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Study spaces for graduate students

GSA Council Policy Statement

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 researchers:

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

Rationale

The University has a commitment to ensuring all graduate researchers have access to appropriate dedicated study spaces. This commitment is not being met, and graduate researchers 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 graduate researchers, but do not have any provision for dedicated study space.

Relevant University policies and principles

Selection and Admission Policy (MPF1295)

4.28. The dean is responsible for ensuring that appropriate supervision, facilities and resources are able to be provided to the applicant in accordance with the principles for infrastructure support.

Principles for Infrastructure Support

All full time graduate research students should be provided with shared office accommodation that includes a sole-use desk, lockable filing cabinet and bookshelf facilities. Part time graduate research students should have access to a work space, 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.

With due regard to security and safety, there should be 'after hours' and ideally 24-hour access for graduate researchers to their offices, labs or shared work space.

Record of Review

Date	Reason for Review	Created/Revised by
June 2016	Adopted by GSA Council	
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