How do I set up areas for student collaboration in Moodle?

Moodle Help & Support

How to set up areas for student collaboration in Moodle

Moodle has several activities suitable for learners to work together as a whole class or in groups of various sizes. This tutorial brings together a variety of ways to use features in Moodle to promote student collaboration.

Possible benefits: These collaboration tools allow you to set up group working exercises in the same way as you might in a classroom or other situation outside Moodle.

This tutorial looks at:

- Working with groups
- Signup Sheets
- Group and collaborative activities
- Forums
- Wikis
- Database
- Glossary
- Chat
- Assignments
- Turnitin assignments

Working with groups

- All Help Sheets on working with Groups includes information on working with groups, creating groups, exporting lists of students placed in a group

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How to create groups and groupings

Moodle allows creation of groups and groupings (which are "supergroups").

Groups allows you to split up your class into groups and assign activities and resources to those groups.

Groups can be Separate (people in that group can only see their relevant materials, activities e.g. discussions in forums etc.) or Visible (people in that group can see the materials and activities for all groups but cannot interact with or contribute to other groups e.g. forums, only to their own).

First Step - Enable groups in your module

- Navigate to the module you want to work on
- Find the Administration block and then click on Module administration > Edit Settings
- Under the Groups heading change Group mode to 'Separate groups' or 'Visible groups'
- Change Force group mode to 'Yes' if you want to ensure that groups are then enabled for each activity/resource you then add to the module (although this sets the default for ALL activities then created, this can be amended in each activity during creation).
Showing group membership

You can allow students to see who is in which group by adding the People block.

If you select 'Visible groups', then users can sort Participants by group. If you select Separate groups, participants will see only a list of their own group members under Participants.

The difference between groups and groupings

With Groupings you can create "supergroups" out of your existing groups, allowing you to bunch different groups together into a larger one. For example, a collection of lab Groups taught on a different day to another collection of lab Groups could be clumped into Groupings labelled as that teaching day in order to differentiate them. Groupings is more to aid teaching staff on a module, particularly when it comes to marking; students do not see the grouping title, they only see their Group title.

How to create groups

From the front page of your course: drop down the Hamburger menu and click Participants.

The Participants page opens.

Dropdown the Cogwheel (Actions) menu on that page and select Groups.

1. Click on the Create group button, and give it a Group name (mandatory). Group description can be useful (e.g. noting who the marker(s) will be). The rest of the fields are optional.
2. Click on the Save changes button and the new group will appear in the left-hand column.
3. Select the new group in the left-hand column entitled "Groups."
4. Click on the **Add/remove users** button under the right-hand column entitled 'Members of:'. A new screen will appear where you can add the students enrolled on your course to your new group. These are found in the right-hand column labelled "Potential members".

   a. Search for a student
   b. Select the student and click on the **Add** button. You will also need to add Teachers if you wish them to take part in the activity and be restricted to that Group. Editing Teachers can access all Groups. **NOTE:** A student CAN be part of more than one Group.
   c. Once finished, click on the **Back to groups** button.

### How to create groupings

1. Drop down the cog icon and select **Participants > Groups > Groupings**.

2. Click on the **Create grouping** button, give it a **Grouping name** and click **Save Changes**.
3. Your grouping will appear on the Groupings tab. Click the blue **Person Button** underneath **edit** to add groups to your grouping.

4. In the next page you can use the **Add & Remove** buttons to add your groups. Click **Back to groupings** when you're done.

### Video - How to create, populate, edit, and delete a group

**Signup Sheets**
The Moodle sign-up sheet can be used for many purposes - some examples include signing up for events such as careers fairs, indicating project choices and creating project groups for collaborative work.

**Note:** The groups formed by this system are not the same as Moodle’s own groups and cannot be used in Moodle activities, therefore Signup Sheets are best used to form groups that are active outside Moodle.

- More on how to create and use Signup Sheets

See also

How to export a sign-up list from the Signup Sheet tool

**Group and collaborative activities**

There are a number of activities in Moodle which allow groups of students to work together either privately (separate groups) or with sight of, but not access to, other groups (visible groups).

- Forums
  - Wikis
  - Database
  - Glossary
  - Chat
  - Assignments
  - Turnitin assignments

Using Discussion forums, wikis or Chat Rooms with Moodle groups enables students to work together in groups, on a collaborative task or project.

- More on How to create a forum for groups
- More on Working with groups of students

**Group assignments**

Students can also submit group assignments - either (1) one student submits for all in the group and it’s automatically applied against the others in the group as soon as submitted, or (2) each student has to approve the submission of their own group’s piece.

- How to enable group submissions in a Moodle assignment

**Similar tutorials**

The following other resources are also relevant to this topic:

- How to change whether I get emails from a forum

**Other pages about Moodle forums**

- Magic with Moodle 10 - Using forums to answer student questions
- How can I see when new items are added to a forum in my module?
- I'd like to change the number of emails Moodle sends me
- How to add a forum
- How to change whether I get emails from a forum
- How to create a forum for groups
- Magic with Moodle 12 - Using forums with groups

**Other pages about Moodle groups**

- Groups in Moodle
Why might you need Groupings in Moodle?

An overview of how to use Groups and Groupings effectively

Working with groups of students

How to create a metalink to enrol students from another module

How To create groups and groupings

How to allow students to self-enrol on a module and into a given group

How to enable group submissions in a Moodle assignment

How to add a forum

How to export a list of students who are placed in a group

How to send a message to groups of students or participants

How to create a forum for groups

How to use the Signup Sheet Tool

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Magic with Moodle 12 - Using forums with groups

Possible benefits:

These collaboration tools allow you to set up group working exercises in a way similar to the classroom.