

Bucks County Free Library

Management

STUDY ROOM POLICY

DRAFT 03072025

Policy Statement

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The Bucks County Free Library (BCFL) provides study rooms for individual or small group study, interviews, small group meetings, or video/phone call.

This policy applies to all rooms in BCFL facilities that have been designated by the library as study rooms. While most study rooms are available for normal use, there is one designated quiet study room at each location.

The needs of the library take precedence over group or individual use of study rooms. BCFL reserves the right to schedule study rooms for library purposes as needed on a case-by-case basis, rather than opening study rooms to the public.

Groups and individuals may not use study rooms to conduct any activity or event that is open or advertised to members of the general public. Use of study rooms is limited to internal purposes of individuals and groups.

Study rooms may not be used for purely social purposes or to conduct business, such as group or one-on-one client meetings. No organization, group, or individual using a study room may charge for admission, registration, or tuition; solicit donations or conduct fundraising; sell or advertise any services or products; distribute any material that promotes future paid instruction, services, or products; or collect any information from participants to be used for commercial purposes or fundraising.

Study rooms may not be scheduled or used for any activity that is illegal, unsafe, or interferes with the functioning of the library.

The maximum booking capacity for each room as determined by the Bucks County Free Library must be observed at all times.

The library reserves the right to deny applications or withdraw permission for study room use from individuals and groups that fail to comply with library policies and regulations, including misrepresentation or falsification of any item related to request for use.

Regulations

Quiet Study Rooms

Quiet study rooms are a place for silent study and concentration and can accommodate more than one person at a time.

Reservations are not required and there is no time limit for use of the library's designated quiet study rooms.

Quiet study rooms are available only on a walk-in basis and remain unlocked throughout open hours of the library.

Individuals using quiet study rooms may not conduct any activity that hinders others from using the room for the intended purpose of quiet study:

- Cell phones must be turned off or set to vibrate. Use of electronic equipment, such as laptop computers or handheld devices is allowed, but audio is prohibited.
- Conversations are not allowed except when library staff needs to communicate with individuals using the room.
- Non-alcoholic beverages are permitted in quiet study rooms. Food is not permitted.

Study Rooms

Smaller groups are permitted to meet in public areas of the library as long as their activities do not disturb others. Study Rooms are available so individuals or small groups may work independently or collaborate with others on library-related activities such as studying, learning, research, or reading. Other acceptable use includes not-for-profit tutoring, small group meetings, and personal interviews or video/phone call. Study Rooms may not be used for purely social purposes or to conduct business, such as group or one-on-one client meetings. An individual or group interested in using a Study Room must reserve the room as outlined in these regulations.

Study Rooms are available for public use beginning 10 minutes after the library opens and must be vacated 15 minutes before the library closes. When a Study Room is not in use, it will be closed and locked.

Doors to Study Rooms may be closed, but not locked, during use. Lights must stay on at all times. Study rooms are equipped with tables and chairs. Participants may not borrow equipment or furniture from other parts of the library for use in study rooms.

Food and nonalcoholic beverages are permitted. Food preparation and use of cooking equipment are prohibited. Hazardous materials, such as paints, solvents, and explosives are prohibited.

Personal belongings may not be left unattended in Study Rooms. If users vacate a room for more than 10 minutes but leave belongings in the room, the items will be removed and the room will be made available to other users.

Reserving a Study Room

Study Rooms may be reserved by any Library user age 13 and older who possesses a BCFL library card in good standing, with less than \$20 of fines or fees attached to the card. Groups that include library user(s) 12 years old and younger must be accompanied by a minimum of two adults (defined as age 18 or older) at all times during the use and one of the adults must be the person reserving the room.

In the case of group use, reservation privileges apply to a group as a whole and not to individual participants. The library will deny advance reservation privileges to individuals/groups that try to exceed limits using workarounds, such as having different members book for the same group or changing the name of the individual/group for different applications in the same time frame.

Reservations: Reservations for Study Rooms may be made using the library's online booking system. The library does not accept reservations over the phone.

An individual/group may reserve a two-hour time slot in a study room four times per month beginning 30 days in advance up to two hours before the desired meeting time. Additional time up to one hour will be allowed the day of the reservation if no one is waiting to use the room.

Reservations will be held for 15 minutes before the room is released to another that wants to use the Study Room on a walk-in basis.

Meeting Room Fee Schedule

The Library waives meeting room fees only as follows:

- Fees are waived for Friends of the Library groups, Bucks County departments, and open forums hosted by state and federal government departments or officials, such as town hall meetings and public hearings.
- Fees are waived for nationally recognized chapters of veterans' organizations in recognition and appreciation of their sacrifices while serving in the military and defending our country. This is our small way of saying "Thank you for serving."

With no exceptions, quiet study rooms will not be made available to the public for group use.

Regular study rooms are closed and locked when not in use and they are open for public access only when reserved for use.

Branch	Seating Capacity	Use	Bookable/ Not Bookable	Hourly Rate
Bensalem Quiet Study		Quiet Study	Not Bookable Walk-in	Free
Bensalem Study 1	12	Study	Bookable, 30 days in advance	Free
Bensalem Study 2	12	Study	Bookable, 30 days in advance	Free
Bensalem Large Meeting Room	60	Meetings	Bookable	\$35
Doylestown Study	18	Study	Bookable, 30 days in advance	Free
Doylestown Large Meeting Room (Pearl Buck Room)	60	Meetings	Bookable	\$35
Langhorne Quiet Study		Study	Not Bookable Walk-in	Free
Langhorne Study	12	Study	Bookable, 30 days in advance	Free
Langhorne Large Meeting Room	40	Meetings	Bookable	\$35

Branch	Seating Capacity	Use	Bookable/ Not Bookable	Hourly Rate
Levittown Quiet Study		Quiet Study	Not Bookable Walk-in	Free
Levittown Study 1	12	Study	Bookable, 30 days in advance	Free
Levittown Study 2	12	Study	Bookable, 30 days in advance	Free
Levittown Study 3	12	Study	Bookable, 30 days in advance	Free
Levittown Large Meeting Room	60	Meetings	Bookable	\$35

Quakertown Quiet Study		Quiet Study	Not Bookable, Walk-in	Free
Quakertown Study 1	12	Study	Bookable, 30 days in advance	Free
Quakertown Study 2	12	Study	Bookable, 30 days in advance	Free
Quakertown Study 3	12	Study	Bookable, 30 days in advance	Free
Quakertown Study 4	12	Study	Bookable, 30 days in advance	Free
Quakertown Large Meeting Room	80	Meetings	Bookable	\$35
Quakertown Large Meeting Room Off Hours Use	80	Meetings	Bookable, by borough	\$100 plus hourly custodial rate

Yardley Quiet Study (Disbrow)		Quiet Study	Not Bookable Walk-in	Free
Yardley-Makefield Study 1	12	Study	Bookable, 30 days in advance	Free
Yardley-Makefield Study 2	12	Study	Bookable, 30 days in advance	Free
Yardley-Makefield Study 3	12	Study	Bookable, 30 days in advance	Free
Yardley-Makefield Large Meeting Room	60	Meetings	Bookable	\$35

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