

The Library and Information Service provides a free video conferencing service in the Stellenbosch University Library Research Commons. This service is made available to allow postgraduate students and researchers to collaborate across institutional and continental boundaries. Any student or researcher who, for the purposes of advancing research and collaboration, needs to connect virtually with peers at other organizations, can apply to use the video conferencing unit. The unit is located in Seminar Room 2 of the Research Commons and makes provision for seating ten delegates.

### Bookings

Contact the Research Commons staff: Tel. 021 808 2125 / 2623

### Equipment available

The Research Commons uses the Polycom HDX-8000 video conferencing system which is connected to two 42" Panasonic plasma screens with built-in sound. Polycom is the world leader in video conferencing, and the system connects seamlessly with the following competitor video conferencing products on the market:

- Tandberg
- LifeSize
- Resolve
- Aethra
- Sony (latest models)

The Polycom HDX-8000 unit installed in the Research Commons only connects with external systems using the IP network. No ISDN line connections are possible, and there is currently no bridging device installed at Stellenbosch University to allow for cross-medium connections.

## **Connections**

### **Inbound:**

Inbound connections from other institutions to the Research Commons can be established using the following IP number: 146.232.122.9.

The call quality of the unit is set to default to 512Kbp/s. Call quality is mostly dependent on the latency on international Internet connections as well as the inbound and outbound capacity of the remote institution to which you are connecting.

### **Outbound:**

All you need to be able to establish a connection with a remote video conferencing unit is the IP number assigned to that unit by the hosting institution.

## **FAQ**

*Is high definition (HD) connection possible?*

The amount of bandwidth capacity available, as well as the dependency on the bandwidth allocated to remote units, does not allow us to guarantee high definition connections. At the most, standard definition video quality transfer will be possible.

*How many different people can be on one call?*

The Polycom unit in the Research Commons is a multi-point unit which allows up to three different outbound connections to be made simultaneously.

*Can I share presentations with my own laptop?*

The Research Commons video conferencing unit allows you to connect your own laptop to share a PowerPoint presentation or another application with the remote participants while being in-call.

*Can I record my video conferencing session?*

There is no recording unit and storage device connected to the unit to allow you to record your session and play it back later. This service is currently not offered by Stellenbosch University.