities are working correctly.

Any staff member requiring additional information on the above, or wishing to ensure appropriate equipment is available for their lecture should contact the Media Equipment Centre, Ext: 7626.