Discussion Groups Terms & Conditions

Freedom of speech

Every member has the right to say what he or she thinks. You should respect other peoples' views no matter how much you might disagree with them. Posts that are clearly inflammatory or aggressive in nature will be deleted. Repeat offence will result in a warning. A third offence and we may block your access to the forum.

Post in the appropriate forum

There are a number of different Groups in Open Universities Australia's My study centre- the full list is available when you login. Please use the appropriate forum when starting a new topic. Messages should be posted in the Ask an Advisor section only if you are seeking an answer to a specific question and you think the answer may be of general interest. (If you need an answer quickly, or you need to give personal information we suggest you send us an email or phone – see below.) To start other discussions about studying with us – discussions about particular degrees and units, questions to other students, recommendations, criticisms etc. – please create a new Discussion Group.

To have a private discussion with another student, please add them to your Study Buddies, and start a Study Buddy chat on your My study centre homepage.

Do not promote products, services or businesses

The Discussion Groups are not a medium for user or business advertising, posts of this kind will be deleted. Please read our website Terms & Conditions for further information.

Spamming

Repetitive posts by one user or posting a new thread when one is already easily accessible can be considered spam. Do not create threads where the idea is simply to make posts without any use at all. Repeat offence will result in a warning.
GUIDELINES

Groups

Students are encouraged to create their own groups to promote sharing of ideas and information. All groups created by students are submitted to an OUA administrator for approval. Please note that any groups which are deemed by OUA administrators as defamatory, spam, obscene, illegal, offensive, racist and/or against the values of OUA will not be approved for publishing, or will be removed from the forums.

Any repeat offenders who do not comply with this policy will be banned.

Flagged posts

OUA administrators have final approval on any comments or posts that are flagged as inappropriate by students. This includes the decision to leave a flagged post up on the forums. Please note that the result of a review may not necessarily be sent to the person who originally flagged the post.

Keep on topic

A thread is created for a specific purpose, be it a question, statement or otherwise. If you want to say something relating to an existing thread, say it in that thread. If the discussion in a particular thread wanders off too far from the original intention, create a new thread for the new topic. Before creating a new thread, search to see if a similar one already exists.

Try not to repeat threads

Don't start a new thread unless you are certain that there are no previous threads on the topic, and that you are not simply repeating what has been said in an older thread. Don't simply repeat yourself either. If a thread you created gets little attention, don't post another identical thread and don't repeatedly post in your thread in an attempt to draw attention.

Identify your subject matter

Please give your post a relevant topic subject. Topics titled "Please help" make it difficult for other students to engage in your topic.
**Power-posting**

Power-posting is when members post 'empty' messages to the board, in order to simply increase their number of posts more quickly. Examples of power-posting are replying to a message with only 'LOL' or 'I agree', but failing to contribute anything further to the discussion. If you reply to a message, make sure you have something to say. Power posting clutters up the Discussion Groups, and distorts the 'Popular Discussions' function. If you're not sure if you're power-posting, take a moment and think it over before you post. If all your post contains is a 'LOL' or an emoticon, it's a power-post. If it adds something to the discussion, it isn't.

**Personal disputes**

Please do not use these Discussion Groups for personal disputes, heated debates, flame wars etc. You are expected to treat each other with respect.

**No trolling**

What is a troll? It's a person who posts something to stir people up and sits back and watches as dozens of people jump in and start arguing. Generally they will do anything it takes to get attention. If you see a message like this, please try and refrain from replying to it - it may well be deleted anyway.

**Do not flame**

Flaming, is saying something negative in an attempt to get a more negative response. This is unacceptable. Don’t resort to personal insults, never extend a debate beyond the topic on hand needlessly, and try to avoid patronising language.

**Posting in the Ask an Advisor group**

Student advisors are available to answer posts in this group Monday to Friday 8:00am – 5:00pm (AEST). There may be times when student advisors are unable to post replies due to increased telephone and email enquiries. For urgent and personal enquiries, please contact us on 1300 363 652 or via our Online Enquiry Form.

**WARNINGS, USER LOCKING, BANNING**

If Open Universities Australia feels that a user has "crossed the line" one too many times, we will issue the user a private warning. This warning will not be discussed on the Discussion Groups. Terms & Conditions. Last updated 2012-12-18
Groups. If the warning goes unnoticed, further action will be taken. This can be anything from locking the offending user account, to deletion and banning of the user from the Discussion Groups. Action is generally on a case by case basis.

**Grievance Procedures**

If you believe another member’s post is offensive or abusive, please do not respond to the member on the discussion. Email our Student Advisors via our [Online Enquiry Form](#) with a link to the post in question.

We will investigate and listen to both sides of an argument that is brought to our attention.

All issues and complaints that are brought to OUA’s attention will be followed up and acted upon. Abuse of this reporting system, such as reporting members for no reason other than getting back at them, may result in a warning.

OUA does not closely monitor these Discussion Groups other than Ask an Advisor. We ask that members use these Discussion Groups as they see fit within the rules and guidelines outlined above.