

# United Waitakere Library Evaluation Report

November 2015
Insights and Planning



### Research Introduction

The Approach

The research aims to find out how students feel about Waitakere Library's new layout and facilities.

Online survey conducted between **21 Oct – 5 Nov 2015** 

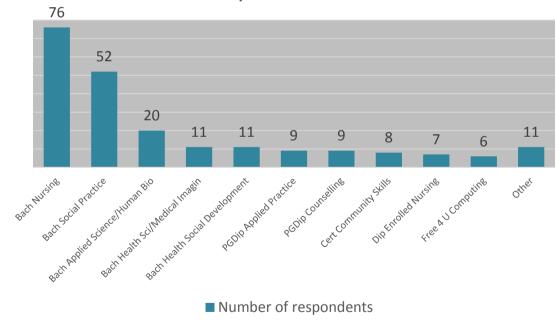
Invitations sent to students who currently studying at **Waitakere Campus** 

A prize of one \$100 Westfield voucher offered

A total of 239 completed responses

**220** respondents **used** the Waitakere Library this semester

#### Library user overview





### Summary

# Highly positive student feedback on the Waitakere Library

- Group study rooms are the most frequently used space in the library and are well received by students.
- The Waitakere Library received high ratings on the convenient location, good librarian support and collaborative space for students.
- Students are happy with the facilities, layout and the book collections available in the library.

# 2 Family-friendly study rooms are useful but need to be well soundproofed

- 36% of the respondents felt it is important to be able to bring their children with them when study in the library.
- Other users' concerns about having family-friendly study rooms are centred on noise control.

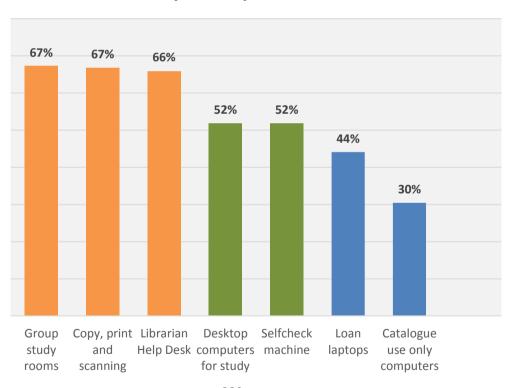
### 3 There is room for improvement

- Library users would like more quiet and private space to study
  - Noise level is the main concern of many respondents.
  - More individual and group study space/rooms are needed.
- More desktop computers for students to use and more laptops with longer loan time.
- Temperature in the library can be better controlled and a water cooler can be added.
- Longer opening hours on the weekends, especially around exam period.
- A few respondents mentioned their concerns about safety.
  - Some unfriendly characters around the library.
  - > Having security guards would improve the level of safety.



# Group study rooms, Copy/print/scanning machines and Help Desk are the mostly used facilities in the library

#### Mostly used spaces or services









n = 220



# How would you rate your satisfaction with these space / services?

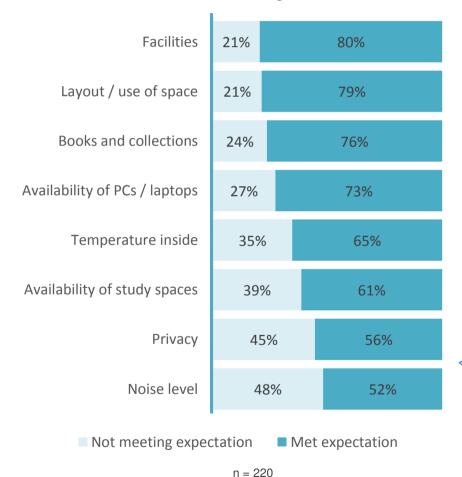


wide range of books and the helpful librarians.



# Library users would like more quiet and private space to study

Thinking about the Library overall, how would you rate the following...



"More study space and computers."

"I think there needs to be **more access to study desks** in the new area. I feel the orange couches don't really add much and it might be nice to have some **individualised study desks** in that area."

"Creating more spaces available for study with more privacy to reduce the noise factor, because is really disappointing there are not rules to be follow."

"Keep the noise level down when there are students studying for exams and trying to complete assignments. The groups should be moved to other areas of the Library."



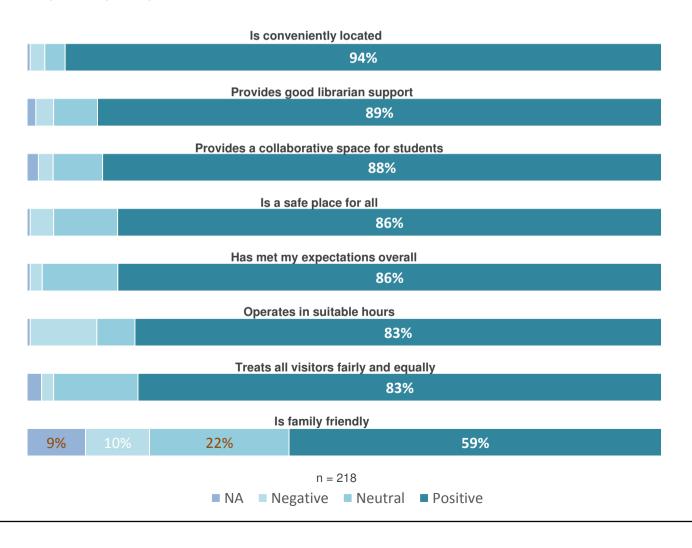
### **Facility improvements**

Group Study Rooms		<ul> <li>Not enough group study rooms.</li> <li>No windows, no air flow</li> <li>Booking (not available for individual users)</li> </ul>
Family-friendly Study Room		<ul><li>Noise level</li><li>The space availability</li></ul>
Desktop computers for study		<ul> <li>Computers are slow</li> <li>Need more desktop computers</li> <li>Space (computer desk) too small</li> </ul>
Librarian Help Desk		<ul> <li>Need better ways to access books, e.g., online help.</li> <li>Librarian can be more friendly</li> </ul>
Copy, print and scanning		<ul><li>Expensive to use</li><li>Makes beep sounds</li></ul>
Loan laptops		<ul><li>Not enough laptops, loaned out fast</li><li>Longer loan time needed</li></ul>
Catalogue use only computers		<ul> <li>Limited book collection in Waitakere Library</li> <li>Catalogue only computers are slow</li> </ul>



# The Waitakere Library received high ratings on the **convenient location**, **good librarian support** and **collaborative space for students**

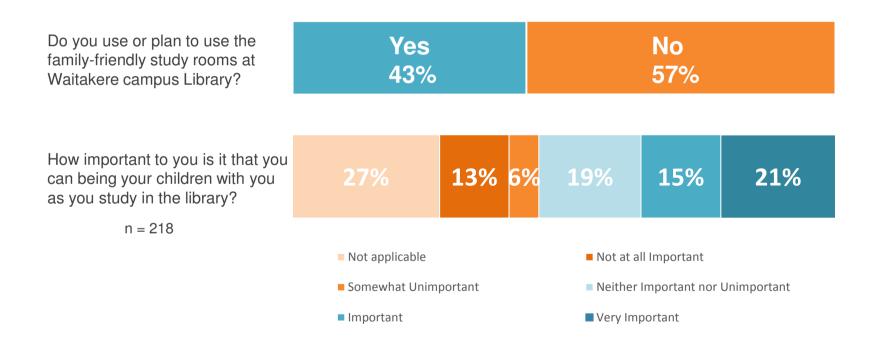
80% of the respondents who responded neutrally to family friendly environments are not planning to use the family friendly study rooms





# Slightly less than half of the respondents have used or plan to use the family-friendly study room

• 36% of the respondents felt it is important to be able to bring their children with them when study in the library





#### The family-friendly study rooms need to be...

#### Soundproofed

- \* "Sound proof the room so others students don't have to hear them."
- "I have not used one of these rooms before but seeing as children will be in the study room possibly sound proofing if the room don't already have it in place, for the consideration of other students studying in the library."
- "As long as kids are quiet/contained I think its a great idea, but first and foremost the library spaces have to be oriented toward study, so I think people cannot be offended if they are asked to leave based on disruptive child behaviour."
- \* "keep in separate level."
- \* "Sound proof rooms."
- "It needs to be [a] separate place away from other students who do not have children."
- "I only hope the family-friendly study room is really noise-control. I mean, the people outside the room will not be influenced by what happen inside the room."

# Have something to occupy children

- "Games available to children, computer and other. Maybe they are already I will definitely use this service next year."
- "Having access to children's book. Just wondering why our United library card cannot be used in the normal library downstairs."
- "Toys, books, TV/dvd with earphones, beanbags."
- \* "Put kids toys in them."

#### **Other**

- "It gets quite stuffy in these rooms, but if we left the doors open, then our noise might distract other people in the library who are trying to work quietly. Therefore, maybe putting some aircon into these rooms would be good."
- \* "Easily available."
- "Somewhere where they can access water (and hot water for bottles etc)."
- \* "Personally, I don't think it should be for only a student and their child in one room, but their study group. Unsure if this makes sense, but I would be a little disappointed if I had a group study session, and couldn't book a room and then walk past and see a student and child using a full room."



# Appendix

- Verbatim Comments



### **Appendix**

- > I like that it is now a lot bigger and is only accessible for United students. I think the computer set up in the new area is well thought out.
- > The ability to work as part of a group in a quiet study area without distracting others is great.
- Central location.
- > Group study rooms.
- > Relaxed atmosphere!!!!
- > Just that there are more rooms. Rooms need to have about a 4hr booking period. 2hrs isn't long enough but its not fair if people stay in there all day.
- > Free Wifi.
- > Love that there are 6 more study rooms, and more tables to study at. Love that the books/textbooks are all on level 3, makes everything a bit easier:)
- > I feel very safe there. I really like the new layout of library, we finally have restrooms in the library!
- > Accurate temp.
- > The wide range of services.
- > I love the extra study space and the group study rooms.
- Private.
- > Whiteboard markers. These should be signed out to an individual on a two hour loan agaisnt their card. I am not sure if this is being done.
- > Accessible and friendly staff.
- > Staff is great and helpful.
- > The study space and environment is good.
- > Just the new layout is incredibly more spacious I really like that. And the separate rooms for more study rooms are really lovely.
- > Spaces.



- > Staffs are very friendly
- > The feeling of knowledge that flows from wall to wall.
- > It is very convenient to do the copy and print out the documents.
- > It's nice and quiet.
- > Lots more space now and awesome large study rooms
- > the study rooms and the help by the librarians.
- > The fact that toilets are not far away.
- > The use of the study rooms.
- ➤ Librarians = Very Helpful @ All Times
- > Good printing/copying system. Wide range of relevant textbooks.
- > Study spaces.
- > The staff.
- > Good place to meet for group work.
- > The services including librarians, catalogues, computer labs are very well organized and professionally approached.
- > The library is open during the week until 20.00 it would be great if this was open later on the Friday as well
- > The amount of free space to study
- > The staff is knowledgeable, helpful and very friendly.
- > Children's section in the library and the staff are very helpful
- > The space to study and complete assessments. The facilities you have available are awesome.
- > It's really conveniently located which is awesome.
- > The space.
- > Glass board on the wall.



- > Space private friendly staff.
- > The close proximity to the Unitec Waitakere campus and the friendly staff.
- > Staff are helpful.
- > The new study rooms and friendly staff.
- > The study rooms, availability of laptops and computers, the wide range of books and the helpful librarians.
- > The study rooms and convenience. Assistance when required.
- Nice and new. Rooms are good and access to Uni [class room].
- > The staff are very friendly and more than accommodating. Most staff are very generous with their time in helping with research for assignments. Having the toilets in the same area is really helpful and saves time and stress of packing up belongings.
- > I like the services in United library.
- > All Unitec book are now on the same level so its easier to find books and move back to your study spot.
- > The welcoming atmosphere, and the friendly, helpful and very approachable staff.
- > I like that it is close to the main building. I also like that it's okay to have food and drinks in there while we study.
- > Yes that you are able to eat while you study, the staff are very friendly and helpful when looking for books and information for your study and that there are now more study rooms to book.
- > The feel the moment you have when walking in.
- > I like the new layout it more user friendly especially having more study rooms.
- > I enjoy the environment especially the staff here as they are friendly.
- > The space and a friendly environment to study.
- > The staff are efficient and very helpful.
- > Its convenience.
- > Having power points in the floor is very useful. Also being able to check your own books out.
- > The staff are helpful and the location is good. There are good books available.



- > It's very friendly and good service.
- > Stuff are very good to serve people.
- > The new layout is very inviting and user friendly.
- > Librarians are very nice and helpful. and laptops are always available.
- > The awesome librarians.
- > Study room for group study; availability of computers.
- The staff foremost, they are so helpful. Each experience I had with them, has been informative and friendly. Now that the library is on our level, I can study in peace. In the past I shared the space with public and noisy young people wagging school.
- > I like that old text books related to Unitec studies are now up in level 3, it makes it more convenient to locate them.
- > I like how the couches.
- > Computer availability.
- > Staff, set up, extra space.
- > The staff are great.
- > Very helpful staff and good resources.
- > Fast computers and many books.
- Easy to find books for researching.
- > Staff are very attendance and responsive to the need of students.
- > It's a good place to study.
- > The convenience of having it right on campus.
- > Closing time and the study rooms.
- > No, I like it all and so do my children.
- > Service is beyond excellent.
- > Friendly environment.
- > Staff have always been very friendly. Thank you for the support and help.
- > Timing and lot of computers to use.



- > It is a comfortable space, the new upgrade is awesome but timing not helpful for me.
- > I love that I can email in what books I want or need then an email tells me when to go pick them up!!!! Awesome
- > Study rooms.
- Central.
- > Lovely staff always go the extra mile.
- > Relaxed environment. Plenty of good books available. Good set up on level 3 for groups.
- > Staff.
- Fresh O2.
- > More space now.
- > The variety of books and journals that i need for my course.
- > The staff and librarians are mazing. There have been so many times through out the year where they have helped me with my studies.

  They are truly amazing and because they are such a small team you get to know them.
- > There are no loud children in the common areas.
- > Ample space for learning and good reference books are available.
- Love the new space. It is great to have a quite study space to study now. So much better. And having the books on the same floor is great. No more lugging them up the stairs.
- > The willingness of the library assistance to help.
- Modern and super friendly.
- > It is very comfortable to study.
- > The varying sizes of the study rooms.
- New layout, it's clean. Can use a bathroom.
- Are able to borrow laptop.
- > I love the new study rooms and the extra layout of the library.



- > Quite and friendly staffs.
- > Nice and big.
- > The new study rooms and study spaces.
- > Location. Accessibility.
- > Lots of light, friendly staff.
- > I like the peaceful atmosphere, and when I'm studying around other students it keeps me motivated to keep going.
- > The study rooms are excellent and there are plenty of seating options in the library
- > The staff is very helpful and the location is great
- > Yes. I do like the new renovations that has been made which is more study rooms, more computers and a more United library personal touch (scenery) to the library.
- > Study rooms and friendly librarians.
- Librarians
- > The use of the upstairs room. Content supplied for reading.
- > Open spaces, comfortable seating , use of laptops, friendly and helpful staff.
- Assessable.
- > Access to computers & now more study rooms.
- > Safety- too many young people hanging around not using services.
- > Staff are very friendly and helpful. Group rooms are also good for discussions.
- > Easy to find resources and good friendly staff.
- > Friendly staff, feel safe in the library.
- > Chair and layout of library.
- > Connects with Unitec Campus, so I can go there before or after class to study.



- > The space for study.
- > Very supportive staff, always process my enquires.
- > The Staff.
- > The new study rooms are great.
- > The staff are awesome.
- > Loving the new study rooms, would like to eventually see big screens in them also. Also love that there is more space to spread out.
- > The new study rooms are really helpful when we wish to work in private.
- > The librarians are very friendly and helpful. I like the improvements made recently. Before it was quite squishy but now they have extended it I really enjoy studying in there when i am at Waitakere campus.
- > The view.
- > The staff are wonderful. Friendly and helpful.
- > The friendly and helpful staff, the atmosphere and environment is inviting and I feel I can get into my study mode quickly
- > Yes, the librarians are very kind and supportive.
- > Friendly and very helpful.
- > Spacious and airy, and joins onto public library.
- > I like the study rooms, they are relatively quiet, and designed well for group or individual study.
- Books and articles.
- Quite commutable.
- > The welcoming feeling it has.
- > Able to use study group areas as use boards to write on, places to plug in laptops.
- > Librarians /staffs help.
- > The librarians are very helpful.



### **Appendix**

- > I think there needs to be more access to study desks in the new area. I feel the orange couches don't really add much and it might be nice to have some individualised study desks in that area.
- > More study space and computers.
- Availability of books.
- > Longer opening hours on Friday.
- > More plants or partitions to block noise and for privacy.
- Distractions from other students, perfect silence not maintained at all times.
- > I have to say, the online print system (my print) is not very good. The speed of processing is too slow, so I have to cope the document to a flash drive, and print it through desktop, which is time-consuming.
- > Some more space, more study rooms.
- > Air conditioning. The library and study rooms get stuffy and it makes it hard to focus.
- > More spacious.
- Yes, noise level carries far. The noise of people who talk about their studies within the library is very disturbing for others who are trying to learn uninterrupted. AUT library has this sussed. Noise levels are to be kept down, and if there are discussions needed then study rooms should be booked with a courteous noise levels used. There are no signs to enforce this and this should be priority to have these up ASAP. Policing rooms are just ridiculous people arguing with the librarian over entitlements t be in the rooms like they are the only ones in the library is absurd. Security should be utilised in these situations. AUT also uses the over head microphones to remind students that they should be not talking etc. Lastly access to books and journals are ridiculous for those of us studying in the Osteo department we need to have or should have the same access as AUT, we are suffering in our research due to this by having to pay for it or just omit it. Also the online help 50mins to get an answers??



- > Sometimes the noise and computer rooms a little crowded especially during peak hours.
- > When using the group study rooms, the temperature can be very hot and you can also hear who is in the room next door
- More laptops need to be available for long duration.
- > Just to keep the noise level down when there are students studying for exams and trying to complete assignments. The groups should be moved to other areas of the Library.
- Buy providing more desktop computers.
- > More books availability specially nursing book "Medical".
- > Keep an eye on the loiters and trouble makers that hang around the building.
- Open at 7:45am.
- The library should be bigger if possible.
- > Allow bigger tables to be circle instead of squares.
- > More study space and maybe some individual desks like at Mt Albert.
- > Is good, would like independent cubicles for more intense studying.
- Provide more services for students who wants to study in the library like private spaces to study
- More than once I have tried to use the machine beside the photocopier/printer and it has not been working which was inconvenient.

  The photocopier/printer also doesn't accept most memory sticks which is also inconvenient, as it means I have to login to a computer to print things. And a hole punch would be handy:)
- > Provide power connections on each desk so that one can use laptops.
- More tables and longer length of time in the study rooms.
- > More space for students.
- Would be great if there was more study space as some days the library can fill up very quickly and it can be hard to find a space.
- As a student, we need more study room and the announcement to close the public library at 5.30 pm need to be fixed. Because sometimes Public librarians remind the customer on the ground floor, us in the level 3 are surprise and pack our belongings to go home whereas the United Library has not closed yet until 8 O'clock from Monday to Friday.



- > The renovations made with the extension is great. It would be beneficial to have more ventilation in the rooms and also more space for students to study outside the study rooms.
- > Bean bags to chill out on.
- > Just patience from staff when it comes to helping new students. My son had an accident in his pants. A staff member did not care at all about the situation. I was trying to gather my books into my bag so we could leave. I just wanted to cry as this staff ember couldn't give us space to leave quietly and discreetly. Studying is burden on its own, just a bit of understanding would be good.
- > I understand that space is restricted but more study space would be great.
- > Not sure, its pretty good already.
- > Better seating and more copies of some books.
- ➤ Have an IT specialist on standby near the help desk.
- > Please maintain some specific quiet areas for self-study person.
- > I'm happy so far.
- > Sometimes I don't like the temperature but hey you can't keep everyone happy:)
- > No fleas in summer. More quiet space- sometimes people talk to much and loudly. Staff don't tell them to be quiet.
- ➤ Open for longer hours, have a swipe card like the Massey University library in Palmerston North, for Unitec students to have access to the library 24/7.
- > Longer hours on the weekend please! Especially around exam periods
- > Perhaps putting a security guard on ground would boosts the safety of the place
- > Wider selection of resources for nursing students
- > have more books, and have more data on line for research.
- More books for course readings. At the moment it is difficult to share three books with 100 students for course readings.
- We need more rooms for study group.
- > Perhaps creating more desk space for students who want to study alone.



- ➤ Before the changes happened there were quick guide references at the end of each row of books to say what was in each row. I would like to see that again. I have also found the library system confusing in that when I have asked for help to find books of certain types I have been referred to the catalogue system. I have found this only works if you know a book name or the words I've put in the search come up in the title. There may be a way to find particular topics but I have never been shown so maybe some help in that field from staff would be good.
- > I am okay with the library, except for when it gets busy there is no where to study meaning study rooms get booked up fast.
- > The stock needs to be enlarged. For example, there are only two copies of Eclectic Counselling: Working with an Integrated Model. A lot of the books come in just one copy. Need to check and identify which books need to come in more than one or two or even three copies.
- > The only thing that I had a problem with was trying to connect on the overhead and asked a librarian to help but, both librarians did not know how to connect it. So better technology in the study rooms for group presentations like on power point.
- > To be honest the time you have here meet my study needs.
- > Allowing coffee and eating lunch again.
- Snack machines in the library and a coffee machine.
- > I only go to United library to borrow books as I prefer the silence at home. However, I always find that when I am using my laptop at the Waitakere campus, the internet is really slow. Perhaps this can be better improved to meet my study needs.
- > A couple of the group study rooms are quite stuffy.
- More quiet study areas. People talk too much in the common areas, and as I am only one person, I never choose to study in the library as there are no quiet spaces to accommodate me.
- > Not for the amount of study that I currently do.
- > I think is a big step.



- > Maybe more signage about areas where people need to be quiet.
- > More quiet environment
- > There could be more study rooms available for students to use, as most study rooms are always booked out. There could be more printers in the library.
- > Perhaps by having some separate study cubicles.
- > Put all the Unitec books and collections in one floor, rather than separate them into two floors.
- > Interactive learning whiteboards in the study rooms.
- > I just need to know how to work the printer, scanner machine, it gets me every time but I get there in the end with a lot of patience.
- > Have outdoor study area outside.
- > I think you have thought of everything.
- > Letting my kid come along so I don't have to leave early.
- > More study rooms or more time allowed like 3-4 hours.
- > Better desktop monitors. Wider monitor screens are ideal for study and research. Also, more printers are needed.
- > Study desks with privacy walls. Policing of noise levels. Later opening hours. More copies of books that are relevant to my course.
- > There is a problem with accessing to moodle in some days, specially when there are many student in Unitec. It happens in Mondays normally.
- Maybe add a bit more tables for study, because sometimes it gets really crowded and full, and there is no where else to go to study.
- An increase in silent study areas.
- > Opening earlier.
- > My study needs are being meet thank you.
- Water fountain.
- ➤ Increased in space. A bigger library is needed.
- > Nothing I can think off at the moment.



- > Its alright at the moment.
- Less noise level and encouragement of using study room if in groups.
- > By bringing more books.
- > I wouldn't study here it is noisy and not so much space.
- > Silent study area.
- > Not been to library much yet.
- > No suggestion.
- > More quiet spaces available.
- > Maybe having something to occupy kids.
- > Sun on level 2 gets very hot at the back at times. at times noise level can be disturbing on level 2 due to college students form high school being loud.
- > More help from staff how to work around the United library catalogue.
- > Support for researching Journal articles and e-books (online) use.
- > Get more copies of new release books to loan outside the library.
- > Improve the ventilation in the study room specially [room] 5.
- ➤ We need more spaces for studying, perhaps a safer campus would help as there are always unfriendly characters downstairs in the public library and the front space. Usually these characters have come straight from the courts and many students have spoken about feeling unsafe on the Waitakere campus and that they would never stay late to study at the library because of their concern for their safety. This makes it challenging as you can only get the medical imaging text books and science texts from the Waitaere Campus.
- > The temperature and airflow.
- > I think a few more individual study tables down the new end are needed. There is room and two doesn't seem enough.
- > I think more books need to be made accessible online.
- > Water fountain! That'd be super helpful



- > Nothing as far as I'm concerned.
- It would be better if some course books will have more copy or electronic copy at library.
- > Perhaps if the toilets were easier to access and of better quality. I once went on the second floor one and it wasn't nice or clean.
- Only United students, plus have quiet areas, nurses are noisy.
- > 4 hours borrowing for labtop not enough. Need more studying rooms. Need a room for children.
- > No need to change a thing.
- > Journal articles are often unavailable with broken links. More hard copy books.
- It gets a little concerning about safety when you get a police man who comes and sits down with you and your mate to discuss whether we have seen any dogey behaviour that may be associated with drug dealing literally on the study level that we were on. Wold just prefer to make the Uni students level a lot more private. Just would feel a lot safer.
- Laptop loans should be extended.
- > Enable to change the temperature in the study rooms as they're extremely hot and stuffy.
- > Utility's for students e.g water cooler.
- ➤ I like to read in the Library & Issue books, so more comfortable seating area e.g; Couches, Bean Bags, Pillows, instead of chair and table.
- > More desk space and rooms available.
- > Not sure at this stage.
- I would suggest the study rooms availability to be increased.
- > I would like longer opening hours.
- > I think they have done a great job, including the staff are more friendlier and more equipped with knowledge to help students now than before.
- Keep maintaining clean facilities.
- Cleaner areas. More books on level 3.
- Sometimes too noisy.
- More study spaces. With new layout there is a lot less space to study.



- > I seem to struggle to get recommended books when I need to, and the Library seems to have limited time loans on these books, which does not serve my purpose as I need time to read these books. Lack of resources (books) is concerning for me. Computers are very slow to start when I need it quickly.
- Noisy year 1 students.
- > Allocated days for social practice students.
- > Earlier open hours during the week. And early hours for the weekend.
- > More desktop to be in place for student use is needed.
- > Would be better if only one person or two people are allowed to use study rooms as most of the time there's hardly any space outside to study and it's quite noisy as well especially during exam period. It would be nice if we could get more group study rooms.
- > Unsure as last year at Unitec, will be interested to see how the group meeting rooms will work for students. Pleased to see last computer I used was clean previously some computer and keyboards looked very unhygienic, maybe hand sanitizer could be supplied.
- > More study room and noise control.
- > The staff could actually smile and be helpful everything seems such a big inconvenience to them. I am a 43 year old student who even feels inferior because of their facial expressions not cool at all.
- Less noise
- > Have water tea and coffee available.
- Be flexible with opening and closing hours etc.
- > Please clean the computers, they are so dirty.
- > Be more specific and clear in APA referencing like Massey university.
- > I have had discussions with other students with having a water cooler or cooling system in the library as all of of us students drink a lot of water...everyone like to use the one down on level one in the United building.



- > Maybe the period of time that we are able to get a Unitec book out could be extended.
- > I don't ask for much personally. I am happy with the improvement of the facility.
- More laptops on loan.
- > Extend their opening hours during the week and weekend to reflect the Mt Albert main campus library.
- Although I get only one year to go for my study in Waitakere campus. I do hope Unitec Waitakere library can get more resources. For example, I tried to use the some databases like New Zealand Medical Journal two weeks ago, and I found that actually we have some more resources. I am happy to find out that. However, when I tried to login the government database, the username and password seemed not work. I am not sure what is going on. and I foud that most of the "secret" databases are for nursing student. I am from social practice department. Hope in the future, when new students come, they can get fully tutorial or orientation about the resources here.
- Tea room
- ➤ Honestly, It's too loud in here all the time. There are plenty of common spaces on the Waitakere campus, and not enough silent places. It's very hard to study in the library, or write assignments because people are ALWAYS talking in here. It's currently exam week, there are signs on all the desks, and people are still talking. The librarians don't seem to enforce quiet at all. It's really frustrating and distracting for people who are here to work on their own and try make some actual head-way. The top floor of the library needs to be made into a silent space and that needs to enforced, it's the only place I can go to get any peace but it's never quiet.
- > More space.
- > Study space and accessibility.
- > I like the library the way it is now.
- If there are late nights in the weekends.
- > Have more copies of important course books.
- > By creating more spaces available for study with more privacy to reduce the noise factor, because is really disappointing there are not rules to be follow.