

Research Commons info pack

What is the Research Commons?

The Research Commons can be found in the grade 2 listed Western Bank library. With floor to ceiling windows providing ample natural light, modern soft seating and high ceilings, it provides a visually striking, neutral space for collaborative discussion. When not in use for events, the Research Commons is an open study space and is well used by students for study and collaboration.



What kind of events can be hosted in the Research Commons?

The Research Commons is an interdisciplinary, open space ideal for collaborative discussion and research discussions for groups of between 10 and 40. It is designed to facilitate creative working in a neutral space, and can be used for hosting research related events.



While events are in progress, students will be informed about the details of the event via signage outside the room, in order to help surface research taking place in the University of Sheffield to the student population. Events that have been successfully held here in the past have included research cluster group meetings, reading groups, open discussion events, science club discussion groups and focus groups.

The Research Commons is not suitable as a space for standard team meetings, for teaching, or for more formal presentation style events. It is also not a suitable space for 1-1 interviews or small group meetings.

What furniture is available?

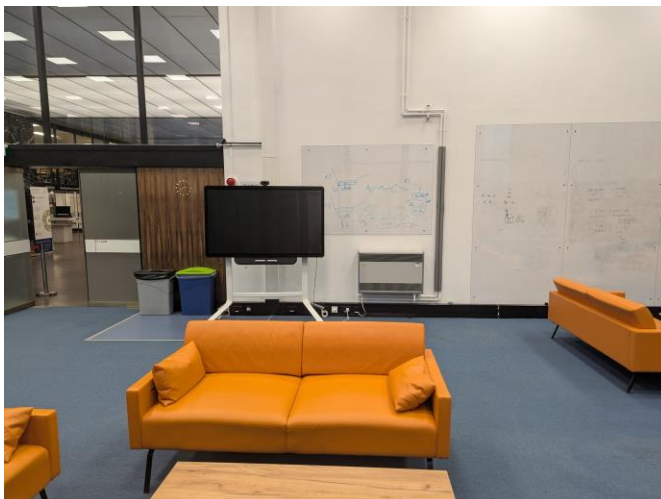
The Research Commons is furnished with soft sofas, seats and low coffee tables, alongside a 'break-out pod' with a desk. The coffee tables and soft seating are movable as required, but we do ask that any furniture is returned to its original position at the end of any event (please see floorplan at the end of this document). **Please do not move the pod** as this is very heavy and may be damaged.



No additional seating or desks are available, so please be sure that the furniture in the space is suitable for your event before booking. However, if you are hoping to provide catering for your event, please let us know in advance and we can provide folding tables for this. If you do provide catering, please ensure that all left over items are either thrown away or returned to the catering tables for collection.

What other facilities are available?

The room contains large whiteboards and there is also a 65" inch , movable touch screen display that can be attached to laptops and used for presentations, screening videos or video calls. There are no amplification or recording systems available.



When can I book the Research Commons?

The Research Commons is available to book up to 6 months in advance during [Western Bank Library's opening hours](#) with a minimum of 1 week's notice, however we would appreciate as much advance notice as possible. The Research Commons is not available to book during University Exam periods (usually end of Jan - beginning of Feb and May - beginning of June).

If you would like to see for yourself if the Research Commons would be suitable for your event please feel free to visit Western Bank library during the building's [normal opening hours](#). If you have any questions not covered by this guide, please email Library@sheffield.ac.uk

Floor plan:

