

# Exercise Week 1: Study Room Preferences at UvA Science Park

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## 1 Research Question

We are embarking on a new chapter in our academic journey to explore and acquire knowledge. Study rooms are critical spaces for learning. The University of Amsterdam offers various study rooms, each with unique features. This research aims to collect data from students to identify their preferences for study room characteristics. Using these preferences, we will rank the best study rooms for the following students at the Science Park Campus.

**Research Question:** What are the best study rooms at the University of Amsterdam's Science Park Campus, based on student preferences and needs?

## 2 Data Collection

To address our research question, we will employ two data collection methods:

- Collecting data on available study rooms and their specific features.
- Gathering information on student preferences for study room characteristics.

### 2.1 Study Room Data

To identify study rooms available to UvA students, we used the University of Amsterdam's website (<https://uba.uva.nl/en/visiting-and-studying/study-spaces/study-spaces.html>), which provides detailed information about study spaces near UvA campuses.

**Note; The page can have some issues; it will display a little loading button. All the needed data is being displayed in the spreadsheet file.**

The following study spaces were identified:

- Library Learning Space P.C. Hoofthuis
- Library University Quarter
- Library Learning Centre (REC H)
- ..... (see spreadsheet)

The website provides insights into the features of each study space, which are recorded in our data spreadsheet. The variables include:

- Name of study space

- Address
- Opening time
- Closing time
- Travel time from Science Park Campus
- Total opening hours
- Available study space
- Peak occupancy (rush)
- Booking availability

## 2.2 Student Preferences

Using the variables above, we created a survey to capture student preferences. Students were asked to rate the following statements on a scale from 1 to 5:

1. **Not important at all**
2. **Absolutely essential**

The survey statements are:

1. The opening hours of the study places are long enough to allow me to study effectively at times that suit me. => opening time/closing time
2. The opening hours of the study places should be widely so I can study long enough. => /total opening hours
3. The study space needs to be easily available by bike or feet. => Travel time from Science Park Campus
4. It's important that there's enough space available in a study area, even though most of it isn't fully utilized. => Available study hours
5. A quiet study environment is very important to me. => Peak Occupancy (rush)
6. It is very important to me that there is an option to reserve a study room. => Booking availability

The survey was distributed via a Google Form shared in the student WhatsApp group chat. To encourage participation, we offered free cake, which we will not provide. Once responses are collected, we will calculate the average rating for each statement.

These ratings will be used to evaluate how well each study space aligns with student preferences. Based on this, the "**researchers**" at task 3 can identify which study room is the best.