

GLOBAL CAMPUS STUDIO

# GO-CREATION ADVICE

*How to get the most out of an international collaboration, from past GCS students...*

**Spend time learning about one another's capabilities as well as their goals for the project.** By doing this, everyone will be on the same page and understand what they want to accomplish as well as how they can reach their combined goals.

It is crucial to decide how your team is going to communicate and how often. Agreeing on a platform and consistency measures ensures that everyone can talk on a regular basis.

The best way to learn about your teammates and their strengths, is simply to be personable and connect on a human level. When you and your groupmates can relate to one another and be yourselves, individual personalities and talent shines. For example, following a classmate on Instagram allows you to see what they are passionate about, and what they bring to the table creatively.

**Divide and conquer!** Keep in mind there will not be constant collaboration so dividing up separate tasks for each team member to do asynchronously and then presenting them to each other during team meetings synchronously allows each member to work when it is most suitable to them and get feedback from other members during these check-ins.

If you're stuck on something that you were tasked to do individually do not hesitate to reach out to your group members for advice or input. The wonder of using something like Discord is that you can easily reach all of your group members very easily. By talking to each other and conversing about the problem you will most likely come up with a creative solution to whatever your roadblock may be.

**Regular check-ins help communication and also keep group members accountable and involved.** Someone may have been scheduled to complete a task by a specified deadline, but it never hurts to check in on them beforehand to see their progress.

**Make use of both verbal and non-verbal communication during virtual Zoom calls.**



**If you can't make it for certain meetings, make sure you catch up by either watching a recorded meeting or messaging members for the important details of the meeting.**

**Include everyone in the discussion by asking “What do you all think of this?” or “Let me know if there is anything I should change.”**

**Be respectful of not only other people's opinions but also of their time.** Especially when there are different time zones involved, being efficient and not wasting time is necessary when people might be waking up extra early or staying up extra late in order to attend a meeting. Always apologize if you are not able to meet a deadline, let others know with as much advance notice as possible, and come up with an alternative.

**Be open and receptive to new ideas.** Working with a team of people coming from diverse backgrounds means that everyone has different perspectives, experiences, and opinions. In order to be able to identify each other's strengths, you must be open to listening and accepting other ideas and contributions as well as encourage those who are more shy to speak up and share their thoughts.

Avoid assuming that you know what is happening in other people's lives and what they are experiencing, especially during these times of uncertainty. If a team member is being unresponsive, do not be afraid or hesitant to check in with people to ask about their progress and/or ask if they would like help or assistance. In a situation like this, it is better to over communicate rather than under communicate, which often leads to miscommunications.

**Be wary of how you use humour.** Humour is often culturally-informed with many nuances, and peers may not always understand it. Finding mutually-understandable humour is key, and laughing together can be a wonderful and underrated method of connection.

**Speak more slowly than you think you should and don't use slang.** Make sure your partners understand what you're saying or trying to communicate.