

# Benefits of Teamwork

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Group work provides circumstances for the development of students

- Personally
- Socially
- Educationally

## Personal benefits

- Building confidence
- Making study at university more enjoyable
- Making study at university more rewarding
- Helping to see the relevance of group work interaction for learning and for work

## Social benefits

- Making friends
- Finding allies
- Networking

## Educational benefits

- Problem solving skills
- Reasoning skills
- Development of relevant and appropriate attitudes (e.g., professionalism)
- Speaking skills
- Listening skills
- Leadership
- Cooperation
- Relevance to work/profession/world

**Cooperative learning** is the instructional use of small groups so that students work together to maximize their own and each other's learning.

## Deciding the appropriateness of teamwork

1. Consider what you hope to achieve in terms of your teaching and the students' learning
2. Consider elements relating to:
  - the student—how the teamwork will contribute to personal and social development
  - the subject matter—how the teamwork can facilitate learning of the concepts (the what) and processes (the how)
  - the task—the extent to which the task can stimulate the sort of interaction and thinking you want
3. Always consider the management and facilitation of the task.

The essential components of group learning are:

- person to person promotive interaction
- positive interdependence
- individual accountability and personal responsibility
- interpersonal and group skills

- group processing.