

STUDENT GUIDE TO INFORMAL LEARNING SPACES

The new campus has a wide range of formal and informal learning spaces. Formal learning spaces are the classrooms, labs, studios and other spaces used for formal teaching, you are likely familiar with the concept of these. Any space which is not a formal space scheduled for teaching is an informal learning space. For example, the learning commons, the café, the town hall, the library, the group study rooms, the student hub are all informal learning spaces, so are the corridors, the grounds and even the public transport you might have arrived on. Any space can be a learning space. These new spaces present you with an opportunity to reflect on your approach to learning, considering how, where and when you learn best.

TECHNOLOGY

You can use your own device e.g. mobile, tablet, laptop in most spaces. There is full Wi-Fi coverage across the whole campus. This makes it easy for you to connect to the Virtual Learning Environment and Office 365 to engage in course activities, as well as to access any other apps or tools for your studies.

Many of the spaces also have access to electric sockets or open access desktops which make it easier for you to undertake your studies throughout the day.

Some of the more formal spaces also have technology to enable effective collaboration both within the room and with others elsewhere in the University or beyond.

REFLECTING ON YOUR INDEPENDENT LEARNING

The range of learning spaces on offer presents opportunities for you to study independently in a range of different ways. Take the time to think about whether you work better in a group, alone, independently but beside others who are working or in another way. Think about how and when you find it useful to interact with others e.g. study buddies, reading groups, groupwork, and then consider what spaces might suit this.

The Effective Learning Advisors can support you with the skills you need for independent study.

Email: A.Noble@hw.ac.uk

Web: <https://www.hw.ac.uk/uk/services/is/skills-development/effective-learning.htm>



Library quiet study area

TOP TIPS

- Make sure the space is appropriate for the learning you want to do e.g. a quiet space for thinking or reflection, if you are working in a chatty group a spacious place that doesn't mind some noise is probably best.
- Remember to check that the space you plan to use is available (especially if it is also used for formal learning e.g. group study rooms) and that it has access to everything you need.
- Make yourself comfortable in the space e.g. have access to your study resources, refreshments etc.



Group study room



Informal learning space

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