



# Group Discussions

How we assess your teamwork skills

EXCELLENT TEACHERS, NEED EXCELLENT TEACHERS

**WARWICK**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

# Teaching is all about teamwork

- We are looking for well-rounded applicants who not only show individual goals and abilities, but also collaborate effectively and work well together
- You will be working alongside other professionals in your subject area, age group and wider school environment throughout your career - good teamwork is crucial





## What are we looking for?

- Behaviour - How open-minded are you in accepting views contrary to your own?
- Participation - Are you an active speaker? Do you pay attention to the discussion?
- Contribution - Do you recognise the objective of the discussion? Are you contributing to the group goal?
- Teamwork - Are you encouraging others' involvement and contribution?
- Influence - Are you shaping the discussion? Are you taking charge appropriately?
- Communication - Do you listen before speaking? Are you clear and concise in your contributions?
- Problem Solving - Do you effectively use the information others provide? Do you seek creative solutions to problems?

# Top Tips

## Be polite

- Even if you disagree, be diplomatic
- Use phrases like 'I'm not sure I would agree'

## Be precise

- Try not to include irrelevant information
- Remember others need time to talk and put across their points as well

## Acquire and apply knowledge

- Take on the ideas that others put forward, as well as talking about your own views

## Be flexible

- Don't be afraid to change your opinion based on what others say

## Listen

- Recognise that others in the group are also trying to balance their
- Input with their listening





# Top Tips

## Speak confidently

- Be assertive without being aggressive
- Make eye contact with others to increase your engagement
- Try not to let your voice tremble - take deep breaths to calm nerves

## Moderate

- Try to moderate any disagreements and focus on the goal of the discussion

## Use positive gestures

- Show your interest in the discussion through positive body language

## Consider others

- Invite less vocal group members to discuss their views
- Use people's names to show you are paying attention
- Be a team player
- Remember that this is a group activity - you are not trying to 'win'
- Try not to criticise anyone else and be constructive in your suggestions