

Decision support for the choice of graphics card - for school and university

Depending on what you mainly want to use your computer for, the requirements for the graphics card are very different.

You should consider what is important for your situation.

What type of user are you?

In principle, a differentiation is made between:

private use or end user

Internet, office applications, computer games

professional use or professional user

Depending on the field of work, long daily use. Professional CAD and graphics programs. Large amounts of data and extensive 3D renderings. Time pressure.

Notice:

As a pupil or student you are somewhere in between.

Your working hours and performance requirements will be increased in phases.

Your projects will tend to be small at professional schools, but a semester project in architecture studies can be quite extensive.

General differences with graphics cards

There are usually different graphics card product lines for the user types described above.

The main differences are in the technology and service.

technology:

While the hardware here is hardly different for all of them, there are major differences in the firmware and the driver.

Graphics cards for end users (such as NVidia GeForce and AMD Radeon) offer optimal conditions for 3D games. They are technologically designed for DirectX 10. Speed is more important than visual quality.

A typical 3D model in a game contains a rather small number of polygons with textures in comparison to a CAD model in the building sector.

Notice:

You can use Allplan with an end user graphics card. However, you should keep in mind that you have to expect restrictions for large projects and extensive 3D processes (e.g. zooming, moving, rendering).

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Graphic cards for professional users offer optimal conditions for CAD software. In these projects, the number of polygons is often much higher and the visual quality of wireframe or shaded models plays a greater role than the speed of movement. The memory usage of professional graphics cards is optimised for working with multiple windows, whereas this is irrelevant for computer games.

Notice:
If you study architecture, an investment in a graphics card for professional users is recommended.

Service

Another important difference is in delivery, guarantee and support.

The product cycles for end user graphics cards are shorter, usually 6-12 months, and the guarantee is also a maximum of only 1 year.

It may happen that drivers are not compatible or are missing. This can lead to problems during use.

Merke:

Treiber können nachträglich installiert werden, es ist aber mit etwas Aufwand verbunden.

Graphics cards for professional use are produced according to the chip manufacturer's recommendations. You can therefore be sure that the driver supplied by the chip manufacturer (e.g. NVidia or AMD) always matches your graphics card. The guarantee is usually 3 years.

Notice:
Graphic cards for professional use offer better service.

More information

Certified graphics cards: <https://connect.allplan.com/support/tested-graphics-cards.html>

System requirements: <https://connect.allplan.com/de/support/downloads.html>

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