

# Study Groups



# Terminology

## TERMINOLOGY

A **FutureLearn degree** is a degree-level qualification (e.g. Graduate Certificate or Masters) delivered through the FutureLearn platform.

Degrees are made up of **FutureLearn programs**; sequences of short **FutureLearn courses**, studied and assessed together as a single unit. These are equivalent to university modules, subjects or units.

A **FutureLearn program run** is an instance of FutureLearn program starting on a specific date.

## TERMINOLOGY

A **learner** is a FutureLearn user who is not enrolled as a student at the university.

A **student** is FutureLearn user who is enrolled as a student at the university.

# Study Groups

# Study groups

Groups are available at **course level**

**When used on a program, each groups belongs to one course**

Learners can be assigned **randomly** or **manually**

# Randomly allocated study groups

Groups are available on **open** and **closed** courses

Learners are allocated when they **join a group**

On open courses, group size is recommended to be large to take into account non-participants

# Manually allocated study groups

Groups are available on **closed** courses, and only on courses where students are invited through Learning Manager or the partner API

Educators can create groups before learners have accepted invitation

Learners can be allocated based on **any criteria**

Group size is recommended at about 5 to 8 learners

In beta, **requires FL development step** to create

# Limitations to manually assigned groups

Groups are fixed once the course begins

There can only be one group per course

But educators can reuse groups across courses within a program

# Educator experience

## EDUCATOR EXPERIENCE

- Both randomly and manually assigned groups are enabled on the course

## Study groups

Study groups is a beta feature that will be available to use on course runs for all partners. With study groups enabled on your course, you can design opportunities for learners to learn together in smaller groups.

Before enabling this feature, please read [these study group guidelines](#) and look through the following list of what's needed to create effective study groups in courses.

1. Introduce study groups by setting learners a specific goal-oriented task to complete early in the course.
2. When setting the initial task, be clear about what learners have to do, how long it should take, and what they should achieve.
3. Explain to learners what they should expect in terms of course team facilitation within study groups.
4. Create regular prompts to broadcast to study groups throughout the course, asking learners to perform particular tasks within the group. Avoid tasks which simply ask learners to discuss a statement.
5. Give study groups tasks which are structured, achievable and written using imperative language.
6. Reference study group tasks in the course steps.

Study groups can be turned on or off up to **4 weeks** before the course starts.

Study groups is currently **off**.

Switch Study Groups on

## EDUCATOR EXPERIENCE

- Manually assigned groups require extra steps.
- Create a new group in Learning Manager

### Create a new group

Name your group \*

Give your group a name

Blue-5

Group code \*

Give your group a unique reference code

Groups-demo-blue-5

Purpose of the group \*

Please give the group a purpose

A group to study in.

20/255

Save group

## EDUCATOR EXPERIENCE

- Add learners to group in Learning Manager

CREATED 2018-10-08

### Blue-5

#### Members

[Add members to group](#)

Add members to the group 'Blue-5'  
Start typing a member name to add them to this group

sanitized\_id\_054ac6535faeb629c14384272f1324db8f1caa7b ✕

sanitized\_id\_06dd1b97c2d68aba825d9820fb9104a51173ee0 ✕

sanitized\_id\_0de504ce7cd6d932d6a692512cc07c7cd75bad54 ✕

sanitized\_id\_2d7ff3e59be6f7a6bfe4562d306c480af4c65968 ✕

sanitized\_id\_350b5aae5b9ffcd2f079f3421535fcb33309dd6 ✕

× Q

[Add members](#)

You haven't added any members yet.

## EDUCATOR EXPERIENCE

- In beta, send CSV file to FutureLearn to connect new groups with courses
- CSV file requires 3 columns: program code, program run code and group code

CREATED 2018-10-08

### Blue-5

#### Members

[Add members to group](#)

Search... Showing 1 to 5 of 5 records

Member ▲	Date added ▼	Actions
 sanitized_id_054ac6535faeb629c14384272f1324db8f1caa7b	8 Oct 2018	<a href="#">× Remove</a>
 sanitized_id_06dd1b97c2d68aba825d9820fb9104a51173ee0	8 Oct 2018	<a href="#">× Remove</a>
 sanitized_id_0de504ce7cd6d932d6a692512cc07c7cd75bad54	8 Oct 2018	<a href="#">× Remove</a>
 sanitized_id_2d7f3e59be6f7a6bfe4562d306c480af4c65968	8 Oct 2018	<a href="#">× Remove</a>
 sanitized_id_350b5aae5b9ffcd2f079f3421535fdb33309dd6	8 Oct 2018	<a href="#">× Remove</a>

Showing 1 to 5 of 5 records

## EDUCATOR EXPERIENCE

- Educator can add task prompts for study group discussion

TASK PROMPTS   ANALYTICS   SETTINGS

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### All task prompts

Text (max. 1200 characters including spaces.) \*

Related step (optional)

Select a related step ▼

**Post** *Posted prompts can't be deleted or edited.*

Text	Author	Related step
What do you think is the main takeaway from this article?	User 7410577	1.3 Your learning spaces

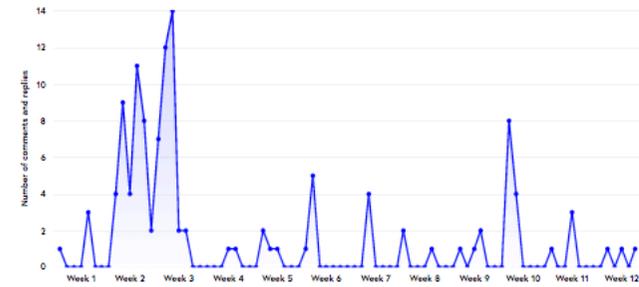
## EDUCATOR EXPERIENCE

- Educators can view group analytics

TASK PROMPTS ANALYTICS SETTINGS

### All study groups

OVERALL ACTIVITY



### Activity per group

Search...

Showing 1 to 8 of 8 study groups

50

Name ▲	Contributors ▼	Leavers ▼	Comments in last 24 hrs ▼
Amazing Mint	0/10	3	0
Fantastic Azure	0/10	2	0
Majestic Teal	0/3	3	0
Spectacular Green	0/10	1	0
Spectacular Lavender	0/10	1	0
Spectacular Yellow	0/1	1	0
Tremendous Green	0/0	1	0
Tremendous Teal	0/1	0	0

Showing 1 to 8 of 8 study groups

Previous 1 Next

## EDUCATOR EXPERIENCE

- Educators can view student progress, including study group participation

### User 7985787's learning

Showing courses and programs this learner has been invited to and enrolled on.

[COURSES](#) [PROGRAMS](#) [DEGREES](#) [PENDING INVITATIONS](#)

Course title ▲	Date enrolled ▼	Step progress ▼	Learner actions
 <b>Designing for Learning</b> Coventry University	3 May 2018	 ✓ All completed: 22 Aug 2018	<a href="#">View stats</a> ▼
 <b>Evaluating Practice</b> Coventry University	3 May 2018	 ✓ All completed: 18 Aug 2018	<a href="#">View stats</a> ▼
 <b>Learning Design Practice</b> Coventry University	3 May 2018	 ✓ All completed: 21 Aug 2018	<a href="#">Hide stats</a> ▲

#### Course completion



100%  
course complete

 **Fantastic Azure**  
Last active 1 Sep 2018  
12 comments made [View study group](#)

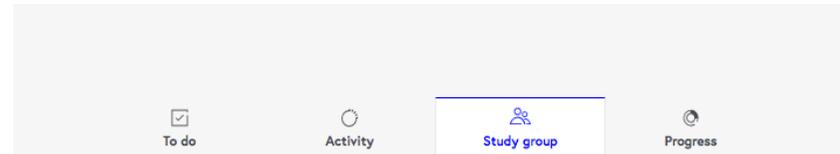
 **32/32** steps completed

 **53** comments made

# Student experience

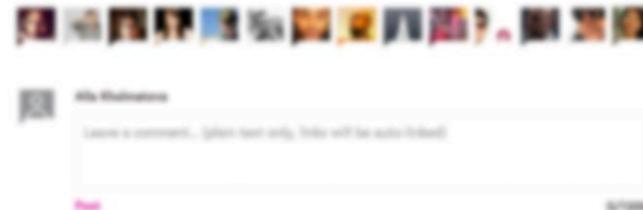
## STUDENT EXPERIENCE

- On randomly assigned groups, learners need to join group



A study group is a place to share your thoughts with a small group of other learners. This activity is not mandatory, however we highly recommend that you take part. We learn best when we learn together, so jump in and join a discussion (you can always leave if you don't like it).

[Join a study group](#)



## STUDENT EXPERIENCE

- Discussion prompts can be displayed directly in the study group or within a step in the course

The screenshot displays a user interface for a study group. At the top, there is a navigation bar with four tabs: 'To do', 'Activity', 'Study group' (which is highlighted), and 'Progress'. Below the navigation bar, a status message reads 'YOU'RE IN SPECTACULAR GREEN' with a yellow question mark icon. Underneath this, there is a row of ten colored speech bubble icons, each containing a letter 'U' followed by a number (e.g., U7, U8). A 'View members' link is positioned to the right of these icons. The main content area features a text input field with the placeholder text 'Add a comment... (plain text only, links will be auto-linked)'. Below the input field, there are two user comments. The first comment is from 'Aleksandra Mikolajczyk' (AM) and is currently empty. The second comment is from 'User 7410577' (U7), identified as an 'EDUCATOR', and contains the text: 'What do you think is the main takeaway from this article?'. Below this comment is a 'Reply' button. The third comment is from 'User 7973919' (U7) and contains a detailed response: 'Hi all. Caught you up at last! So, in summary..we have chosen scenario 2, which is fine with me. I have identifies 6 reason you guys have come up with (I think)'. This comment includes a numbered list of six reasons: 1. Lack of confidence, 2. Haven't grasped importance to learning, 3. Language skills, 4. Lack of motivation, 5. Not understanding task and/or its relevance, and 6. They already know the answer so why should they participate. The comment concludes with a question: 'To play devil's advocate, I think the most difficult to answer (and therefore the one we'll get the most out of discussing) are 2 and 6. How do you convince someone they will learn by saying the wrong answer out loud in front of their peers and/or how do you motivate someone to contribute when they know the answer and therefore feel they have nothing to gain?'. At the bottom of the comment, there are three interaction buttons: 'Like', 'Reply', and 'Bookmark'. A '1.3' score is visible in a small box next to the educator's comment.

## STUDENT EXPERIENCE

- A group activity prompt to be completed in a study group



2.14

YOU'VE COMPLETED 0 STEPS IN WEEK 2

## Group activity: tackling student engagement issues

 8 comments

**Throughout this week, you've looked at influences on student engagement as well as challenges and opportunities you've experienced in your own practice.**

In this activity, you'll be working in groups of around five to investigate one specific SE challenge which you will choose from two possible cases.

Learning in groups can be a powerful and beneficial experience. In this type of activity, you will have the opportunity to exchange your views, share your experiences and debate with your fellow learners to generate new ideas and deepen your understanding on the topic.

From your own experience you'll be aware of the importance of clear and respectful communication in groups. You might notice your group members bring a breadth and diversity of experiences – it is these multiple perspectives that help enhance the richness of this activity.