

Southampton Business School's

**Guide to start your own
Peer Study Group**

Introduction

What is this guide for?

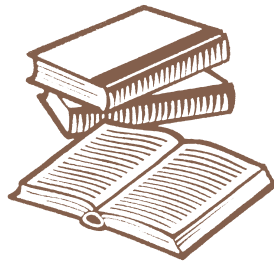


This is a guide that will support you in understanding what peer-led study is and how to set up and run your own peer study groups. You will find tips, guidance and resources that will help you to organise, plan and run a group study session. So, what's the benefits?

- ✓ Help to understand tricky topics
- ✓ Explore topics and concepts further
- ✓ Revise for upcoming exams
- ✓ Understand assignment briefs
- ✓ Get to know your course mates better and learn from each other
- ✓ + More!

The What and the Why

What is a Peer Study Group?



Peer study groups just mean getting together with your fellow course mates, without lecturers or staff! You work together to improve your understanding of what you are learning about in your lectures, understanding an assignment brief or revising for an exam!



There are many different ways that peer study groups can be run. Hopefully this guide will give you some ideas about how you and your peers can work together to improve your grades and your understanding of the course content.



This could either be related to your overall programme, or a specific module. There is no right or wrong way to do a peer study group!



The What and the Why

Peer-led study is...

- ✓ Exploring topics and concepts covered in your course
- ✓ Using discussion and activities to help broaden your understanding
- ✓ Supporting each other to find helpful resources
- ✓ Being able to determine what you do know, what you don't know and what questions you need to ask or resources you need to access to find out
- ✓ Peers supporting each other with tricky subjects or topics - you're probably not the only one who may be confused about something!

Peer-led study is not...

- ✗ Cheating or collaborating on assessments
- ✗ Teaching new content to each other (you should only focus on what you are learning in class)
- ✗ Having all the answers (you don't need all the answers to help someone, sometimes it's just helpful to talk through a problem to realise what your questions are, and what you need to work on)

Finding a Group



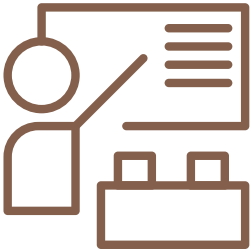
Peers

You may already have a group of friends on your programme or in a particular module who have expressed an interest in studying together. This is always a great place to start! Even if there's just 2 or 3 of you!



Course Reps

Contacting your course rep is another great option. They may have group chats or networks for your programme they can message to invite people to join a study group. You can even ask them to participate and help set it up!



Lectures + Seminars

Classes may be a good opportunity to reach out to your peers around you and on the same programme or module as you. You could either reach out to people before or after the lecture, OR you could ask your lecturer to do a shout out for you.



Staff

Staff around you are always willing to assist! We can send out emails to all students on your programme using the mailing lists. Either contact your Module Leader or email the EDO team on SBSEDO@soton.ac.uk for assistance.

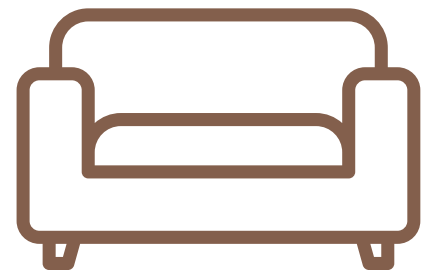
Finding a Space



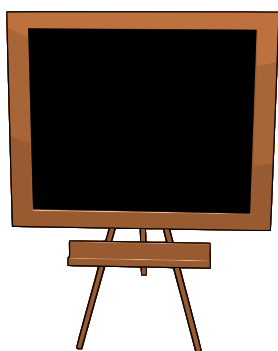
The Hartley Library is a 24 hour accessible space where you can meet with your group without having to book. Find about more about Hartley Library and booking study rooms here: <https://library.soton.ac.uk/study>

Library Spaces

All around the university campuses we have a variety of social and study spaces that you can use to meet with your group. Some popular ones are Building 2 Study Space (opposite reception) and in Building 100. These are open access spaces, meaning you don't have to book.



Study Spaces



You can also book some teaching rooms and meeting rooms. You just have to make a room booking through the room booking portal. Find out more about this here: <https://www.southampton.ac.uk/studentadmin/timetabling/room-booking/index.page>

If you need assistance, just email: roombook@soton.ac.uk

Rooms

Planning your session

Picking a topic

Once you have a group, you will need to start thinking about what you want to work on in your group study session. This could either be a specific topic you've learned in lectures, or maybe something more generic. Also it could include revising for an exam.

There are lots of ways you can decide as a group what you want to focus on in your sessions that is fair for everyone. Here are some examples:

Lucky Dip

- Get everyone to pick a specific topic they would like to study (e.g. a tricky theory, a particular lecture, an exam) and write it on a small piece of paper
- Scrunch up the pieces of paper and chuck them in a bowl/ hat or in the middle of the table and shuffle them
- Someone pick one piece of paper, that is the topic you will focus on!

KWL

This stands for: What you know, what you want to know and what you have learned. This is useful if you want to focus on a particular module or upcoming exam.

- Get everyone to make 3 columns for KWL, writing everything they already knew, everything they want to know, and what they have learned about this module or topic.
- Compare with the rest of your group the 'What you want to know' column
- Are there any items that most people had written down? These are the areas you can focus on during your study group.

Vote

Of course you can never go wrong with a vote!

- Each person in the group chooses an area or two that they want to focus on
- Have everyone vote on which areas they feel the least confident on/ want to work on
- The one with the most votes will be your focus for this session!

Make an agenda

Of course you don't just have to pick one topic. You can meet up with your study group as many times as you all need and want to! This way you can cover lots of different topics and concepts!

Useful Activities

Quizzes



Quizzes are a great and fun way to test each others knowledge. You can take turns asking questions!

Timelines



Timelines can be an effective way to list a line of events or ideas. You can also use the frame to hang off more detailed information which is really useful for revision!

Mnemonics



Mnemonics is the practice of using of using rhymes, jingles or phrases to help you remember tricky concepts and ideas.

Acrostics: Words where the first letter stands for a term of sequence. E.g. to remember how to spell BECAUSE you can use the saying 'Big Elephants Cant Always Use Small Exits'.

Jingles: Creating songs or tunes to help you remember information

More Activity ideas...

- Reviewing notes together
- Open discussions
- Flashcards
- Re-teach each other concepts

The Matrix

The matrix is used to demonstrate lots of information in a different way as well as organising it to show similarities between different terms and information.

Term	Paraphrased Definition	Example from lecture	Example from textbook	New example
Oligopoly	A market where a few firms produce all or most of the market supply of a good or service	Airlines	Soft drink manufacturers	Domestic car makers e.g. Ford
Monopoly	A firm that produces the entire market supply of a good or service	Niagara Mohawk	None	New York telephone service

Useful Information...

Activities you can use in group study:

<https://effectiveu.umn.edu/tips/studygroups>

Top tips for starting an effective peer study group:

<https://shorturl.at/fsBKP>

Activities ideas:

<https://lptutoring.com/study-group-activities/>

Top Tips:

<https://schoolhabits.com/how-to-study-in-a-group-6-tips-for-group-study-sessions/>

Academic Skills Hub

<https://library.soton.ac.uk/sash>

S4B (for Masters students) MANG6390

Access through Blackboard

And don't forget, you also have your PATs, Module Leaders, Programme Leaders and the EDO team if you ever need extra support or have questions.