

UpGrad Community Guidelines

1. Role of the discussion forum

You have access to a group of passionate professionals, that will become the biggest source of learning throughout the duration of course. This network with your peers is going to form large part of your program experience. You peers will be your friends, critics, colleagues, your sounding board for your doubts throughout this journey.

The value of the community heavily depends on your contribution - on what you upvote and on what you mark as inappropriate.

2. Scoring on the discussion forum

- Upvotes from peers on your answer/ question attracts points. Simply posting questions or answers will not fetch you any points.
- As the course goes by, TAs will be approving answers on relevant questions and considerably more points will be awarded for verified answers.
- TA's will monitor posts flagged as inappropriate. If the flagged post violates community guidelines, it will be deleted and may attract a score penalty.

3. What kind of questions should I avoid posting

- Whether you are asking a question or starting a discussion, first ask yourself - is this going to help other learners of this program. If the answer is no, don't post.
- Asking for technical support, deadlines, reporting errors etc about course content should be done directly to your buddy through the support tab, and not on the discussion forum.
- If you see that the question you want to ask already exists on the discussion forum, then don't create a new question. You can **upvote the original question**.
- Is the discussion you are posting more than just mindless social fun? If no, then don't post it.
- If you see a question which you believe does not belong in the peer discussion forum, do report it as inappropriate. You have the option of doing so on the post itself. It will keep the community relevant for everyone. TA's will keep a track of flagged posts and remove them if found inappropriate.

4. What kind of responses should I avoid giving

If you are thinking about writing a response, pat yourself on your back :) It is because of helpful learners like you that makes this peer to peer discussion forum valuable. It makes learning together fun and social. However, there is care to be taken while adding a response.

- Thanking other posters is appreciated but doesn't add much value to the discussion and hence can be avoided. If you like a content (discussion / responses ..) upvote it instead of responding by "thanks" or "that was great" etc. This also ensures that person who posted the content gets credit for it.
- I have the same question / I was about to say the same responses. Think from the perspective of your fellow peer. No one would like to read too many responses like "I feel the same", "Great question" "Great answer", "thanks" etc. In situations, always **upvote the question or the answer** you want to appreciate.
- Is your post a response to original question or a follow up to another response? If it's a follow up, then please add a comment to the answer you are replying to instead of creating a new response.
- Be civil and polite, we are here to learn from each other. Let's not shout or yell, Writing with caps lock ON is yelling. A good civil discourse is about respecting each other even though you may not agree on everything.

5. Keeping the discussion forum clean

- Put some thought while choosing the topic. Posting a discussion in a wrong or irrelevant topic would be counter productive.
- Don't cross-post the same thing in multiple topics.
- Don't divert a discussion by changing it midstream.
- Don't sign your posts with your name at the end. Every post has your profile information attached to it.
- Don't prefix your post with Hi All / Hi Friends. Greetings are implicitly implied.
- Don't unnecessarily use multiple lines while posting something. It gives you more screen space but it is annoying for the reader. Make readers life easier through formatting, not harder.
- Keep questions crisp and readable. Use descriptions with the question to elaborate.
- Fill in your profile if you haven't already and put up your profile photo. It helps to attach a face to discussion.
- If you see a problem, someone not following these guidelines do not hesitate to report the question, answer or comment. If we agree with you, the content will be removed from the forum.

- You may not post anything digital that belongs to someone else without permission. You may not post someone's intellectual property (software, video, audio, images), or any links to it as it would break the laws.

6. Summary

The discussion forum and the community has to be driven by you, the student. Keeping the discussion forum relevant depends on what questions and responses are upvoted and reported. **Engagement points heavily depend on what content gets upvotes and what content gets reported.**

Help us make this a great place for discussion by always working to improve the discussion in some way, however small it may be. Any feedback on discussion forum can be sent to your buddy. We take feedbacks utmost seriously as we believe value of this discussion forum directly depends on you.