

# Library Lounge: Virtual Study Sessions (VSS) -

Encapsulating the student community through the creation of an online study environment.



# Session Outline

- Origins of the Virtual Study Sessions (VSS)
- Why VSS?
- What is a VSS?
- When do they take place?
- Who attends?
- Response & Feedback
- Winning an Award – VSS case study
- Our Future Plans

# Origins

- CSGUK conference Nov 2020:
  - University of Sheffield Virtual Library Commons
    - "Come together, Write now" sessions

# Why VSS?

- Awareness of student isolation during pandemic
- Not all students able to visit the physical library
- Group study options were not available in person
- Another way for the Library staff to support students

# What is a VSS?

- Online study sessions facilitated by Library staff
- Sessions run on Zoom
- Two 2-hour sessions per week
- Introduction, break in the middle, and summing up at the end
- Students study solo and use the Zoom Chat for any queries

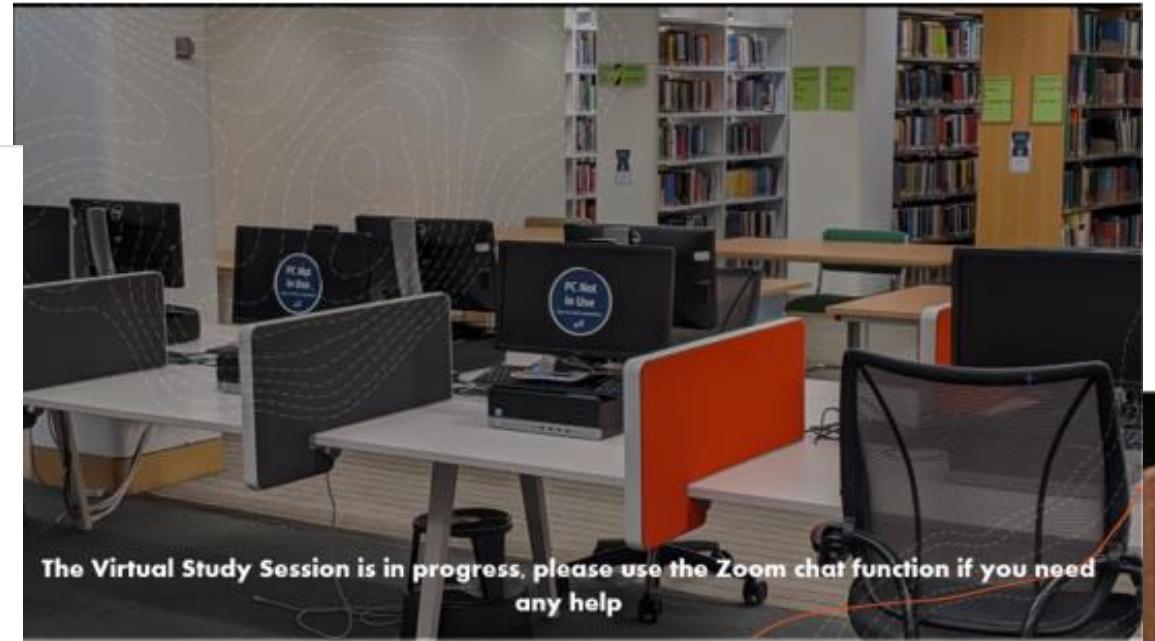
# Virtual Study Session 'Session in progress' slides...



The Library  
Lounge:  
Virtual Study  
Session is in  
progress

Please contact staff via the Zoom chat  
button

Our Study Skills team have really useful  
guidance on revision at  
<https://www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/strathclydeonlinelearning/studyskills/>



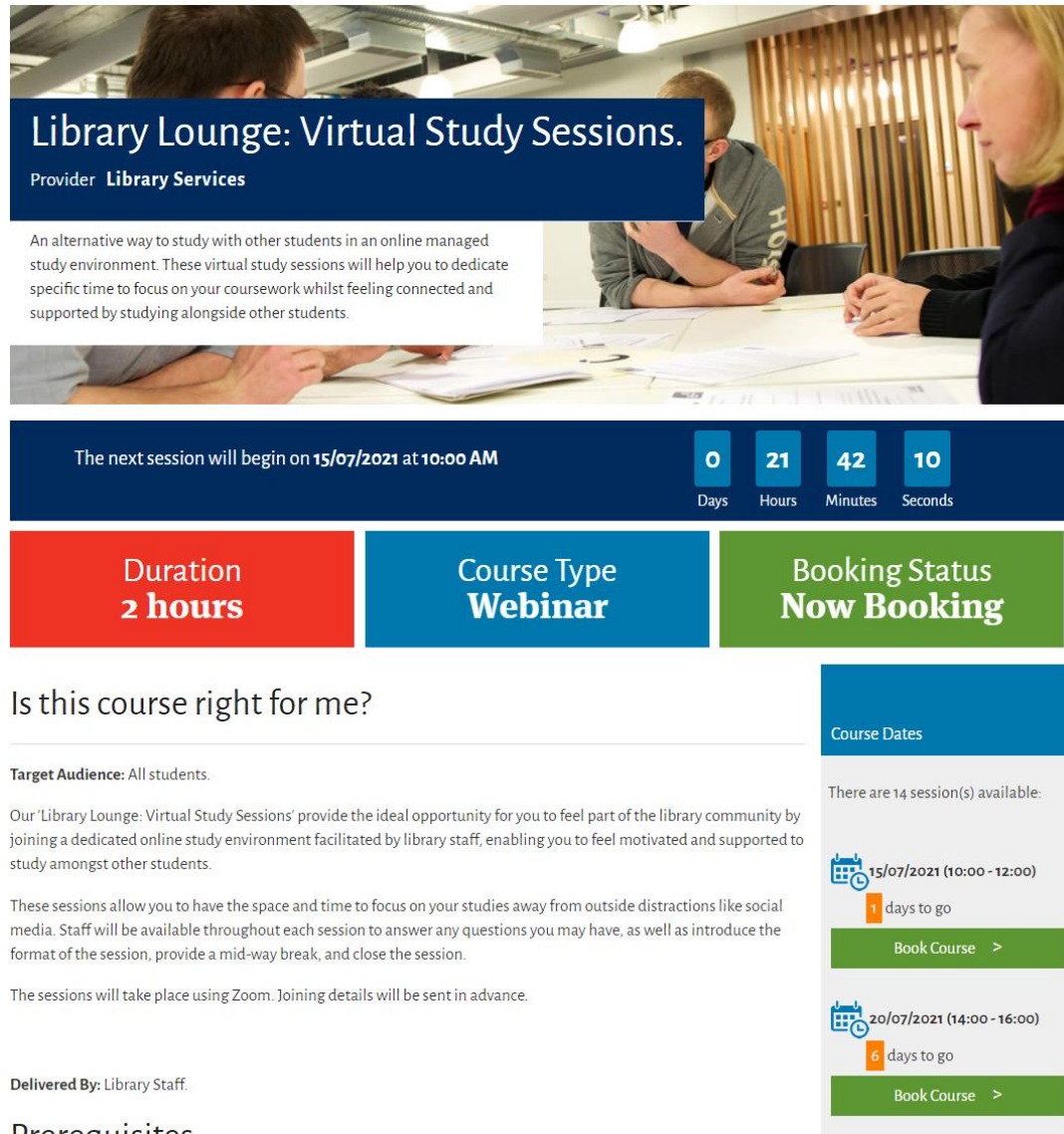
The Virtual Study Session is in progress, please use the Zoom chat function if you need  
any help



The Virtual Study  
Session is in  
progress

Please use the Zoom chat function to  
contact staff or ask any questions.

# When are VSS run?



**Library Lounge: Virtual Study Sessions.**  
Provider **Library Services**

An alternative way to study with other students in an online managed study environment. These virtual study sessions will help you to dedicate specific time to focus on your coursework whilst feeling connected and supported by studying alongside other students.

The next session will begin on **15/07/2021** at **10:00 AM**

0	21	42	10
Days	Hours	Minutes	Seconds

**Duration**  
2 hours

**Course Type**  
Webinar

**Booking Status**  
Now Booking

Is this course right for me?

**Target Audience:** All students.

Our 'Library Lounge: Virtual Study Sessions' provide the ideal opportunity for you to feel part of the library community by joining a dedicated online study environment facilitated by library staff, enabling you to feel motivated and supported to study amongst other students.

These sessions allow you to have the space and time to focus on your studies away from outside distractions like social media. Staff will be available throughout each session to answer any questions you may have, as well as introduce the format of the session, provide a mid-way break, and close the session.

The sessions will take place using Zoom. Joining details will be sent in advance.

**Delivered By:** Library Staff.

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**Course Dates**

There are 14 session(s) available:

- 15/07/2021 (10:00 - 12:00)  
1 days to go  
[Book Course >](#)
- 20/07/2021 (14:00 - 16:00)  
6 days to go  
[Book Course >](#)

- Sessions run twice a week
  - Tuesdays 2 – 4pm
  - Thursdays 10am –12pm
- Bookable via online booking system
- Same Zoom details used for each session

# **VSS Video Testimonial Volunteer 1:**

- [VSS Video Testimonial Volunteer 1: Claire](#)



# Who attends VSS?

- First sessions ran in the pre-exam diet in April 2021
- Between April – December 2021 = 528 attendees
- There was an expectation that students studying for their exams would attend BUT
  - Majority of attendees in those first sessions (and subsequently) have been PGRs and Masters students
  - The sessions allow them to connect with students at a similar stage of study/research

# Response & Feedback 1: What do our attendees say?

It is an amazing experience. It is really nice to communicate with other students and share our feelings and difficulties. The most beneficial part was that I could ask the staff immediately during my work. This support really helped me today.

I think the session is very helpful as it's not 100% formal and we are encouraged to ask any questions and get the support needed straight away.

The session is pretty good. It recreates the library feeling at home and brings a sense of community.

It really improved my efficiency, hope there could be more sessions!

This is just nice, I mean, get used to working virtually and also know people from other research groups.

Good. I feel motivated studying on zoom with other people together.

# Response & Feedback 2: What do our attendees say?

I found I lost a lot of motivation to work on my dissertation after classes/ lectures ended. I think the virtual study group is a good way to help structure my studying again and boost motivation.

I like the format which allows me to share goals at the start of the session and report on them at the end. It really helps as I've been having issues holding myself accountable recently.

Thank you for your help with finding sources for my essay. It's great to have support from others.

I really enjoyed the session. It helped motivate me to complete my tasks and I enjoyed meeting new people and hearing what they were planning to do in the Zoom.

Thank you, I found it helpful to know that others were also working at the same time, which helped keep me motivated. It would be nice to have a morning session too.

# VSS Video Testimonial Volunteer 2:

- VSS Video Testimonial Volunteer 2: Zi

# The Award

- STEPS – Strathclyde's Teaching Excellence Program – Award
- The Library submitted a Virtual Study Sessions case study in September 2021 for the "celebrating innovation and resilience at Strathclyde" Award
- VSS case study won the Administrative and Professional Services category
- Award funding will be used to develop VSS initiative further

# Future plans

- Sharing our Knowledge
- Expanding our Service

# Sharing our Knowledge

- VSS Toolkit:
  - Help other institutions create their own virtual study sessions
  - Will be openly available via Strathprints by Summer 2022
- Present VSS story at conferences
- Article for CLIPs 'Information Professional' journal

# Expanding our Service

- Design branding/marketing to help reach more participants
- Follow up on participants' suggestions
  - Breakout rooms
  - Timing the study sessions – online countdown display
  - Longer sessions
  - More sessions
  - Longer breaks
  - Music in the sessions!



# Questions and further information?

Are there any other questions or comments?  
Please get in touch if you would like further  
information:

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