

## The Evaluation of the Study and Educational Environments 2013

22 % of the full time students at the University of Southern Denmark filled in the questionnaire from this year's Evaluation of the Study and Educational Environments. A report containing recommendations for improvement of the study and educational environments based on the analyses of the students' responses has now been made. In the following section you will be able to read the main conclusions and recommendations from this year's Evaluation of the Study and Educational Environments. The full report is only available in Danish, but questions regarding the evaluation and/or the report can be sent to [arbejdsmiljoe@sdu.dk](mailto:arbejdsmiljoe@sdu.dk).

### The overall picture

First it is important to mention that the students' overall evaluation of the study and educational environments has been relatively high in both 2004, 2007, and 2010 with an average score on a scale from 0-10 on 6,6, 6,5, and 6,5 respectively. Therefore, it is positive that this year's evaluation also resulted in a relatively high overall average score, which was 6,8. When separating the four environments, the physical, the aesthetic, the psychological, and the virtual, it shows that the environment the students are least satisfied with is the aesthetic study and educational environment.

Furthermore, in this year's evaluation, the students were asked to list the three factors they consider the most important for a good study and educational environment. Most students find the teaching the most important determinant, as most students mentioned this as their first or second priority. Besides, social life and social activities, as well as teaching facilities and rooms were given a high priority by the students.

### Main recommendations

The following recommendations, which have been made on the basis of the analyses of the students' responses, should be given top priority:

- An improvement of the aesthetics in the teaching and lecture rooms. These are criticised because they are seen as being too dark and lack colour. Improving this is important because a lot of students have outlined how poor aesthetics also result in a poor learning environment.
- An effort to fight loneliness. One fifth of the students at the University of Southern Denmark feel lonely. The report's analyses have shown that loneliness is connected with the lack of study groups, lack of contact between students, as well as a lack of a good selection of academic and social activities. An improvement of these things is therefore needed.
- An improvement of the furnishings/layout and indoor climate of the teaching rooms, as 20 % of the students find these conditions inferior.

Besides the above main recommendations, the conclusions and recommendations of this year's Evaluation of the Study and Educational Environments are as follows:

## **The physical environment**

Overall the evaluation of the physical environment can be seen as positive. Especially, the 'Alsiön' building in Sønderborg was given very good evaluations in most areas by the students.

The two areas, which were given the worst critique, were the computer rooms and the car parking. The former was criticised for being unfashionable and having a poor indoor climate, and the latter was especially criticised due to the lack of parking space on several of the campuses.

20 % of the students find the teaching and lecture rooms of a poor standard. This is particularly challenging because this is the students top priority when they evaluate the study and educational environments.

Furthermore, it is important to mention that a large group of the students do not know how to act if dangerous situations occur linked to workshop and laboratory work.

## **The aesthetic environment**

As mentioned above, the aesthetic environment is the environment the students at the University of Denmark are least satisfied with.

Some of the main aspects the students criticise are that the campuses are boring, dark and lack colour. Especially Niels Bohrs Alle and Kolding are being criticised for their aesthetic study and teaching environment, which hopefully will change when the new buildings come into use.

## **The psychological environment**

Firstly, it is worth mentioning that 87 % of the students at the University of Southern Denmark are happy studying here.

Although most of the students are happy, there are also students experiencing bullying, offensive behaviour, or violence, which must be seen as unacceptable. Likewise, it must be seen as problematic that 20 % of the students feel lonely. Furthermore, this year's evaluation has shown that 46 % experience stress in connection with the examination periods, while 19 % experience it in their everyday life.

Approximately half of the students do not think that there is a good selection of academic and social activities. This is particularly problematic seen in the light of the fact that the students prioritise academic and social activities when they evaluate the study and educational environments.

## **The virtual environment**

The students' overall evaluation of the virtual study and educational environment is above average, and they have predominantly given a positive response regarding IT-help at the digital examinations.

Regardless of this, there were also some areas that were criticised by the students. This includes the print and copy facilities. Numerous students are unsatisfied by the number of printers available, and several students mention that it is difficult to connect one's own computer to the university's printers. Moreover, various students complain about the web information about their courses, which is often outdated. Finally, only one third of the students find the web information regarding social activities satisfactory.