As a ghost-writer for Croud, I wrote the below article for Regus. Published by Regus in Apr 2021. Below is my original article.

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Meta Title	What Makes A Good Coworking Space?   Regus
Meta Description:	A good coworking space needs to boost your productivity and be flexible to your needs. Here's what you need to keep in mind when making a decision.

# What should I think about when choosing a coworking space?

<u>Coworking spaces</u> have become increasingly popular across the world in recent years, and for good reasons. Whether you are a freelancer looking to change the scene of your home office, a small startup looking to scale operations, or a company considering alternative work options: coworking spaces have something to offer for everyone's needs.

But what makes a good coworking space? This guide will help you.

## Benefits of coworking spaces

There are several benefits to working in shared office spaces. They're new, flexible spaces to brainstorm creative ideas from and provide a chance to network with other like-minded people. According to <a href="Deskmag's Global Coworking Survey">Deskmag's Global Coworking Survey</a>, more than 2 million people are using coworking spaces and the number is only flourishing with each passing year.

Coworking spaces not only provide people with a working space, but many offer added benefits like:

- Networking opportunities: The opportunity to connect with people you otherwise wouldn't meet is a top reason for many people to work out of coworking spaces
- Increased productivity: Those who need to escape 'work from home' distractions like children, chores and partners, find that going to an external coworking space strengthens their 'work mode'
- Affordable access to amenities: In most places, you get high-quality meeting rooms, a
  dedicated desk and chair setup, basic built-in and serviced office perks with no added
  overheads

Now that you know why coworking spaces have become so popular over traditional offices, how do you pick one that benefits your professional goals? You need to find a coworking space that meets your needs and fits in seamlessly with your lifestyle too. So whether you're looking for cool startup offices to boost your team's morale or booking coworking spaces for yourself on a regular basis, these tips will help you make the right decision.

### How to choose the right coworking space

Did you know that many successful businesses like Uber and Spotify first started out from a coworking space? Together almost 80% of freelancers, startups and small to medium-sized businesses (SMEs) use coworking spaces today. They serve as some of the best startup offices no matter how big or small your company is, so it is important to consider the below factors when making the right decision for your business.

#### 1. Location

This plays an important factor in your decision-making process. Do you live a busy lifestyle with no extra time for the commute? Do you need to find a space in the middle of your city easily accessible to your clients, partners and teammates? Or maybe you need to factor in external resources like banks, hospitals and libraries in the vicinity of your workplace? Some of you may need to think of parking options around the area.

Choose a location that is the most convenient area for your goals.

#### Amenities and facilities

The main reason you're going to be working out of a coworking space is to be productive, so choose a spot that offers the most of what you need. Some spaces provide childcare facilities, free coffee throughout the day or high-speed internet connectivity. Do you need to think of advance desk booking or meeting room booking? Can all the facilities be accessed through mobile apps?

Look at the venue's booking system and see what perks are on offer that would be of use to you. You might need access to printing and scanning facilities, or an unlimited telephone line – Make a list of priorities and start ticking them off one by one.

#### Your budget

London has some of the <u>highest rents</u> for coworking spaces in Europe, so if you're on a budget you need to be wise with your money decisions when it comes to choosing a space. With plenty of options available today, most venues offer affordable payment plans that are flexible and that you can tailor to your needs.

Check clearly what's included in your subscription plan and find out how you can customise it. If you don't care about booking a regular desk, see if you can reduce costs by hot-desking in a new spot each time you visit. Carry your own drinks and snacks if the venue permits to save on your daily bill.

#### The office environment

The number of distractions in the space will determine how quick and productive you can be at the venue you've chosen. If you like people-watching and get motivated by a buzz around you, then choose a space with an open plan concept for a dynamic vibe. If you prefer some alone and quiet time, choose a coworking spot that provides solo pods and noise-cancelling stations.

Check how cool or warm the space is, and wear layers so you don't need to leave your work station during the day.

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These are just some of deciding factors you need to consider when looking for the perfect coworking venue for you and your business. This is an important investment of your time, money and energy so choose wisely. Spend some time in each space to get comfortable with the area and atmosphere before committing to a long-term plan. Take a look at our network of conveniently located <u>coworking spots in your city</u> to get started.