My team was very late to agree on a business idea which was a constant daily argument on what we all think would be a winning idea. Eventually we settled for a service thanks to a vote on our Facebook page from which we dived straight into the proposal. This was such a relief. I really enjoyed writing my section of the proposal as I have an interest in marketing whilst also learning all about the history and statistics of poverty in a varying degree of countries. The statistics that I discovered whilst researching information blew my mind, thus providing insight into the push behind our third world service idea from our third world country team mates.

On the communication front, we originally emailed each other for the first couple of days which soon became evident that it was going to inefficient long term. The leader suggested using Google Docs to create and edit our proposal whilst communicating and asking questions via a Facebook page. Overall this was practical and successful.

The biggest challenge I encountered whilst competing in the competition was a different interpretation of the meaning behind conversations from everyone. I noticed that team members whose first language was not English struggled to understand the emotion and meaning behind each conversation and therefore exposing the fact we were not all on the same page when it came down to the enthusiasm behind the service in which we were providing.

In contrast, Team members from poverty stricken countries where in my opinion some of the most valuable members as they were living first hand what we were writing about and could only ever imagine. They were ambitious and brought passion to the proposal, speaking from the heart to generate a strong business proposal that is influential and compelling.

Throughout the whole experience my mind was running rampant with new ideas and services, constantly developing my ideas when I learnt new facts and figures about certain countries. There are so many services that could be introduced into third world countries per-se that would have a massive positive impact on the citizens and culture. Even small businesses that just made everyday life easier would be a massive help to those in desperate need.

Our team leader was on top of most aspects of the competition so there was no need to take over the leadership role. Although our first few days were radio silence from the leader so I stood in and took charge and sent out the first introductory email leading to a rapid response from the leader, who was thoroughly efficient throughout the rest of the competition. Due to me being the first point of communication I became very disappointed that I was unable to carry on the main leadership role as I have had previous leader and managerial roles which I thoroughly enjoy. Contrary to my disappointment, taking a step back and observing other styles of leaderships and discovering how other team members feel towards the leader was a new insight for me, one which I have rarely had a chance to experience before. My team leader and I were messaging separately through the competition asking each other for advice on how to approach a situation and what we could do to move the team along in terms of agreeing on an idea. In doing so I felt our partnership was a helpful contribution towards the success of completion from the team. Furthermore, creating a space where we could both express our negative thoughts and frustrated feelings without anyone else being effected by our interaction and off topic torrent.

I feel I have developed a stronger sense of patience after taking part in the competition. The experience as a whole was definitely an exhausting adventure due to the cross cultural aspects
and language barriers which were the sole reason for an increase in the patience I discovered within myself. No doubt I have developed a stronger sense of compassion for different cultures.