

First Group Session - scenario 2

Amrit is a student from Rotherham; he studied A-Levels at school before starting his degree at Sheffield Hallam University. Due to having a part time job he really likes, and sporting commitments locally he has decided to commute from home to Hallam rather than moving into student accommodation.

Amrit feels like he has chosen the right course, and it relates well to his part time work. He has a plan to undertake a Master's after his undergraduate degree and then hopefully move abroad to build his knowledge and experience. Travelling into University is proving easier than he originally thought it might and overall he's pleased with his choices.

However, Amrit does feel like he's not integrating very well with his cohort. There are several individuals in his seminar group who have a similar background and interests to himself, but the fact that he is commuting into Sheffield, and has to get back home after sessions for work or his sporting commitments means that he hasn't been able to stay behind and get to know the others on his course. Initially they invited him to go to the deli after a couple of sessions but he wasn't able to and now he feels like they think he doesn't want to join them. He's finding getting into groups for group work a bit of a challenge as he thinks the other students have already got themselves sorted and he's worried that this will affect one module in particular where there is a piece of assessed group work.

Q1 - How do you think this situation might affect Amrit in terms of his academic studies?

Q2 - What can Amrit do? Who should he talk to?



Signposting

Affect to Amrit in relation to his studies:

- Likely to feel like he doesn't fit in, when in fact he probably would do if he had time to get to know the others.
- Might feel worried about sessions where he expects there to be group work because he doesn't want to emphasise his lack of integration.
- The situation could develop to a point where he doesn't feel like he wants to be in sessions.
- His work could suffer because he ends up in groups that he doesn't feel are effective.

What can he do? Who can he talk to?

- He could talk to his Academic Advisor and make him aware of the situation, particularly if they teach him they could help bridge conversations and get Amrit into groups he feels comfortable in.
- His Student Support Officer should be informed so they can offer support and guidance and help monitor the situation with Amrit.