

TOUR GUIDE OF THE LEARNING COMMONS

Hi! My name is Jennifer, and welcome to our online video tour of the Queen's Learning Commons. The Queen's Learning Commons, or the QLC, brings several services together under one roof for easy access by all students. We are located here in Stauffer library on the main floor.

As you can see, the first thing you'll notice when you walk in is this plasma screen which is part of the Queen's Digital Information Network. It feeds announcements from around campus, news from CBC and other information about events going on around Campus and the Kingston community.

We are now going to move to each of our five partners, beginning with the Adaptive Technology Centre.

The Adaptive Technology Centre is a part of Library Services for Students with Disabilities. They provide services to students with disabilities that enable them to reach their full academic potential. The Coordinator of the Adaptive Technology Centre is a librarian and helps students with research and other library specific needs.

Here, students with disabilities have access to specialized software & hardware (e.g. voice recognition programs, ZoomText & Inspiration, as well as ergonomic mice & keyboards). The Adaptive Technology Centre also provides print alternative formats for students with print disabilities such as Braille, e-text, books on tape or CD (known as Daisy) or Word documents for adaptive software. There are also private study rooms available with the same specialized equipment as the lab.

Back outside, you'll find the Seminar room next door. All of our partners offer great workshops here. This space allows for interactive learning. The tables contain laptops that are used for students in hands-on instruction. It's great space for workshops.

Just outside the seminar room you'll find the information desk where various partner services are offered. This part of the desk belongs to IT Services. The desk is a laptop drop-off where the staff are able to take care of basic problems such as viruses or software issues. The IT staff also help with other matters such as QCARD, WebCT, Microsoft Office tools, NetIDs, etc. There is a 2nd level help desk on the lower level of Stauffer for desktops and more complex laptop issues. You can also make all your IT purchases at the Campus Computer Store in Depuis Hall with Queen's Only Specials!

To the left you'll notice the raised portion of the desk, marked information. This is home to the QLC Student Assistants, like myself, wearing the black t-shirts. Our job is to help with basic and facilitative questions. We try to help you any way we can. We're here almost all the time to answer your questions and refer you to other services if necessary. Don't be shy to ask us if you have a question.

At the back of the desk you'll see the area that is shared by the Writing Centre, Learning Strategies Development and Career Services for evening drop-in sessions.

The last part of the desk I'll point out is the Library Reference Help. Here Reference Librarians offer personal research assistance to students and members of the Queen's community without appointment.

The Queen's Library is our third partner on our tour. There are six libraries on campus. Stauffer library is the Humanities and Social Sciences Library. As I mentioned earlier, the main floor of Stauffer is known as the Learning Commons; the library is on all floors of the building. The library offers such services and resources as:

- Books, Journals, Reference, Reserves, Newspapers, Databases and other Online Resources;
- Interlibrary loans, photocopiers and printers and many, many computers!

There are different areas to suit your study preferences whether for a group setting or for silent individual study. Now take a moment to look around. Note the variety of seating; we've got traditional tables, big comfy leather chairs and diner-style booths. With tons of computers for your convenience there's something for everyone! This space is most often noticed for the sky-light and all the sunshine.

Our next partner is Learning Strategies. They offer three main services:

- First, **workshops** such as time management, procrastination, learning styles, or adjusting to university life are a great way to get a head start.
- Secondly, they offer **Peer Mentoring** - upper year students who have been trained to teach important academic survival skills to other students through a mentoring process.
- Lastly, Learning Strategies offers **One-on-one Professional Consultations** with a Learning Strategist. Appointments can be made by signing up on the white board. These meetings are great for specific needs such as note-taking, reading texts, preparing for exams, time management.

Moving a little farther, to the back of the library is our last Learning Commons Partner, the Writing Centre. They also offer three main services:

- **Workshops** are offered for general matters such as such as time management, procrastination, learning styles, or "Writing your First University Essay," or "Avoiding Plagiarism" as well as subject specific workshops such as Sociology or Biology.
- The Writing Centre also offers **Credit Courses** such as Effective Writing, or Writing in the Community are great courses for English majors or those who enjoy and want to perfect the art of writing.
- Finally, a very popular service with the students are the **Writing Tutorials** these are one-on-one appointments to point out grammatical or stylistic weaknesses – they do not proofread your essay. These fill up quickly and students are encouraged to call and book appointments early.

In front of the Writing Centre is the Speaker's Corner. Normally, it is set up for quiet reading, taking advantage of the open and bright space. We do however convert this space for presentations. For example each year we host *Inquiry at Queen's*, we set up a data projector and screen, speakers and a microphone at a podium and chairs to allow undergraduates to present research projects they have been working on.

Obviously, there are a lot of services offered in the Learning Commons. We would like to emphasize that if you need help, please feel free to come to the Information Desk. We will be more than happy to direct you to the appropriate services. We are here to help you with any question you might have.

You may also consult the Learning Commons website: www.queensu.ca/qlc for more information, or to register for any of our workshops offered by the Learning Commons partners.

Thanks for joining us on our virtual online tour. We hope you enjoy the Queen's Learning Commons.