

# A!

Aalto-yliopisto

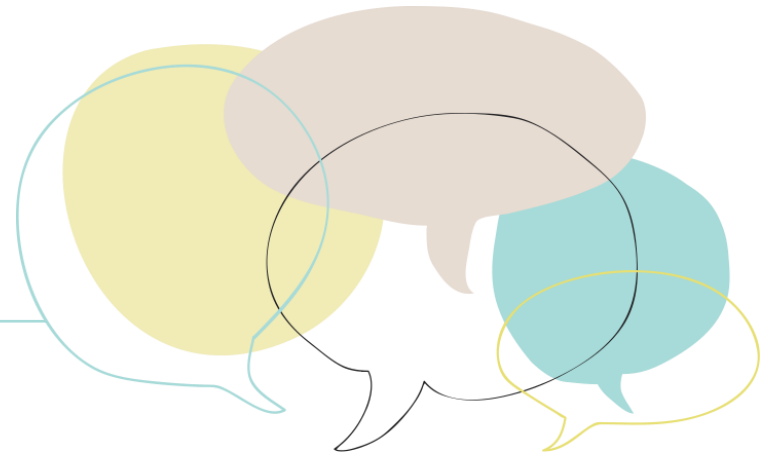
# Functioning group

The background features three overlapping speech bubbles. The top-left bubble is white with a yellow outline. The top-right bubble is beige with a black outline. The bottom-right bubble is light blue with a white outline. The bubbles overlap in the center of the slide.

*Tutor training 2020*  
*Study psychologists*

# Topics in this training material

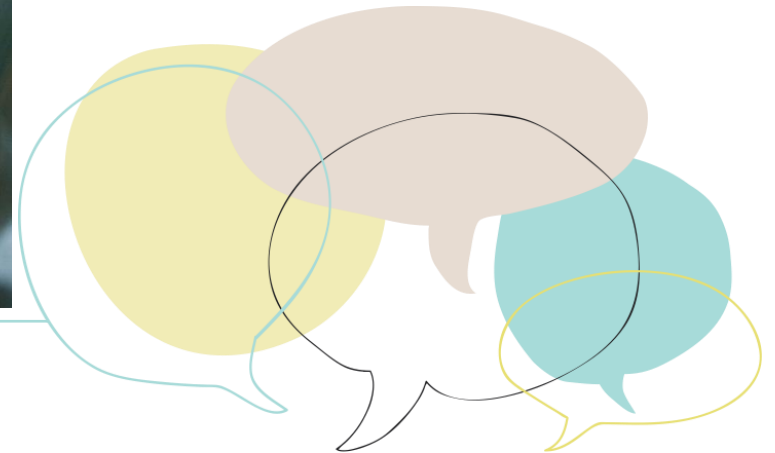
- **Grouping of students**
  - **Group characteristics** – which factors affect how the group functions as a team
  - **Group development stages** – why the initial stage of the group is particularly important
  - **Group-related challenges**



# Do you guess how many students do not feel they belong to any study-related group?

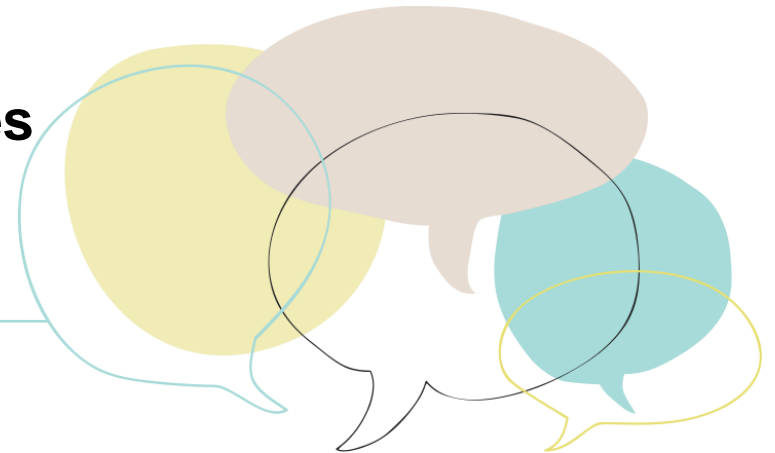


According to the FSHS 2016 health survey, 70% feel they belong to a study-related group, 22% do not feel they belong to any group and 8% do not have an opinion.



# About the importance of the group

- **According to the FSHS 2016 health survey, approx. 1 / 3 of students do not feel that they belong to any study-related group**
  - this is a significant number of students
- **Studying with fellow students is usually beneficial, promotes studies and is pleasant at its best**



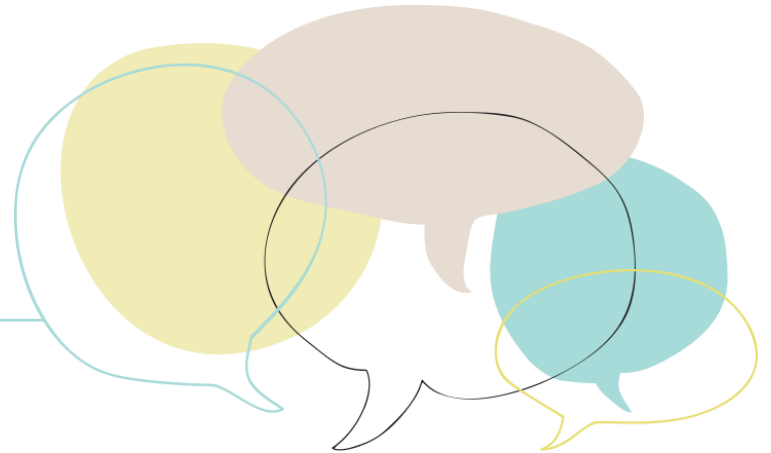
# Questions for tutors to consider

- How could a tutor group help students to find and get to know each other?



# Group characteristics

- **Group is characterised by...**
  - Common goal, cooperation
  - Group relations (role, norm, power, communication, and emotional relations)
  - Group dynamics (feelings of inclusion and irritation)



## 1. Forming

Orientation to task, group and roles, creation of operating methods

## 2. Storming

Opposition to the task and the leader, conflicts between members

## 3. Norming

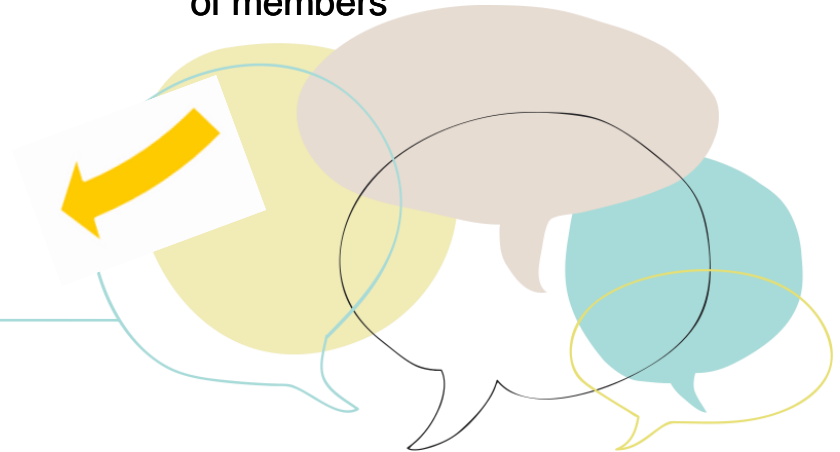
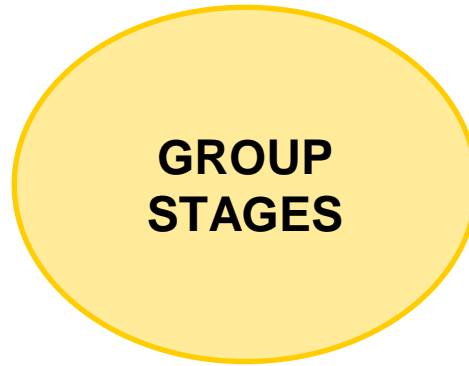
Formation of common norms and cohesion, well-established functional roles of members

## 4. Performing

Performing the task, working as a group

## 5. Adjourning

Announcing the termination of the group and helping members to move to other groups



# What causes challenges in a group?

- Different goals and aspirations of members
- Unclear roles
- Unclear communications
- Different cultural backgrounds
- Cliques (cliquing)
- Factors outside the group
- Being left out
- Relationship to alcohol





# Phenomena are polarised in groups

- **Certain phenomena / issues may sometimes be polarised in groups**
- **For example, university students may have a competitive spirit and compare themselves to others**
- **Sometimes comparison with others can be consuming**
  
- **How could a tutor, by his or her own actions, create a spirit in which the fellow students are supportive of each other instead of being competitors?**



# Study psychologist's greetings to tutors

- You are an important person in the lives of new students
- We hope you also have the time to enjoy the role of a tutor. At its best, it is a very rewarding task.
- If you face challenging situations with your group, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Ask for help from other tutors, AYY staff or us, the study psychologists 😊
- You can contact us by sending e-mail to [opintopsykologi@aalto.fi](mailto:opintopsykologi@aalto.fi)

