

POLICY STATEMENT: STUDY SPACES

25 August 2017

GSA position

Adequate and appropriate study spaces for all graduate students at the University of Melbourne is essential to their wellbeing, and to their ability to complete their degrees in a timely manner and to the best possible standard.

The University has a responsibility to ensure that all students have adequate and appropriate study spaces, and to monitor and enforce provision of study spaces in faculties and graduate schools.

Graduate coursework students

- While undertaking coursework subjects, graduate coursework students should have the same ready access to shared study spaces in University libraries, faculty and graduate school buildings and other appropriate locations as undergraduate students
- When undertaking research or practical projects, students in graduate coursework degrees should have the same access to dedicated study space as part-time graduate research students, with appropriate provisions for the requirements of their project

Graduate research students

- All graduate research students should have access to dedicated study spaces as described in the University's Principles for Infrastructure Support
- Ideally all graduate research students will have access to study spaces located within their faculty, graduate school or department buildings, and close to other graduate research students and academics. This proximity promotes collegiality and collaboration, and leads to a more dynamic and engaged environment for both students and staff.

POLICY	CATEGORY	REF	AMENDED/ CREATED	NEXT REVIEW
Study spaces	Teaching and learning	1.1	June 2016	June 2018

Rationale

The University has a commitment to ensuring all graduate research students have access to appropriate dedicated study spaces. This commitment is not being met, and graduate research students in a number of faculties and graduate schools do not have this access.

Graduate coursework students undertaking research theses and capstone projects often have the same needs for dedicated study space as research students, but do not have any provision for dedicated study space.

Adequate and appropriate study spaces for all graduate students is essential to their wellbeing and their ability to complete their degrees in a timely manner, and to the best possible standard. To that end, the provision of appropriate study spaces should be recognised as a vital factor in raising timely completion rates.

Relevant research and information

[Selection and Admission into Graduate Research Courses Policy \(MPF1284\)](#)

5.9. The heads of departments and the deans of the faculties/graduate schools in which the student will be enrolled are jointly responsible for ensuring that appropriate supervision, facilities and resources will be provided to the applicant.

[Principles for Infrastructure Support \(staff login required\)](#)

All full-time graduate researchers should be provided with shared office accommodation that includes a sole-use desk, lockable filing cabinet and bookshelf facilities. Part-time graduate researchers should have shared accommodation and at least shared use of a desk. It is acknowledged that some departments face major space and accommodation problems. The University is committed to improving the availability of office facilities for all graduate researchers.

[GSA study spaces campaign](#)

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GSA believes that all graduate students at the University of Melbourne should have access to the resources and facilities students need to excel in their courses. We are coordinating a University-wide campaign addressing the lack of appropriate study spaces for graduate students.

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Study spaces	Teaching and learning	1.1	June 2016	June 2018