GROUP DISCUSSIONS

How we assess your teamwork skills
Teaching is all about teamwork

- The Centre for Professional Education at Warwick is 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?
What are we looking for?

- **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
Top tips

- 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 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
Top tips

- **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
Good luck!

warwick.ac.uk/become-a-teacher