

# Our study group's declaration of intent



**The purpose** of this exercise is to get off to a good start on working in your study group by clarifying the expectations of the teamwork. Therefore, you need to discuss your expectations of different aspects of the teamwork and agree on your collective goal and which standards and rules you want for the teamwork.

Based on your discussion, you will make a written declaration of intent, which will frame the group's processes.

## **Declaration of intent**

With a declaration of intent you must determine your collective overall goal and establish clear settings and a common intention for the group work. You need to agree on what you write in the declaration of intent. Before you talk to each other, you may each write some notes by yourselves. Then, discuss each element thoroughly.

## **The study group's settings for group meetings**

How will you work together as a group? What are your expectations of the working environment?

- Form (Work in the same place or individually?)
- Meeting place (Campus/café/at somebody's home)
- Planning the work (Week-to-week/entire semester)
- Do you need to document your work and process? And how?
- Working hours (How many hours? When do you work? How long will the meetings be? Fixed/varying?)
- Roles. Will you change roles (e.g. every week)?
- Discussion (Formal, informal)
- The group's work discipline
- How will you handle disagreements?

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## The study group's objectives

What is your objective? And how do you achieve results through the teamwork?

- What is the group's academic purpose? (Consider common terms and conditions, the curriculum)
- What are your ambitions? (Grades/what are you supposed to learn?)
- The work process (Division between group and individual work?)
- Speed? Thoroughness?
- The group's way of making decisions?

## The social aspect of the study group

- What are your expectations of the social aspect of your teamwork? What binds you together?
- Which keywords are going to characterize your group? What are your social norms?
- Helpfulness? Mutual respect? Responsibility? (To what degree – and how does it show?)
- Language and tone?
- Social activities 'after work'? (Which? How often? Minimum/maximum?)
- How do you make sure that appointments are kept?

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## How do you study in your study group?

- Do you share knowledge with each other? How?
- What are your learning styles? How can they be taken into account?
- Do you give each other feedback? (How?)
- How do you listen to each other and how do you discuss?
- How do you include and challenge each other?

**Combine your notes into statements that you can write in your group's collective declaration of intent.**