May 2 to May 23. These 20 days will be stuck in my mind as some of the most challenging and frustrating days of my three years at university. However, writing this journal and realising it is all coming to an end, makes me so incredibly proud.

The beginning of my Global enterprise experience was difficult. I sent out my group letter the very first day and I heard nothing (slight issue). So, I tried again sending messages to both the second emails and Facebook profiles, still not one response (large issue). Looking back one of the things I would change is going to tutorials, and expecting not only to be at the same place as the majority of the other leaders but for their leadership strategy to work for my team. My first tutorial I still hadn’t heard anything from my team members and everyone else had success stories and gave these great ideas that had worked for them. As great as they were my team was extremely hard to motivate and these leadership ideas I kept trying time after time just were not working.

Therefore, I had this team for the first half of the project who had now said hello and were all worried about the fact nothing was getting done, and as fast as I was trying to motivate them they stopped answering. I tried everything that was working for others in the first week. My response from most of my team was, "we don’t mind", "we will do anything", "I don’t care". The only thing they wouldn’t do was give me ideas and this is what I needed to most.

Around this time, I was in the hospital and the only thing I was thinking about was why my team wasn’t working. I realised although I had been strong in the group chat I needed to foster individual relationships. For me, this was the turning point. I realised my whole team was so worried about being judged they would rather say nothing. With these individual messages, I got the most amazing ideas from all of my team members. This gave me the greatest sense of achievement and team 23 started to form.

From these ideas, we decided as a team to look into hydroponic gardening in Rwanda. There were two issues with this for me. One, I had no idea where Rwanda was and, two, I had no idea about how hydroponics work. In fact, none of us did so I started to research.

While I’m talking about things I had no idea about, time zones! In this second week, I started to do video calls. 4 am starts became normal. I was still in the hospital and I am so grateful the lady next-door didn’t mind listening to my group calls at 4 am in the morning. However, I was more grateful for her when no one answered my calls and she would tell me that they would be there the next day, keep trying. So, patience became something I became good at and it started to pay off when people did start to join the group chat.

This was when I realised how different everyone was. It sounds so simple of course I knew everyone was their own person and diversity was important. However, it was the expectations people would see and understand the simple things, and interpret them the way I did. No. I had the expectation that when we chose the topic everyone would do basic research on the topic. No. So, I started with the basics and everyone had to research hydroponics. I had expected them to do this naturally. But, this was important because now everyone had great ideas and wanted to share things they found and we went from 0 to 100 on the participation front.

I am so proud of this report and how we all contributed as we started to understand the topic. Another case of expectations was the expectation we would focus on the case and group dynamics wouldn’t appear. But of course, they did. For example, the group divided awfully fast when it was brought up one member expected a male team leader. I don’t believe this was said horribly, it was just a culture difference. It took time to overcome this difference and many other cases like this. In just 20 days we became a team who understood we had different onions and we accepted them. I’m grateful for these and, as cliché as it is, they made our team so much stronger.