Dealing with requests to change groups

Changes of this nature are potentially disruptive to the groups involved, once groups have been formed. If you allow a student to change groups, it may also set a precedent. There may be, however, a good reason for a student to ask to change and you will need to give careful consideration to the request.

Apart from a major dispute within the original group, the most common reasons given for requesting to change groups are:

• to be with a friend in another group
• to be with people from other Units of Study or other groups
• the belief that they may get a better mark in a different group
• easier travel or meeting arrangements.

Whatever the reason, it is best that group composition is not altered once the work has begun.

There is no one rule for dealing with these situations as they will largely depend upon the nature of the group task and how far into the task other students are. You may like to set a deadline to allow some movements and to allow groups to settle.