



# Group Dynamics in Göttingen Amber Chin, Psychology & English, 2021

Intellectual  
Achievement

## SUMMARY

Over the summer, I spent about three months at the University of Göttingen, Germany conducting research on group accuracy and judgment. Under the guidance of my research mentor, Dr. Thomas Schultze, I developed and completed a study analyzing performance differences between hierarchical and non-hierarchical groups. This involved learning a new programming language, preparing a pre-registration (detailed proposal) of the study, organizing data collection, and evaluating the results in a formal analysis report for a colloquium at the University's Psychology Institute. I now have a greater understanding of various group structures and paradigms, which has allowed me to better engage in the research I do at UTSA. Additionally, I have developed strong international connections with those who share my same academic interests.



## SPICES

This experience gave me the chance to learn about a part of Group Psychology that I hadn't previously been aware of. After spending this time researching hierarchical group structures, I now feel confident examining the current literature on this topic and using it to develop future studies and methodologies that can work to remedy group performance disparities.

## HERBS

Living alone in a new country required me to demonstrate resilience. Everything from the language to the city to the social norms differed from the United States, so being able to take a moment to adjust was necessary.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

As the primary researcher on this experiment, I was responsible for communicating with and updating my project supervisor about the status of data collection and the study's progress in general. Working in a German university's Psychology department also posed differences in project timelines. Specifically, projects are completed at a quicker rate than I've experienced in the U.S., which required managing a more rigorous work schedule.



## IMPACT

On an academic level, this experience taught me independence in the pursuit of intellectual interests, but on an interpersonal level, it showed me the value of having a strong community or team to support you when investigating new ideas. Since returning to the U.S., I have continued to keep in touch with the members of this lab, and we are currently planning to do a joint, international study this fall to build upon the data we collected this summer.

## ADVICE

Reach out to professors, colleagues, and peers who are doing what you want to do and find ways to work alongside them. Having strong interpersonal relationships with these individuals will make learning and doing difficult tasks more enjoyable.