National Design Academy
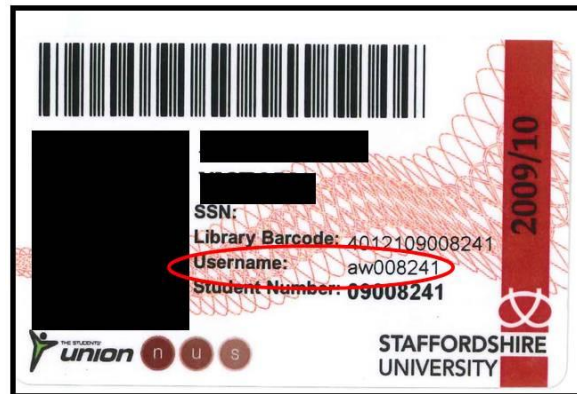
Instructions for FREE AutoCAD Software

AutoDesk (AutoCAD developer) currently allows a **free** three year student trial of their software to all current NDA degree students. To qualify for this software you will need to be studying on one of the Foundation Degrees or BA (Hons) courses. If you are a Diploma student you may download the **free** 30 day trial only.

In order to download this software you must have a Staffordshire University E-mail address. If you have received your Staffordshire University ID card, this will be located as your user name followed by @staffs.ac.uk, see image below for example: aw008241@staffs.ac.uk

If you have yet to receive this card and require this email address, please contact one of the tutors to request this.

NOTE: Downloading this software can take around 3 hours depending on your internet connection. If you are downloading this software to attend a workshop at the NDA, please ensure you allow sufficient time to fully complete this downloading process. This should be completed at least two days BEFORE the workshop date.

Step One: Finding the Link.

- Go to www.autodesk.co.uk
- Click on **AutoCAD** in the top left hand corner under the **Products** banner (this will open a new window) – NOTE: Not found within the Products drop down list
- On the right hand side of the screen click on **Students - Free Software**
- I would recommend '**Book marking**' the following page for future reference

Step Two: Registering with Autodesk.

- On the top right hand side, click "**Register**" this will load the **New Account Registration Page**
- Fill out the form, making sure that you use your Staffordshire University E-mail Address. (You will need this to activate your account)
- Under the discipline section select **Architecture**
- Fill out all sections that have been marked with a ***** and ignore the rest
- Tick the Terms and Conditions box

A link will now be sent to your Staffordshire E-mail address.

NOTE: This can take several days to arrive. You will require the link within this E-mail to activate your account and finish your registration.

Step Three: Downloading the Program

- Click **'Log in'** located in the top right hand corner of the **Autodesk Student Community** website, using the Username and Password you set up at Registration
- Under the word 'Autodesk' in the top left hand side of the page, click **Free Software,** the page below will change, displaying all the programs you can download, starting with Autodesk Revit
- Scroll down and click on the **'+'** next to **AutoCAD**
- In the dropdown menu, which says **'Select your version'** select **AutoCAD 2012 (English) 32Bit,** then click **Download.** If you are aware that you are using a 64bit operating system, click on AutoCAD 2012 (English) 64bit. If you want to find out if your computer is 32bit or 64bit, ring Roy on 01159 1234212 Extension 240.

NOTE: IF YOU ARE A MAC USER PLEASE SELECT THE LATEST MAC VERSION

- On the next page, click **Get Serial Number** and make a note of the **Serial Number and Product Key**
- Click **Download** which will start the download. The box below will tell you how long it will take to complete the download
- When the download has finished, click **Open AutoCAD 2012 (English)(1 of 1)**

Step Four: Installing AutoCAD

- Once your download has completed, click **Yes** then click **Install**
- When the main Autodesk screen appears, click **Install Products**

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- Click **Next**
- Click **I Accept** then click **Next**
- Using the **Serial Number** you took a note of earlier; enter this along with your first name, last name and company name. Then click **Next**
- Click **Install** on the following page
- When installation is finished click **Finish**

Step Five: Activating AutoCAD

- You will be asked to **Activate** your product, the serial number and product code should be displayed, click **Get an activation code,** then **next**. This will then bring you to **Log in to Autodesk** page
- Click **Create User ID Now,** fill in the details making sure you use your Staffordshire E-mail address in the **Your E-mail Address.** Under **User ID** use the Username section of your Staffordshire E-mail address. For example you would use **uw005346** from uw005346@students.staffs.ac.uk
- The password needs to meet Autodesk requirements and be between **8 and 12** characters long plus include **one** capital letter and **one** number. Make a note of this for future reference
- Fill out the Security Question box and Tick the boxes you wish to receive information from Autodesk. Click **Next** when done
- When the next page loads, click the product as being registered as **An Individual**
- Fill out your company name and address (if you don't have a company name just put NDA)
- Ignore all the boxes that say **'optional'** and click **Next**
- A summary page will then Load, Click **Next**
- The Activation code will then appear automatically, click **Finish** and you will then have the 3year Licence rather than the 30 day trial

NOTE: When you load up AutoCAD a box will appear telling you that you are using an Education Version, click Continue.

About the free software

Before you download the software, check the file sizes and your system (see below) limitations. Download time will vary based on file size and your Internet connection speed. After you have downloaded the software, you will need to activate it. If you do not activate your software, it will operate as a standard 30-day trial version and time-out after 30 days. Once activated using your Autodesk Student Engineering & Design Community serial number, you will have a 3year license to use the software.

The software license is for a single-seat or single-user. It cannot be set up on a network. Autodesk serial numbers are issued based on country. You will be issued a serial number based on the country location of your school.

The system requirements for 32-bit AutoCAD 2012:

- Intel Pentium 4 processor or dual-core processor, 2.2 GHz or higher is recommended
- Microsoft Windows Vista™, Windows XP Home and Professional (SP2), Windows 2000 (SP4)
- 1GB of RAM
- 1.8 GB free disk space for installation
- 1024x768 VGA with true colour
- Microsoft Internet Explorer 7

NOTE: If your laptop does not meet these requirements, I would not recommend downloading the software. If you are attending an Autocad workshop, try to book one of the NDA laptops for the day.