

HECA Academic Quality Enhancement Forum

Enhancing Group Work: Challenges, Opportunities and Best Practice

Three seminars | 1-hour @ 1pm | 8th Dec 2022, 16th Feb, April 2023



Enhancing Group Work: Challenges, Opportunities and Best Practice

Date	Seminar	Summary
8th Dec	Why Group Work?	Designing and Deploying Group Work: QA Considerations (Grant Goodwin, DBS)
		Fair Means or Foul? Dilemmas in Group Assessment (Joseph Forde, ICHAS)
		The Challenge of Group Work in Blended Learning Analytics (Dr Catherine Mulwa, Hibernia College)
		Managing group work in the context of internationalisation and digitisation of higher education: from netiquette to group charter (Tanya Zybrzycki, DBS)
16th Feb	Student perspectives: Division of Labour or Laborious Divisions?	Student panel discussion regarding the learner experience of group work activities and assessments.
April	Better Group Work: 'Divide and Conquer' or 'Every Chef in the Kitchen'	Discussion and debate around the suitability of group work models for different contexts.

Enhancing Group Work: Challenges, Opportunities and Best Practice

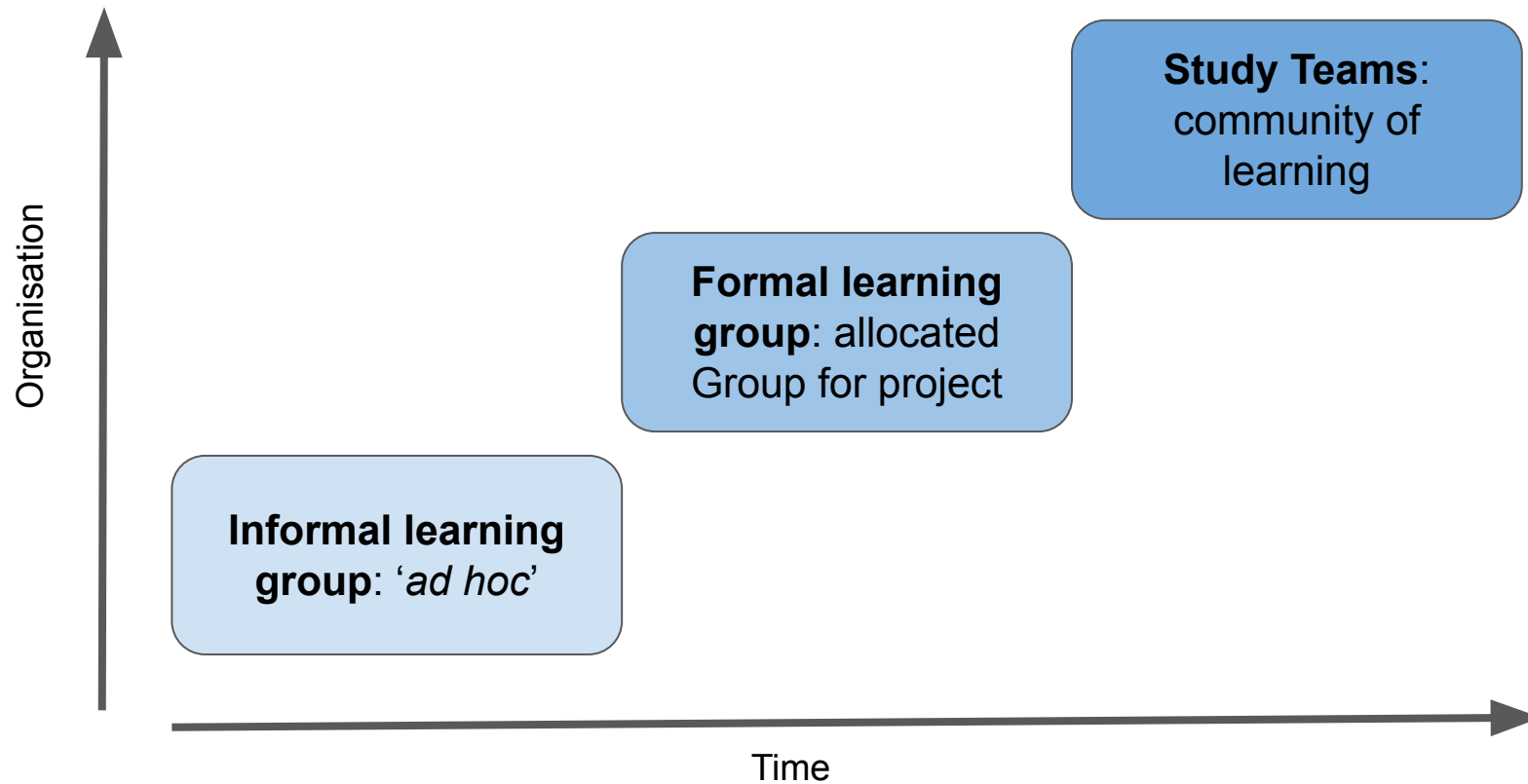
Time	Session
13:00-13:05	Seminar opens with welcome, housekeeping & introductions
13:05-13:15	Designing and deploying Group Work: QA Considerations <i>Grant Goodwin, Dublin Business School</i>
13:15-13:25	Fair Means or Foul? Dilemmas in Group Assessment <i>Joseph Forde, ICHAS</i>
13:25-13:35	The Challenges of Group Work in Blended Learning Analytics <i>Dr Catherine Mulwa, Hibernia College</i>
13:35-13:45	Managing group work in the context of internationalisation and digitisation of higher education: from netiquette to group charter <i>Tanya Zubrzycki, Dublin Business School</i>
13:45-13:55	Q&A
13:55- 14:00	Feedback and goodbye!

Designing and Deploying Group Work: QA Considerations

“Simply placing students into groups and requiring them to work together does not necessarily promote cooperative learning”

(Ballantine and Larres, 2007, p127)

Designing and Deploying Group Work: QA Considerations Groups or Teams?





Designing and Deploying Group Work: QA Considerations Challenges in Group Work

Poorly Designed Assessments

- > Disjunctive or discretionary, rather than conjunctive or additive
- > Non-divisible
- > Optimising vs maximising outcomes
- > Ambiguous or disconnected goals/ Learning Outcomes

Group Management

- > Diverse learner groups (age, gender, culture, additional needs, language)
- > Group size - 'Ringelmann Effect'

Group Motivation

- > Social loafers
- > Free-riders
- > Sucker effect

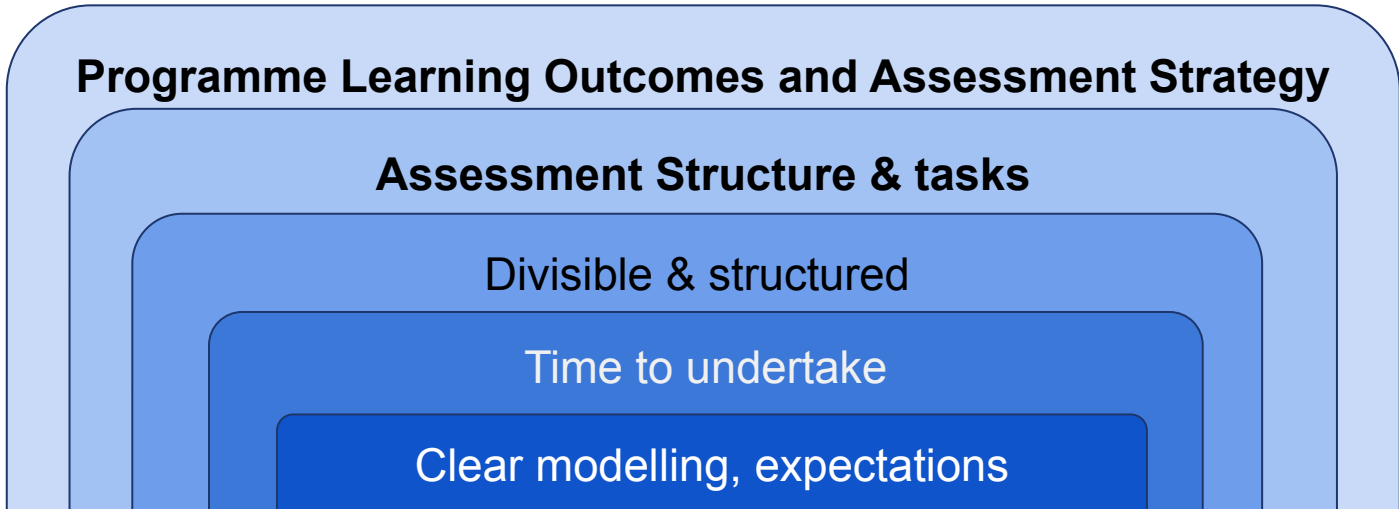
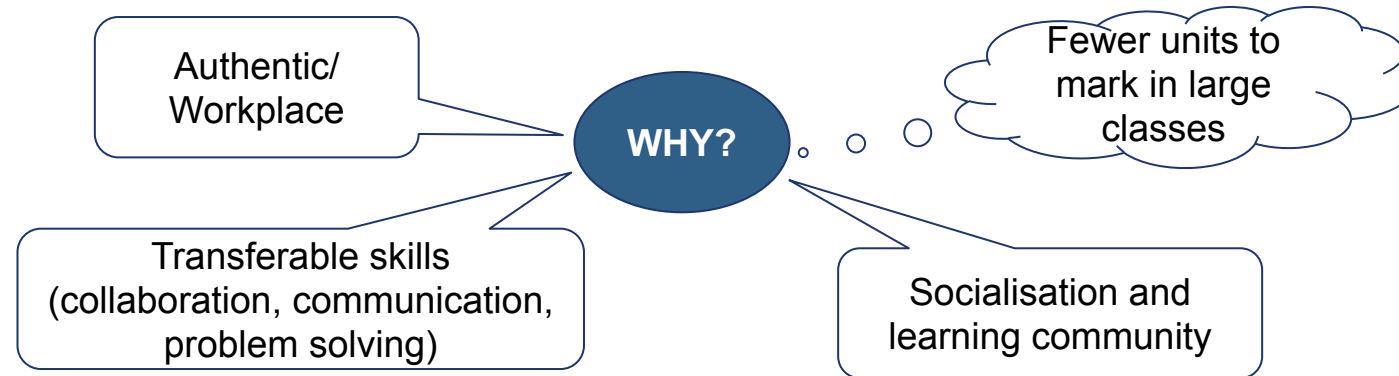
Recognising effort

- > Identifying loafers and free-riders
- > Shared or varied grade?

Academic integrity

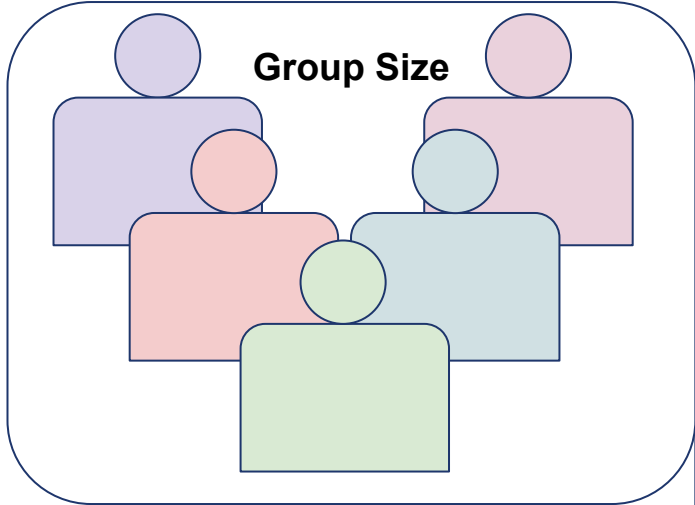
- > Collective or individual?

Designing and Deploying Group Work: QA Considerations Assessment Design

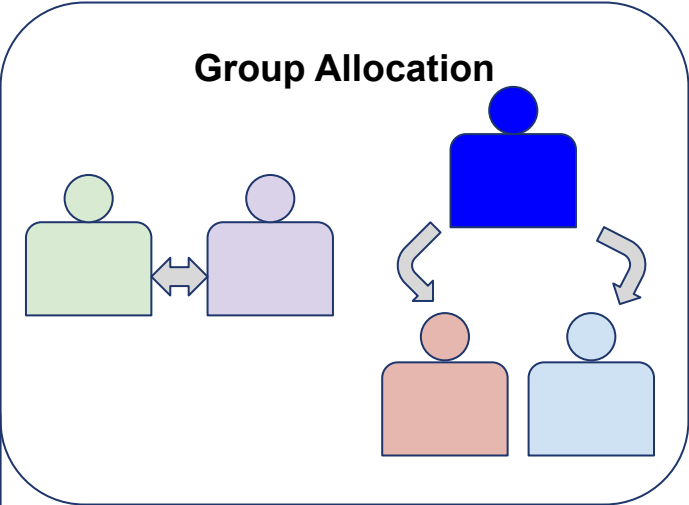


Designing and Deploying Group Work: QA Considerations

Group Management



Group Facilitation
Boundary setting & charters
Conflict resolution
Preventing loafing, free-riding (avoid shunning),
'timid' silencing
Progress monitoring



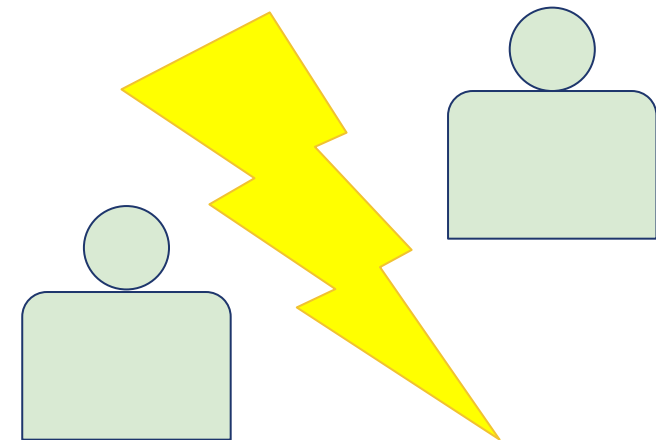
Designing and Deploying Group Work: QA Considerations Recognising Effort

Allocating marks to individual contributions

- Self-reflection
- Activity logs
- Peer reflections/ reviews (anonymous?)
- Programme or Module Learning Outcomes achieved collectively?

Academic integrity

- Collective or individual accountability



Designing and Deploying Group Work: QA Considerations References

Ballantine, J. and Larres, P.M. (2007), "Cooperative learning: a pedagogy to improve students' generic skills?", *Education þ Training*, Vol. 49 No. 2, pp. 126-37.

Barry, Ryan (2022), "Forum Insight: Making group work work; an exploration of mixed gender group work in Irish higher education", National Forum, accessed 1/12/2022, available at: <https://hub.teachingandlearning.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Insight-Barry-Ryan.pdf>

Davies, W. M. (2009). *Groupwork as a form of assessment: Common problems and recommended solutions*. *Higher Education*, 58(4), 563-584.

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Feedback

**A brief questionnaire link will be added to chat,
or you can use the QR code:**





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Thanks & Farewell

Don't forget to sign up for our next seminars!

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