

## **International students working in group and project-based activities at university**

### **University of Southampton Students' Union**

#### **Research team:**

**Martin Hiley, Insight Manager**

**Fern Francis,**

**Patricia Zmole, Business School President**

### **Appendix 1. Student Survey**

1)

Please enter your University email address:

(This is so we know you are a student at the University of Southampton).

2)

In group work at University, have you experienced any of the following issues?

- Conflict with other group members
- Difficulties scheduling group meetings
- Felt intimidated within group
- Group members not pulling their weight
- Group members not turning up for meetings
- Group work being worth too high % for a module
- Group work being worth too low % for a module
- Group work taking longer than personal work
- Lack of confidence to express ideas
- Language barriers with other students
- Made to feel isolated / unwanted / not included in group work
- Mental health issues as a result of group work
- Needing extensions for group work
- Needing special considerations for group work
- Negative consequences for people not pulling weight e.g. group mark impacted
- No support available
- Not enough staff intervention
- Personality clashes
- Problems self-marking within group
- Problems with use of social media
- Stress as a result of group work
- Too much staff intervention

3)

How have your groups been chosen?

- ☐ By lecturer / tutor
- ☐ By students

4)

How do you think groups should be chosen?

- ☐ By lecturer / tutor
- ☐ By students

5)

Please use this space for any additional comments on group work:

6)

Would you be interested in taking part in a focus group to help us understand more about group work at university?

7)

Which session would you like to attend?

- ☐ 1 May, 11am - 11.30am
- ☐ 1 May, 11.30am - 12pm
- ☐ 1 May, 12pm - 12.30pm
- ☐ 1 May, 12.30pm - 1pm
- ☐ 2 May, 11am - 11.30am
- ☐ 2 May, 11.30am - 12pm
- ☐ 2 May, 12pm - 12.30pm
- ☐ 2 May, 12.30pm - 1pm

The link to the survey can be found here:

<https://sususurvey.typeform.com/to/YDwgRa>

## **Appendix 2: Focus Group outline**

### **1) Introduction**

- a. Introduce Fern, Patricia and Martin
- b. Explain the background to the project
- c. Explain the aims of the focus group
- d. Explain how the focus group will work
- e. Ask permission to record session
- f. Any questions at this point?

### **2) Opening remarks / icebreaker**

- a. What is your experience of group work at University?
- b. What are the benefits / positives?
- c. What are the challenges / negatives?

### **3) Experiences as / with international students**

- a. International students
  - i. What specific challenges have you faced in group work activities?
  - ii. What is your experience of working with UK students / other international students?
- b. UK students
  - i. What is your experience of working with international students in group work?

### **4) Survey outcomes**

- a. Discussion on key issues identified (in order of priority)
  - i. Made to feel isolated / unwanted / not included in group work
  - ii. Language barriers with other students
  - iii. Conflict with other group members
  - iv. Mental health issues as a result of group work
  - v. Problems with use of social media

**5) Positive changes**

- a. What changes would improve the experience of group work?
- b. What advice would you offer to UK and international students?

**6) Any other comments**

- a. Any further comments not previously covered

**Appendix 3**

**Chart 1: How would you prefer groups to be chosen?**

Cohort of students	By lecturer / tutor	By students
EU	31.43%	68.57%
Overseas	37.78%	62.22%
UK	46.15%	53.85%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>42.79%</b>	<b>57.21%</b>

Based on the following responses:

EU	35
Overseas	45
UK	130
#N/A	12
Total	222

Responses v Level of Study

Row Labels	Postgraduate Taught	Postgraduate Research	Undergraduate	#N/A	Grand Total
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<b>EU</b>	2	1	32		35
<b>Overseas</b>	22	1	22		45
<b>UK</b>	10	3	117		130
<b>#N/A</b>				12	12
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>222</b>

## Appendix 4

### Chart 2: What issues have you experienced in group work?

Issue	EU	Overseas	UK
Conflict with other group members	51.43%	40.00%	33.85%
Difficulties scheduling group meetings	65.71%	44.44%	73.85%
Felt intimidated within group	14.29%	13.33%	17.69%
Group members not pulling their weight	65.71%	48.89%	75.38%
Group members not turning up for meetings	62.86%	33.33%	65.38%
Group work being worth too high % for a module	22.86%	13.33%	33.08%
Group work being worth too low % for a module	11.43%	13.33%	13.85%
Group work taking longer than personal work	40.00%	31.11%	46.92%
Lack of confidence to express ideas	20.00%	15.56%	20.77%
Language barriers with other students	20.00%	37.78%	22.31%
Made to feel isolated / unwanted / not included in group work	22.86%	11.11%	6.15%
Mental health issues as a result of group work	5.71%	11.11%	6.15%
Needing extensions for group work	0.00%	11.11%	4.62%
Needing special considerations for group work	2.86%	2.22%	3.08%
Negative consequences for people not pulling weight e.g. group mark impacted	34.29%	17.78%	43.08%
No support available	5.71%	4.44%	8.46%
Not enough staff intervention	11.43%	8.89%	26.15%
Personality clashes	40.00%	13.33%	35.38%

Problems self-marking within group	5.71%	4.44%	9.23%
Problems with use of social media	5.71%	4.44%	5.38%
Stress as a result of group work	40.00%	24.44%	48.46%
Too much staff intervention	0.00%	0.00%	0.77%