

Team 88 – Pall-ETS

The Global Enterprise Experience was something I instantly recognised I could benefit from in terms of my personal and professional development. I have previously conducted a placement year at Experian and as part of my role as a Business Analyst and Project Manager I worked very closely with offshore development resource based in India. I managed their workflow virtually and I feel I learnt a great deal about cultural awareness, communication styles and virtual team work abilities. For my final year dissertation project I sought to answer the key challenges of working in global virtual teams and identify critical factors for success. It was apparent that I could apply a lot of my placement experience and dissertation findings to the GEE project. I approached the project extremely enthusiastically at all times and with the ambition to produce a highly innovative product or service which I personally felt was credible in the real business world.

When I was first introduced to my team by email I tried to apply the principals for success that my dissertation research suggested were crucial. I started by introducing myself on a personal level and explained my research findings succinctly which I stated would lead to a successful project. This involved encouraging an open and transparent approach to the work and ensuring appropriate communication mediums were used. I had hoped that the team would embrace video conference meetings early on. My dissertation results suggested these allowed a team to go through Tuckman's (1965) stages of group development much more swiftly. However it was clear that some members did not benefit from fast reliable internet connections and could not join in with such a strategy which I felt would alienate and exclude certain members which I wanted to avoid. Thus I encouraged that we spent time forming a team relationship, learning about each other's skills, strengths and interests. My aim was to build trust within the team and encourage openness, I believe I reassured the team of my capabilities and they commonly turned to me for guidance when they identified I could be of help and assistance.

I ensured I supported our team leader to the best of my abilities and used my project management experience to guide and shape the project without trying to take over command. I have approached the project with extreme passion and energy and invested significant time in the project away from my personal businesses and university work. I have been highly commended by my team members and team leader on many occasions and truly feel that they have built a great deal of respect and trust in my abilities to innovate, produce high quality work and support them with their tasks. I am extremely satisfied with the business concept that we have proposed and I have made use of my 3D modelling experience to bring the concept I proposed to life and used my construction technical expertise to ensure the team fully understood the concept and what it was we were trying to achieve.

I have also made use of my industry connections and have consulted closely with several architects towards the end of the project to gain their support of the Pall-ETS system we have produced. I am an entrepreneurial individual and have already started researching into the possibilities to patent the design and technology. I will be building a physical prototype of our system over summer and I will be arranging a charity event and inviting my team members to attend. I plan to go to a disadvantaged community such as in Nigeria and erect the structure. I would like to raise awareness of the system as a serious and credible solution to crisis shelters as I feel it is highly sustainable and of genuine benefit.

I have approached the GEE challenge not only wanting to develop myself and my skills but also trying to support and foster excellence in my team mates. I made the conscious effort to be highly approachable and have built a personal relationship with each team member. I have helped them with their work and motivated them to sustain effort and involvement. The GEE challenge has given me the opportunity to work with individuals from a wide range of diverse cultures and I feel I have learnt a lot about myself and where my skills lie. The need for further personal and professional development has also been reflected upon. I have found the GEE experience one of, if not the most rewarding and challenging events of my entire time at university and

couldn't think of a more beneficial way to wrap up my time spent here. It has been crucial to my global citizenship and awareness reflective report I need to complete and I have organised meetings with my course leader to encourage next year's final year students to take part in the GEE challenge.

I would like to extend a massive admiration and recognition to the students whose first language is not English. I have been blown away by their communication skills and ability to adapt throughout the challenge. They have inspired me to take the challenge to learn a foreign language and I plan to conduct a distance learned qualification. The GEE challenge has boosted my personal confidence in my entrepreneurial and creative capabilities which has highly motivated me to carry on pursuing an unconventional route out of university by establishing my own business. I look forward to carrying on developing my iSelfBuild Ltd business and applying all that I have learnt. I also look forward to developing the Pall-ETS technology further and would like to keep in touch with my GEE team and the organisers of the event.