Dealing with additions

You may be confronted with a student coming to the class as a late enrollment, or one who has been enrolled but not attending because of illness. The situation of the late enrollment can be avoided by not forming groups too early in the semester.

If the groups are small it may be easy to allocate the latecomer to a group, especially if the nature of the task is demanding. If the project requires ongoing early tasks, you may be able to issue the student with some catch-up work and then ease them into a group.

This situation requires flexibility, and it helps to find out what expertise, experience or interests the student has that could be relevant to an established group. The random allocation of additional students may cause disruption or resentment on both sides, so it is important for you to facilitate the process.

Once the student joins a group it is useful for you to discuss early progress and provide additional guidance if required. The situation needs early close monitoring.