

# Elvesletta Student Learning Area

## How can it support students learning?

Tina Dahl<sup>1</sup>, Stephen Coulson<sup>1</sup>, Sehoja Cotner<sup>2</sup>, Ivar Nordmo<sup>3</sup>

1. Department of Arctic Biology, UNIS
2. Department of Biological Sciences, UiB
3. Department of Education, UiB



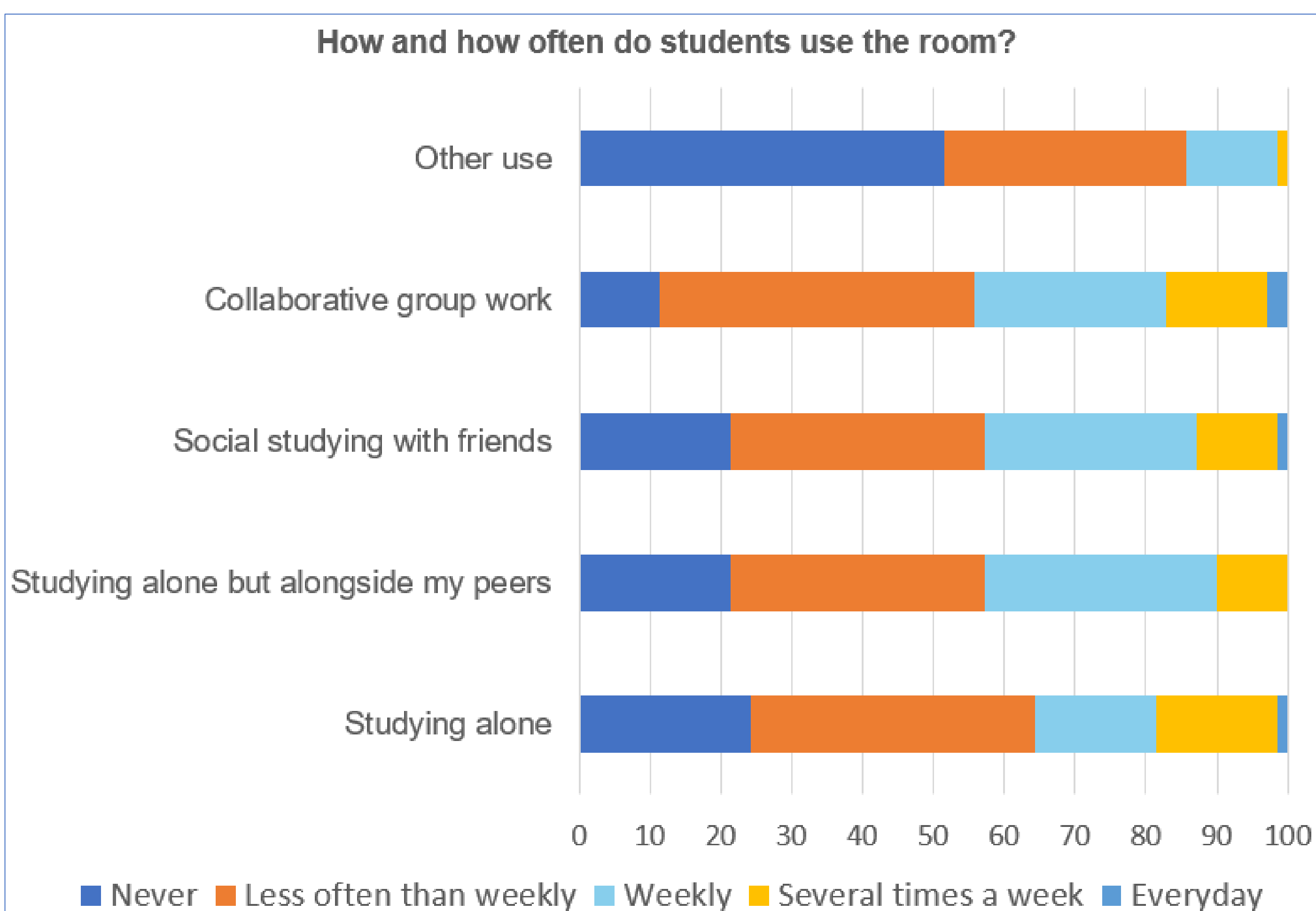
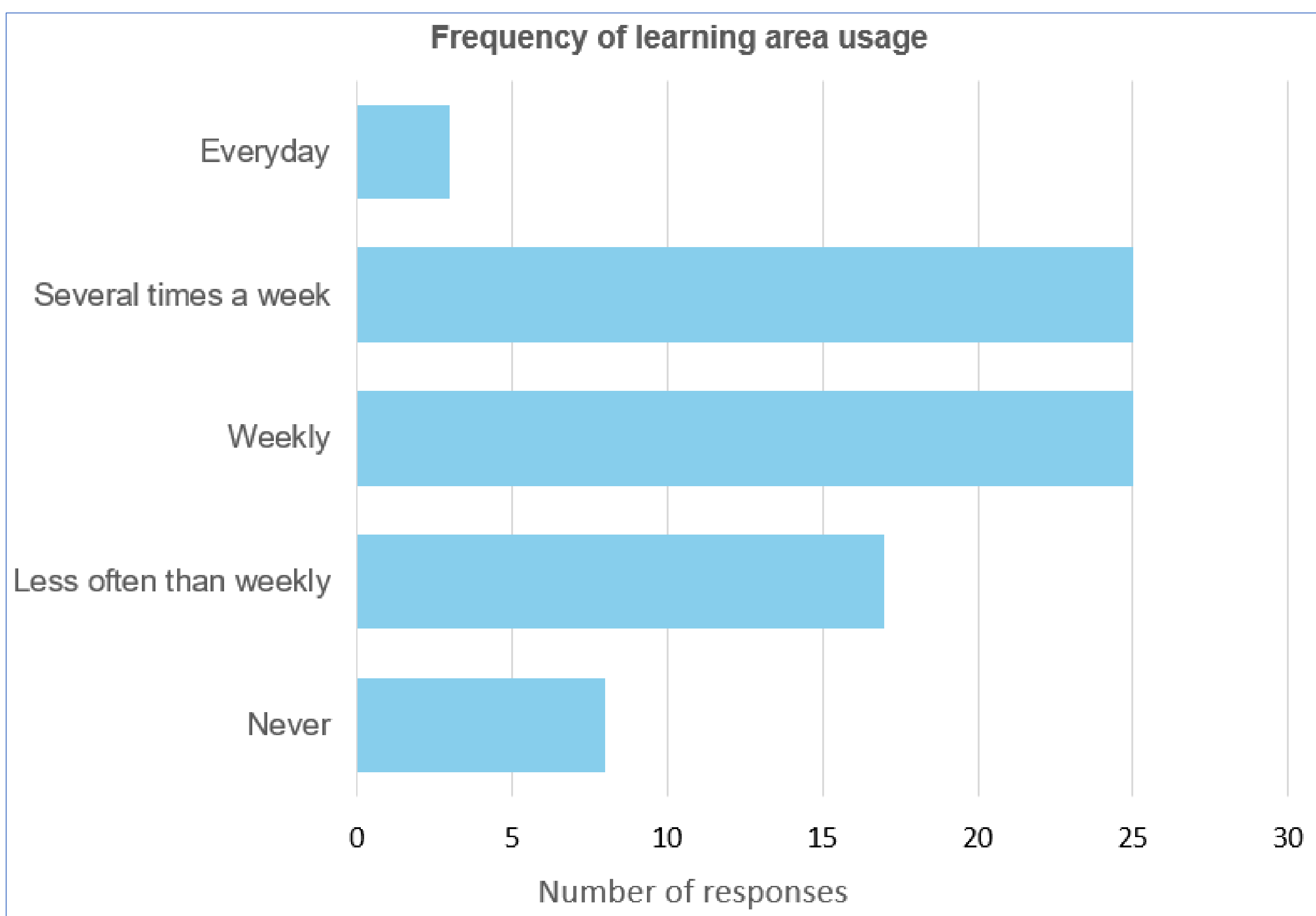
## Background

- Elvesletta student learning area opened in September 2022
- The aim of the new learning area is to foster informal functional workspaces where students can work alone or together
- To be able to develop the learning area the working committee and the Student Council conducted a survey during spring and fall 2023

"This is the first study room in a student housing that I actually used and I lived in lots of student housings before. I would say that it also definitely helps when you're in a course because all students live in the same housing it helps a lot with group work and being social."

## Results

- Survey participants: 881 students
- Response rate: 9% (78 responses)
- Frequency of area usage: Mostly several times a week or weekly (70%)
- Purpose of usage: Both collaborative work and individual studying
- Usage pattern: Steady increase from morning to evening
- Importance of learning area: 76% of respondents find it essential or very important for shaping the learning environment at UNIS
- Furniture satisfaction: Most students were content with the furniture setup based on their intended usage
- Popular and least used: Furniture 5 and 9 most used and 1 and 2 least used



Theme	Number of Responses	Example Quote
Group Work and Collaboration	20	"It gives space for group work, and a calm learning environment for when you need to focus."
Comfort and Accessibility	13	"It is a comfortable, easily accessible place that facilitates self-study and group work quite easily based on the location."
Conducive to Studying	13	"Better concentration than in my room and closer than UNIS (not as much motivation needed)."
Space (beyond UNIS and the dorm room)	8	"It provides a nice place to study and to work together. I like that it is close to the student housing, but it feels as if you've been away from home when studying there."
Availability and Convenience	7	"The library at UNIS and even the public library close fairly early for my taste, that's why I tend to not use them after lecture hours or on weekends. The learning area is a GREAT alternative."
Social Interaction and Community	6	"You meet your fellow students and can help out each other. It's another room to study than your own apartment."
Additional Resources	2	"The screens are really helpful but it's sometimes hard to connect the computer to them."

## Next step

- Furniture rearrangement
- Repairing sound breakers
- More power plugs
- Add printer