

SPECIFICATION REPORT

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STUDY OVERVIEW

Study has been designed to allow students to meet up with nearby peers studying similar topics to them, matching students with others to help encourage them to manage their workloads and time. The app uses GPS location services to pin users on the map and allow others to view not only where they are, but what subjects they're studying - thus allowing others to join who wish to focus on the same topics. It's a social networking site for studying! This app includes features that allow students to add friends, see the locations of their friends and peers and 'check-in' to locations themselves, view their favourite places to study and favourite people to study with, track their progress on the calendar and many more.

Study has been developed due to the rise in student pressures and stress uncovered in the Research Report for this project. With the pressure on university student services and many students not seeking the help they need, there is a gap in the iOS application market for a mobile application to tackle the rise in student stress by other methods. As students rely so much on their phones and the social networking sites within them, preferring to be constantly contactable by their friends and peers, Study will utilise this to fulfil the need of an application that allows students to arrange to meet up and study together.

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Myraid Pro *Myraid Pro Italic*
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Logo:



Colour Palette:



#31B39C



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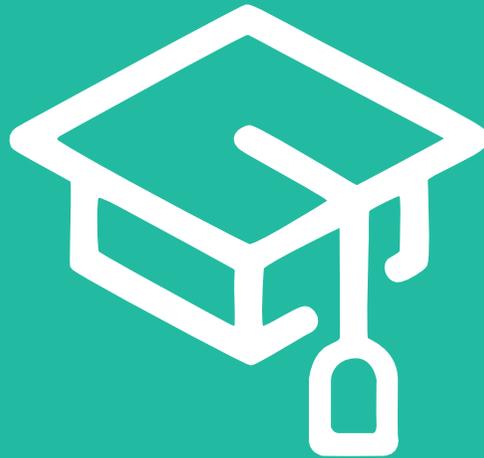
KEY SELLING POINTS

Connect to others

Study utilises location-based services to allow students to see their friends and peers around them, making it easy to meet up with others to study with close by

Adding Social to Studying

Students can add friends, create groups and share private chats with others



Navigation & Design

The navigation and design of the app has deliberately been kept simple to increase usability

Increasing Productivity

Track study progress on the calendar feature, create study groups with peers at reoccurring times and locations and track studying achievements

PROCESS MAP

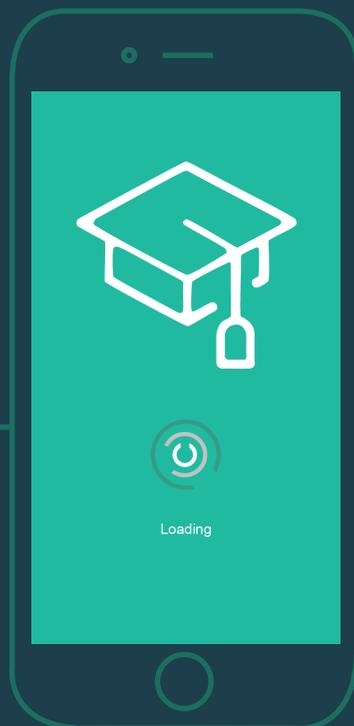
This process map shows the user's process of using Study. Once the user loads up the app, they're immediately asked to sign in or sign up. Once completed, they're taken to the homepage where they can access the app's main features.



WIREFRAMES

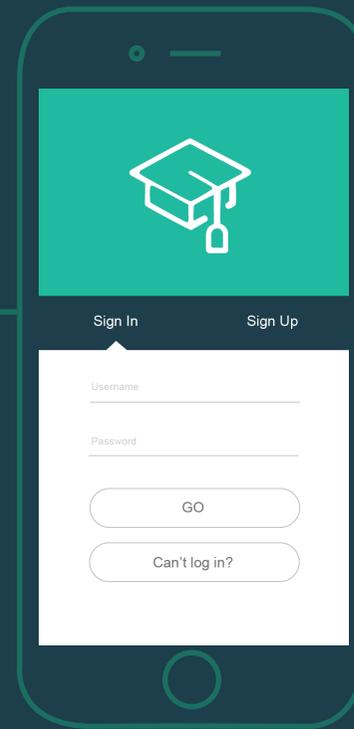


View of the app on the Apple iPhone home screen where it can be easily accessed

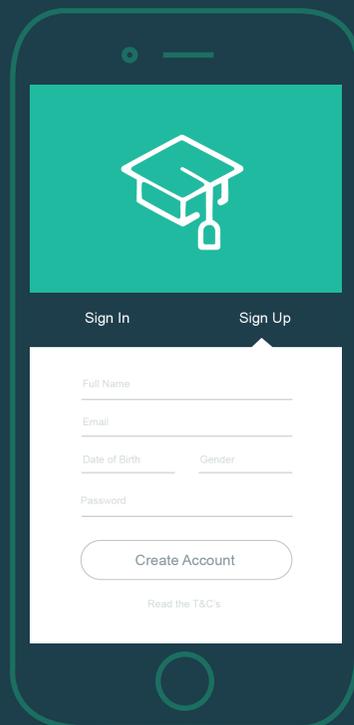


Once opened from the home screen, the loading screen loads up. Once loaded, the user has two options: sign in or sign up

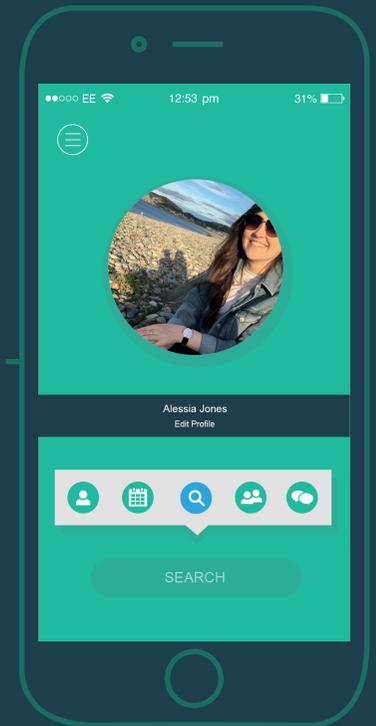
Option 1: Sign in screen



Option 2: Sign up screen



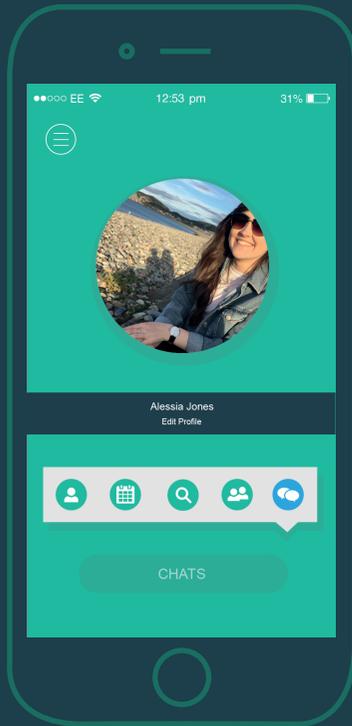
The main landing page then allows a user to easily access all the key features of this app. A user has six options from here





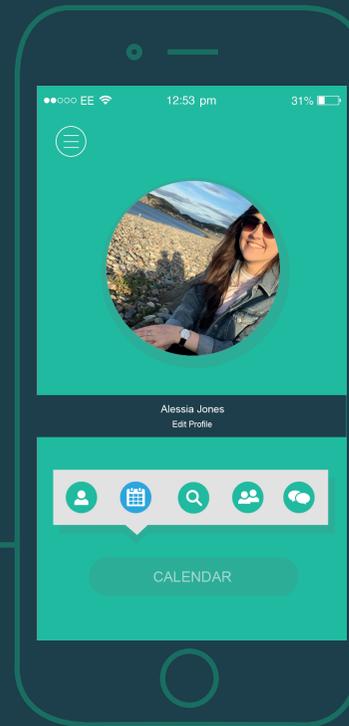
Option 5 - CHATS

Allows users to chat to each other privately or as part of a group, to organise groups and discuss subjects



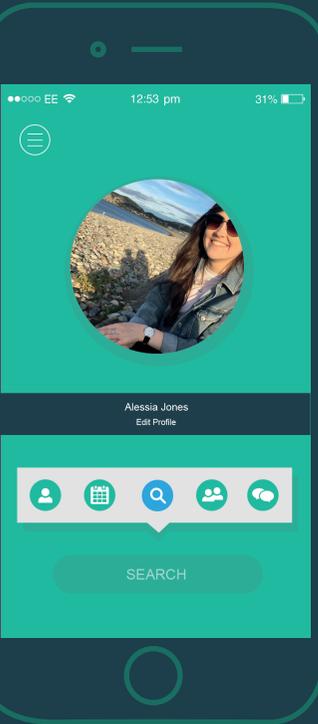
Option 2 - CALENDAR

This allows users to track study groups, create reoccurrences and view statistics on their progress



Option 4 - FAVOURITES

Shows the top locations & friends the user has recently interacted with



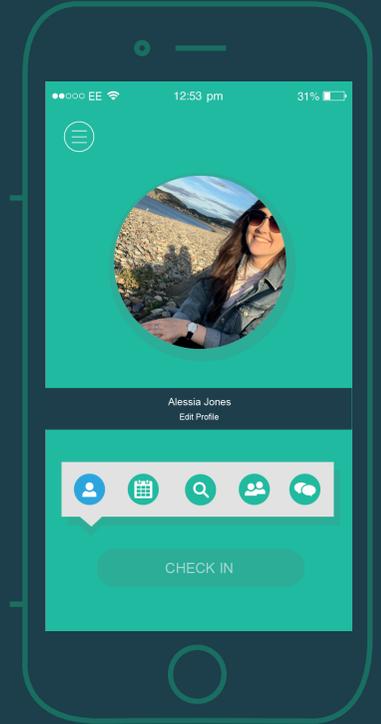
Option 3 - SEARCH

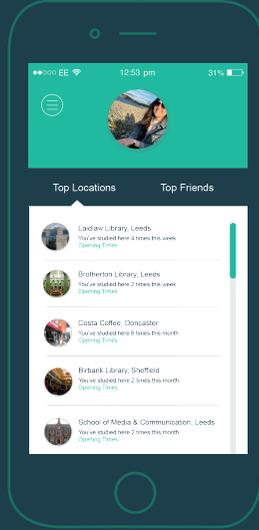
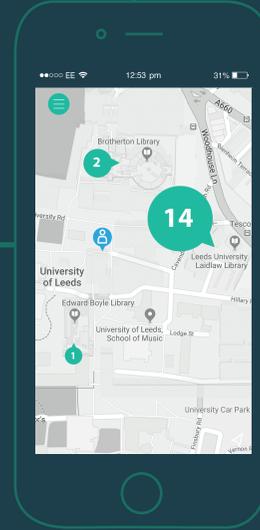
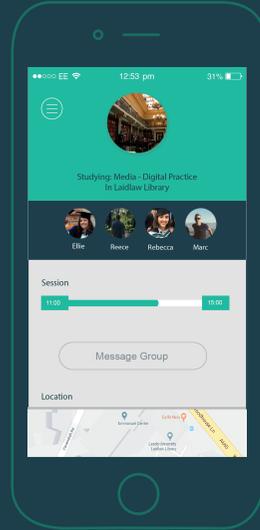
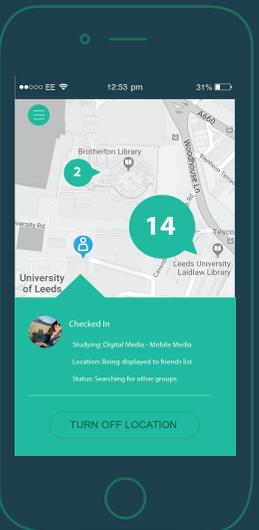
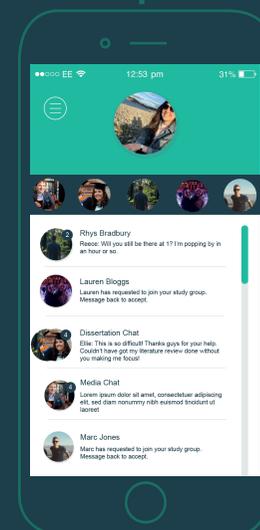
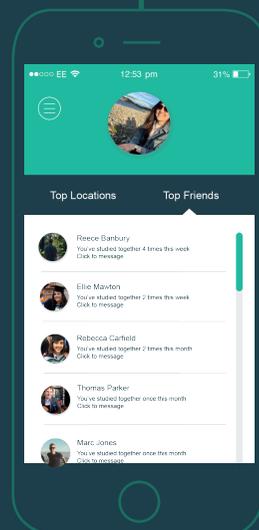
Allows users to do an open or specific search for groups in the nearby area



Option 1 - CHECK-IN

Users can 'Check-In' their current location to be featured on maps



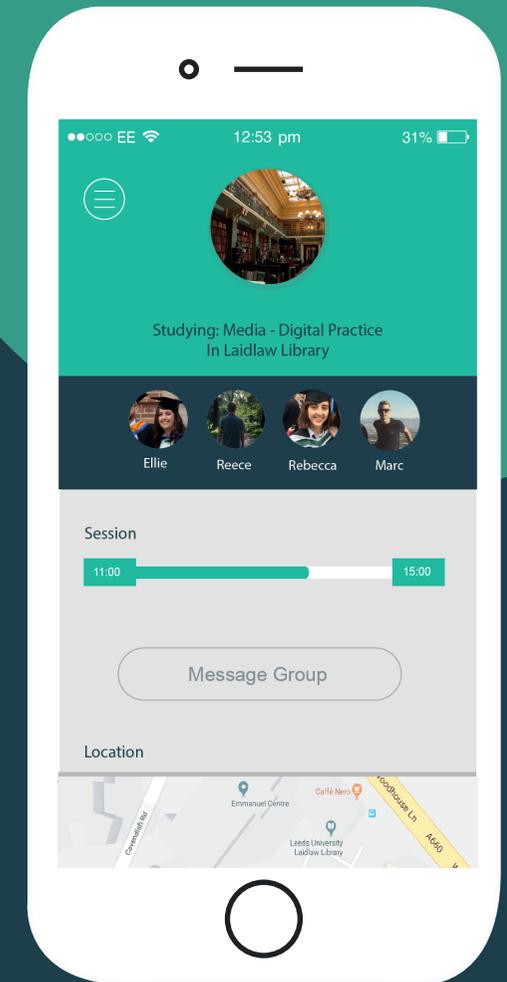
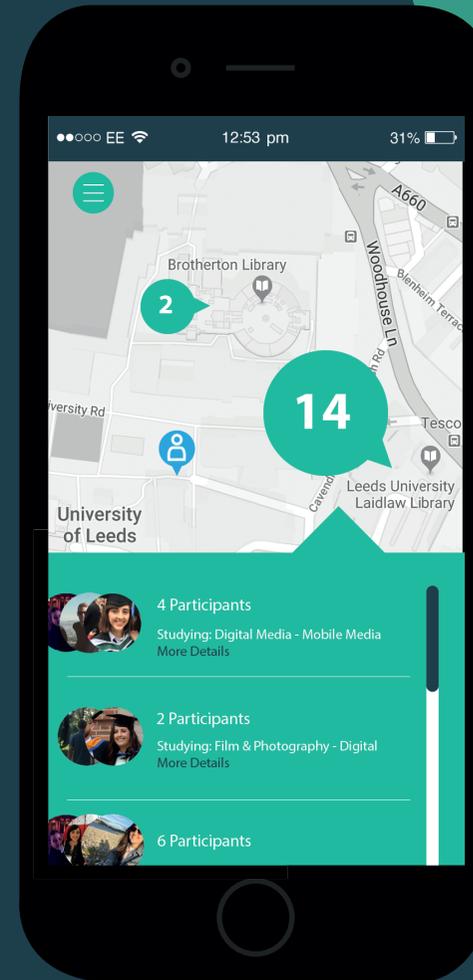
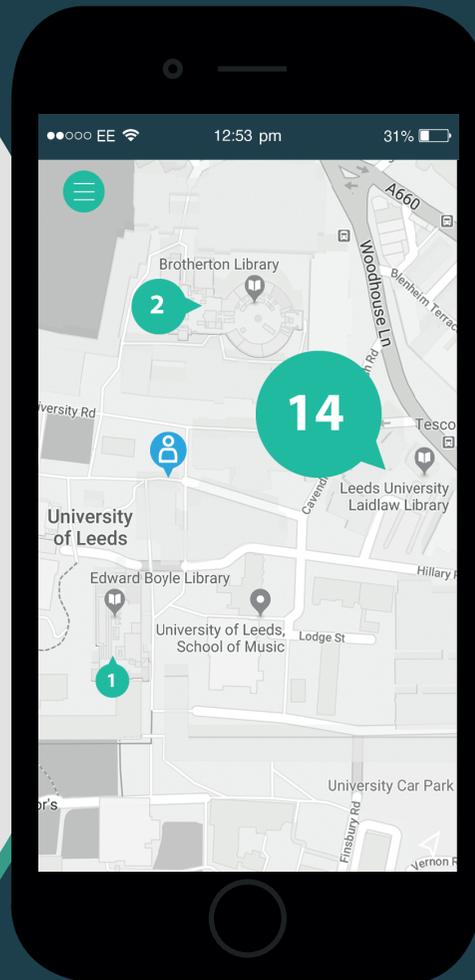


FEATURES

SEARCH

The main functionality of the app allows the user to search for study groups around them.

1. The user searches the area around them for a group.
2. They click a group that looks suitable for them (studying the same topic or full of their peers).
3. They see who is in the group, where it is and how long it will run for & message the group to join.



FEATURES

CHECK-IN

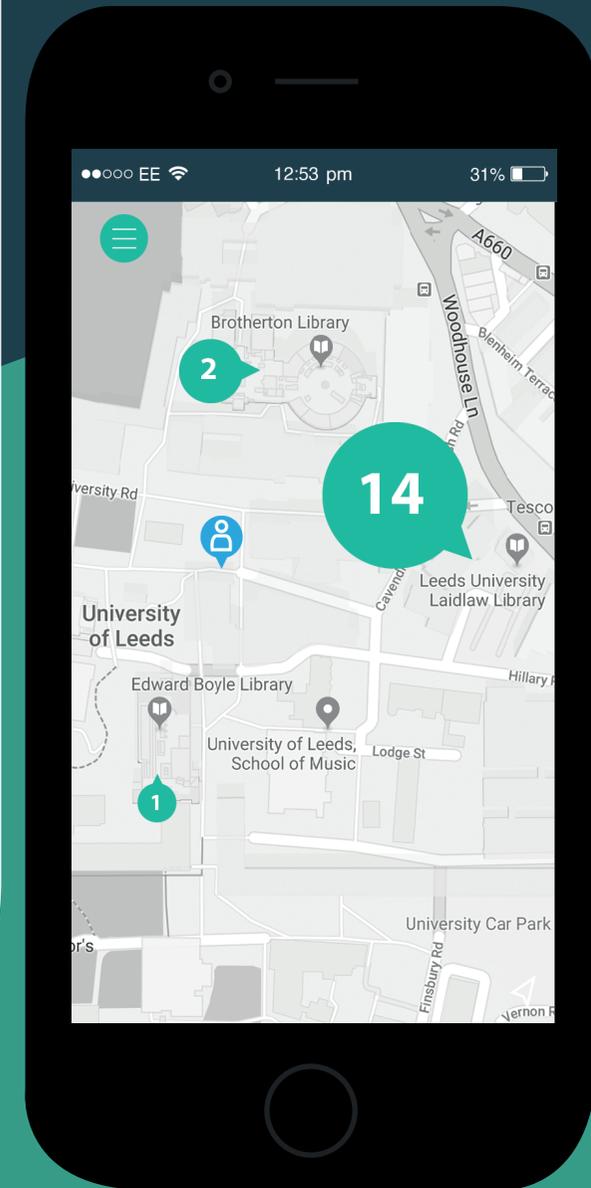
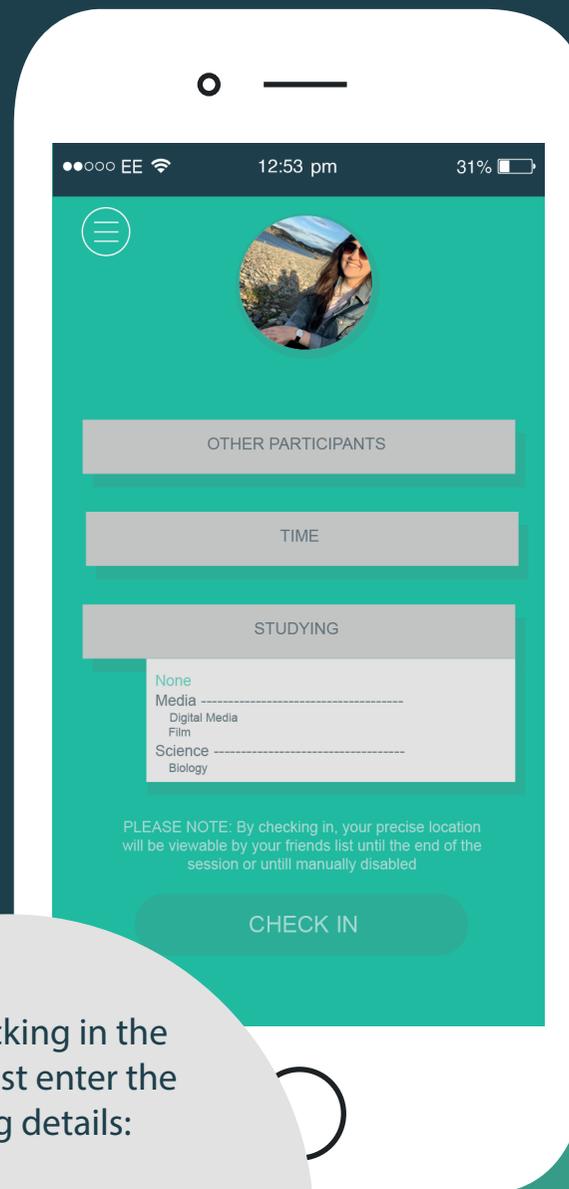
This allows the user to 'check-in' their location on the map in order to find other students to study with.

There is a disclaimer before the 'CHECK-IN' button to ensure users are fully aware that sharing their location will mean they are viewable to others in order to protect the users.

By checking in, the blue icon will then appear on the map visible to their friends list.

When checking in the student must enter the following details:

1. If they wish to add other participants to their party.
2. How long their group will be working for.
3. What specific topic they will be studying.

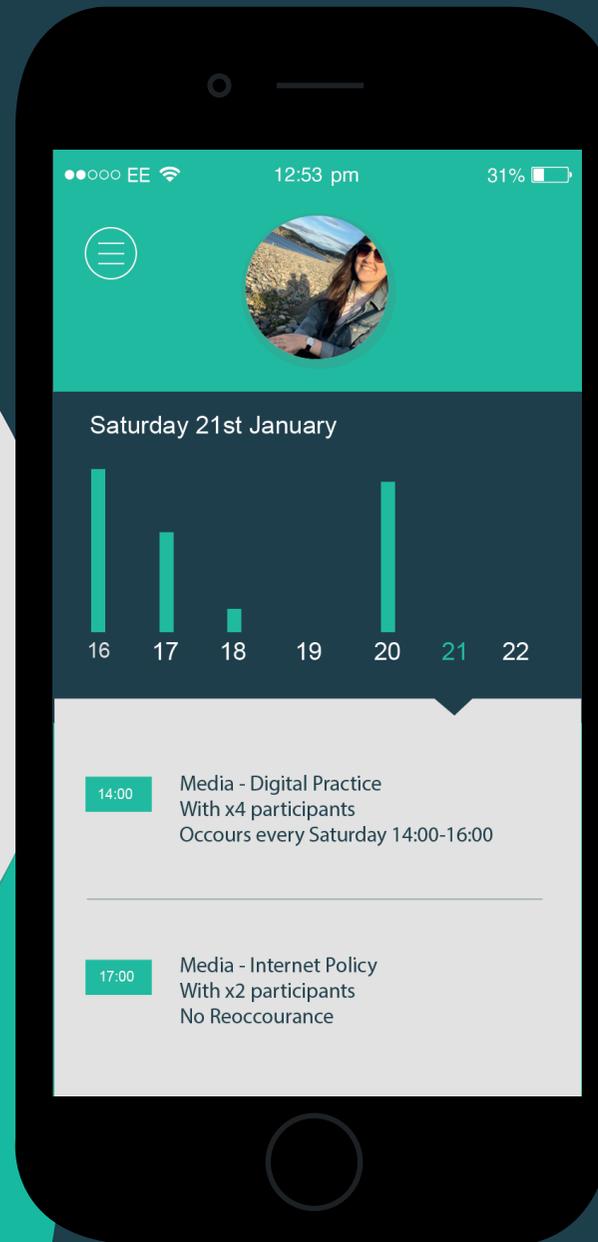


FEATURES

CALENDAR

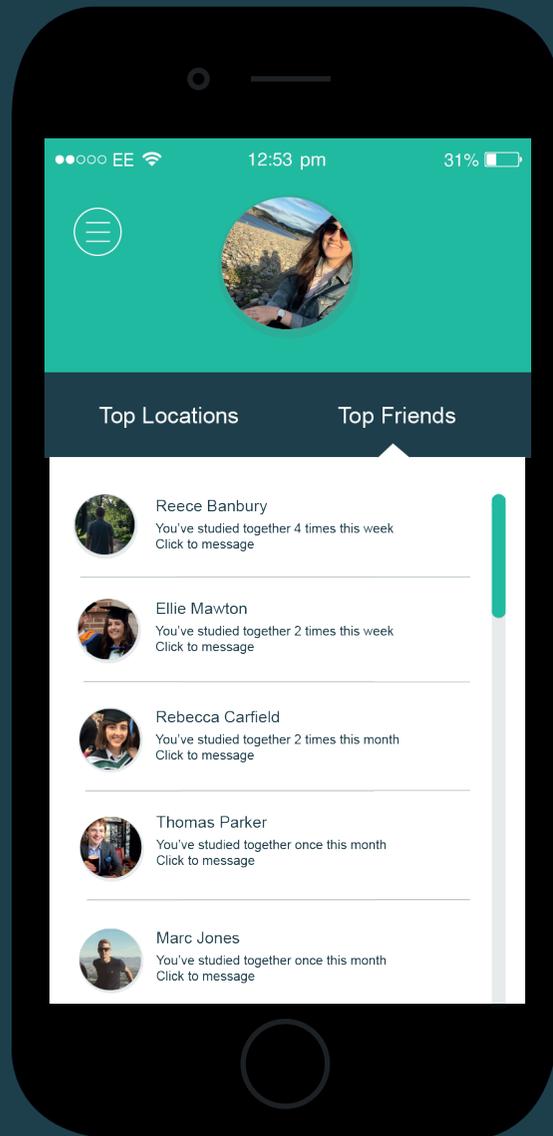
The chart shows how long the user has spent in study groups or alone that week. It states the current date and shows the current week as bar charts to track progress.

The schedule for the day allows users to see what groups are pre-arranged that day by the user. Recurrences are also listed here.



The time of the study group is listed here, along with the subject to be studied and if it is a recurrence. The user may also click on the event to see other participants that are attending.

FEATURES

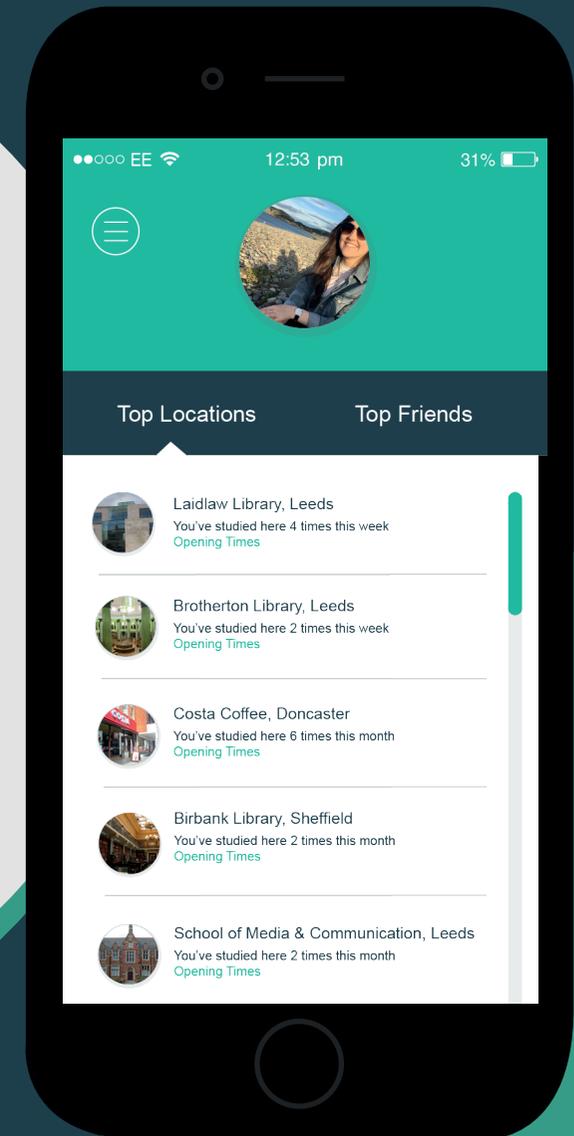


FAVOURITES

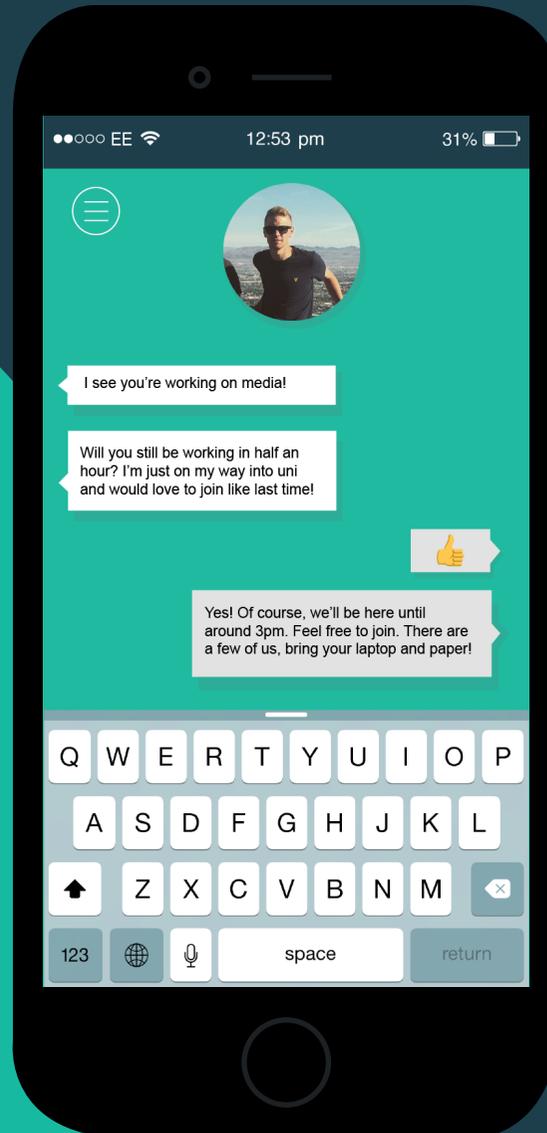
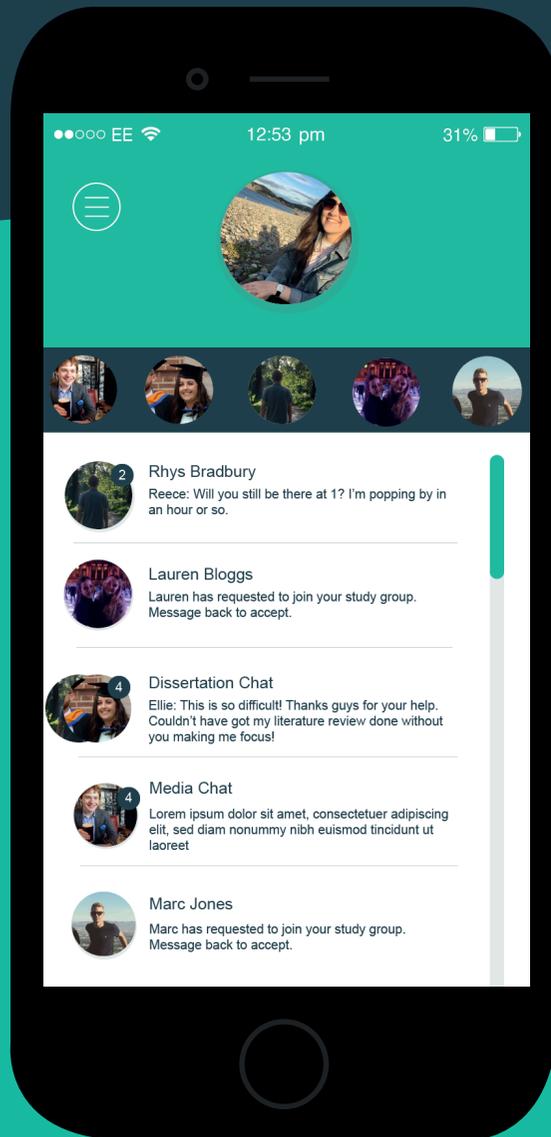
This section allows users to view their top locations and top friends.

The 'top locations' shows the most recent locations the user has studied in. By clicking the user can open the opening times and reviews for that location.

The 'top friends' shows all the recent friends the user has interacted with to encourage messaging and rearranging study groups. This is to encourage users to get back in touch and build a network with people they work productively with and is a key social aspect to this app.



FEATURES



CHATS

The chat feature allows users to chat to each other within the app without having to use separate messaging chat systems in different apps.

From the research report, it was found that more and more students are using social networking sites to discuss work and study. By adding the chat feature, the app is encouraging this behaviour and creating a space where students can have all their chats about work separate from their chats about personal affairs, helping to reduce stress in their relaxing time and increase productivity in their work time.

FEATURES

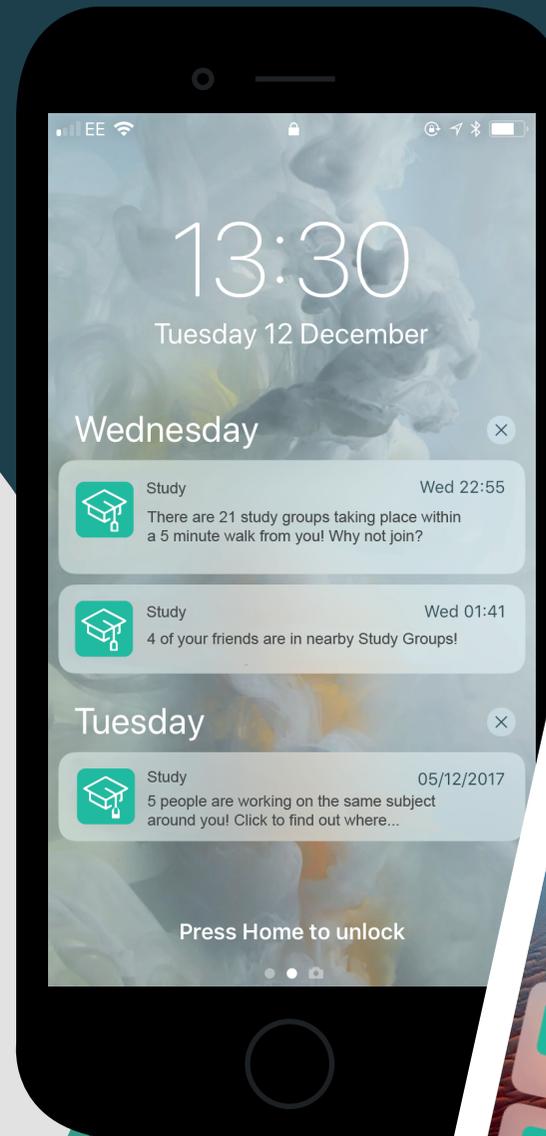
PUSH NOTIFICATIONS

An important aspect of Study is the push notifications the app is designed to send the user.

If a user is in a location nearby other study groups working on similar topics, a push notification will be sent to alert the user, therefore encouraging them to join.

These notifications are integral to the workings of the app, as the sole purpose is to encourage users to study with those nearby by alerting the user that groups are within close proximity.

However, the notifications will not be sent if the user has already engaged in a study group that day or has turned the notifications off, in order to avoid causing further stress to the student.

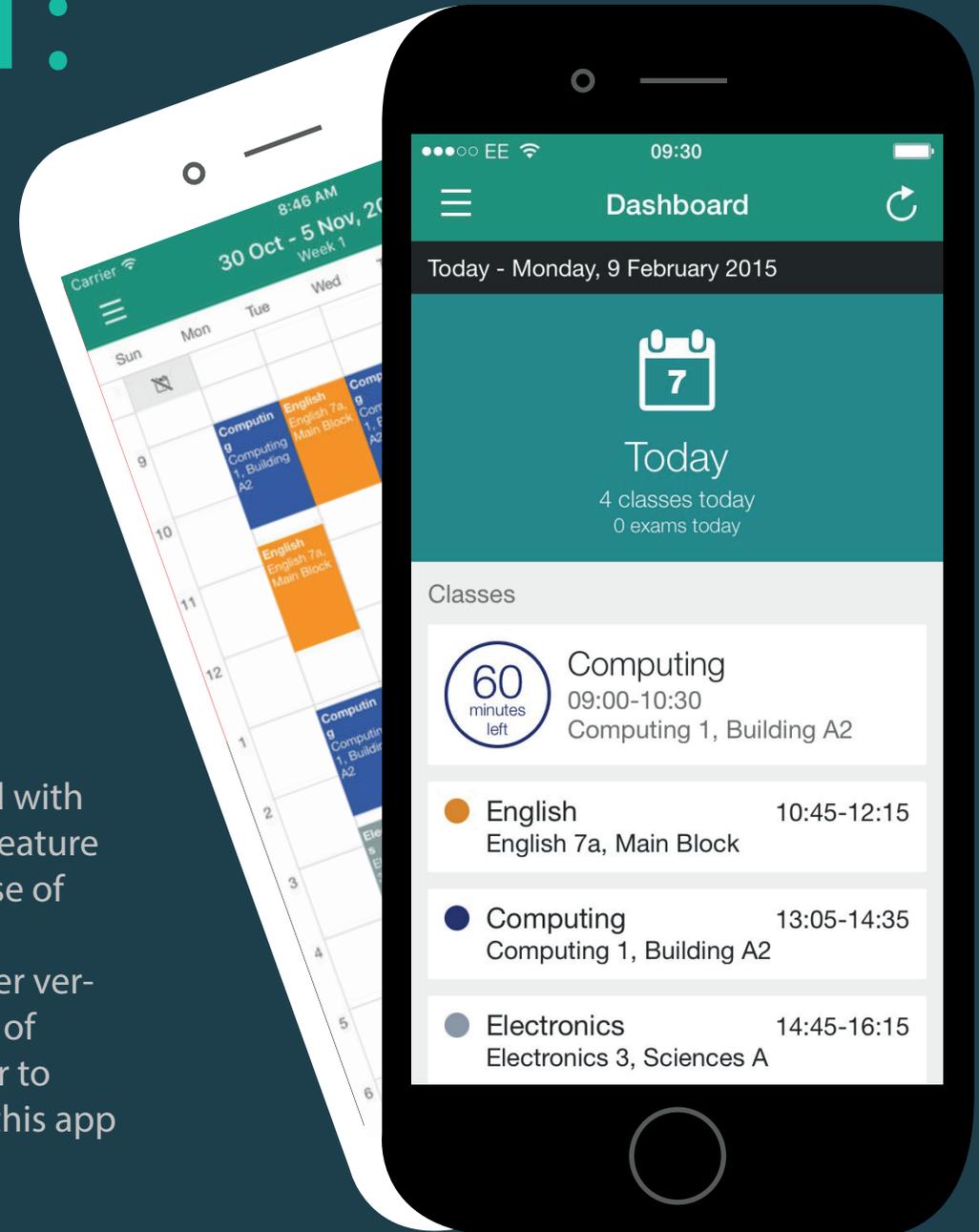


COMPETITOR 1: MYSTUDYLIFE

MYSTUDYLIFE has been designed to allow students to have their timetable and lesson planning systems easily accessible on their phones.

While the design of the app is aesthetically pleasing and it provides a useful way of tracking student life, it does not encourage students to meet or study in groups and is missing some of the key features Study offers.

With each university offering their own timetable app, and with plenty of other apps out there for timetabling, this is one feature that Study actively chooses not to incorporate. The purpose of Study is not initially to plan out daily activities or lessons - although this feature has the possibility to be added in later versions and developments. Study's main focus is the uniting of study groups and peers. Instead, Study contains a calendar to view study groups and plan time to study, a functionality this app also features but Study builds upon.

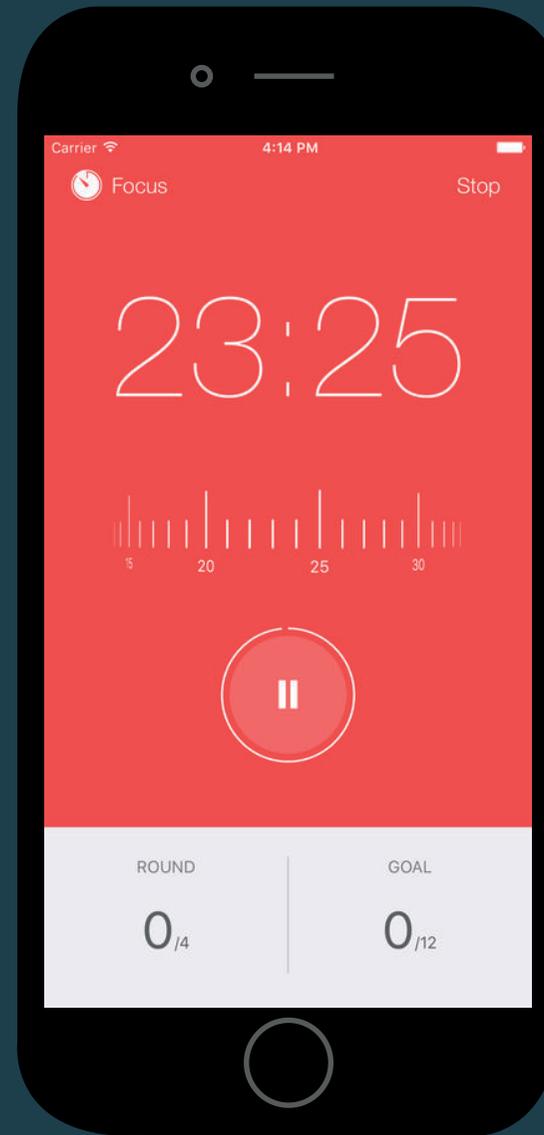


COMPETITOR 2: FOCUS KEEPER

FOCUS KEEPER is a unique application that aims to increase student productivity by allowing them to utilise timers, in order to ensure they remain on task for the required length of time and avoid distractions during that period. The app then allows students to track their progress and steadily increases the time they spend studying to build a profile of productivity.

While the concept of the app is interesting and unique, the app is limited to only setting timers and recording study time. Study builds on this to further this idea. By the use of the calendar feature, a student may track their progress in similar ways and track their studying over time.

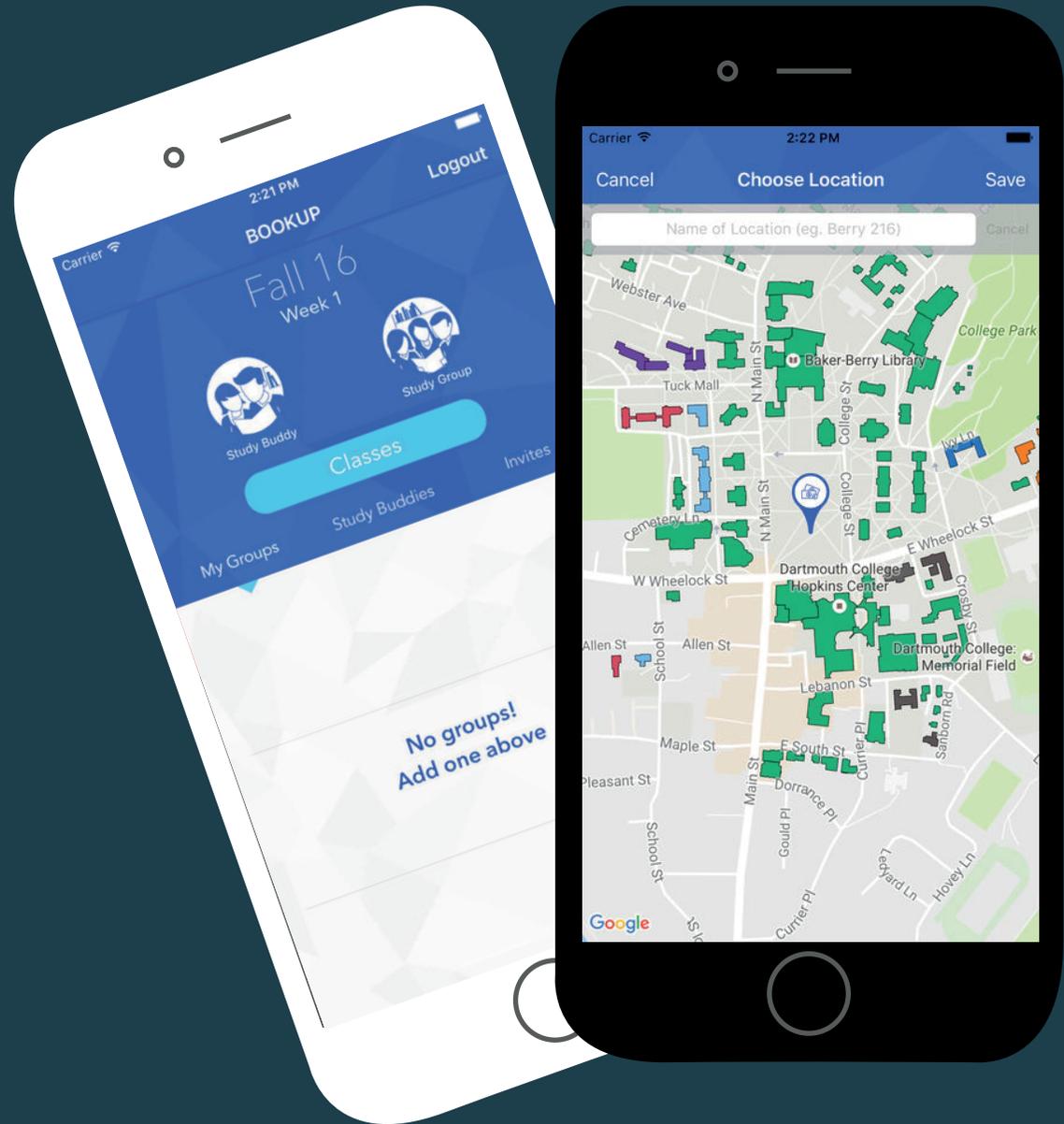
Apps like this encourage the independent studying. The research report found this does not help reduce stress in students. While the app may be useful to some, it may increase the isolation of students and the stress of working to a set timeframe.



COMPETITOR 3: BOOKUP

BOOKUP is potentially Study's main competitor. The app is very similar, allowing students to join study groups and see study locations nearby. As well as this they can see their 'top buddies' and invite others to their study groups.

However, the app does not allow the student to see other friends and peers studying nearby and so does not utilise the same function that Study does, where it can notify students via push notifications when they enter an area with lots of study groups, making BOOKUP less intuitive. Groups on Study are also categorised by subject allowing the student to complete subject-specific searches and has a chatting feature to connect with others. BOOKUP is a more general application, allowing students to see locations for study groups nearby and then meet up with friends once in those locations.



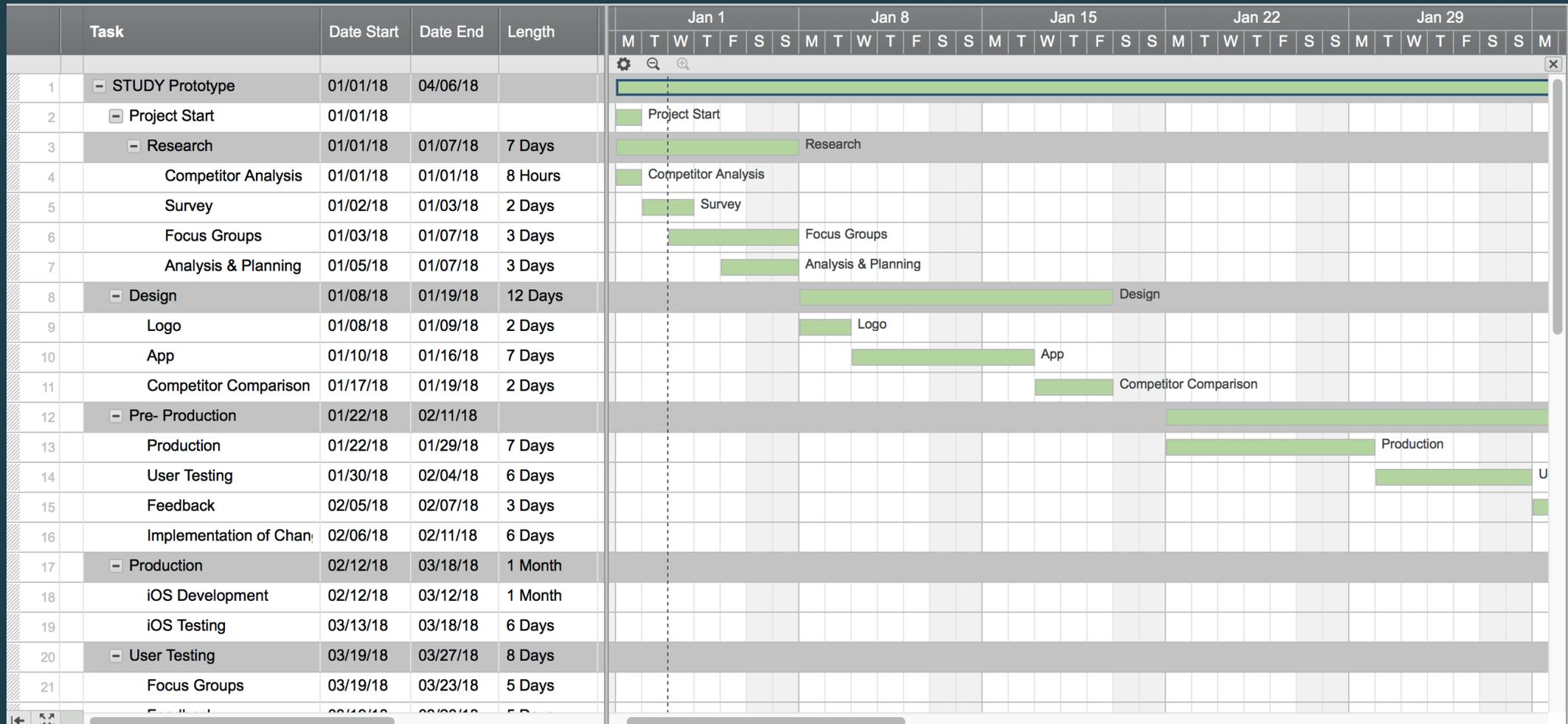
RISK ASSESSMENT

| Category | Risk | Likelihood of Risk | Severity of Risk | Mitigating Actions |
|------------------|---|--------------------|------------------|--|
| Research | Similar apps already on the market might be more preferred | Medium | Medium | Advertising must be in place to show how Study is different and beneficial |
| Project Managent | Tasks may take longer than expected | Low | High | Deadlines must be stuck to as closely as possible. Any delays must be resolved asap |
| User | Users are not willing to share their location | Medium | High | Clarity is needed to ensure the user understands how Study is using their location and why sharing ultimately benefits the user |
| | Users don't understand why they should group study or why they should use Study | Low | Medium | The benefits of collaborative learning need to be made clear. Student's current engagement with social media should mean this is not a major issue |

RISK ASSESSMENT

| Category | Risk | Likelihood of Risk | Severity of Risk | Mitigating Actions |
|-------------|---|--------------------|------------------|---|
| Design | Designs may not appeal to all users | Low | Medium | Intensive design research is scheduled to be conducted at the very beginning of the project to avoid this |
| | Designs may not be compatible with landscape view | Medium | Medium | The initial app has been designed to be best utilised in portrait - adaption will occur in pre-production for landscape views |
| Development | Some features of the app may not be able to fully function when coded | Low | High | Planning will avoid this. All features are standard iOS features already done before in code |
| | Errors in code leading to delays in app launch & not working | High | Medium | Run tests and hold review stages. Leave enough time at the end of the project for fixing errors to ensure prompt finish |

GANTT CHART/TIMING PLAN



BUDGET

Pre-Production

Est. Hours: 145

Hourly Wage: £20

Est. Cost: £2,900

Testing

Est. Hours: 120

Hourly Wage: £15

Est. Cost: 1,800

Design

Est. Hours: 81

Hourly Wage: £20

Est. Cost: £1,620



Estimated Hours: 556

Estimated Costs: £12,169

Production

Est. Hours: 210

Hourly Wage: £25

Est. Cost: £5,250

Equipment

iOS Developer
Licence: £99

iPhone handset for
testing: £500

View the prototype app:

On Marvel: <https://marvelapp.com/5bf3di3>

On YouTube: <https://youtu.be/Tkx19-ayOfg>

