



i-Teams for Development, Cambridge University Easter Term 2016

Is our technology fit-for-purpose for international development?

“Our team was like a small company, working together to achieve a common goal.”

“i-Teams is one of the most entertaining and inspiring projects I have ever worked on. It has helped to reshape and direct my future career towards entrepreneurship”

Instructor: Amy Weatherup, Visiting Industrial Fellow, Computer Lab
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Time: Tuesdays, 7-10PM

Room: Lecture Room 2, Institute for Manufacturing,
West Cambridge site

Overview

Development i-Teams brings together teams of students with real university inventions, and asks what should be done to maximise their impact in the developing world.

Teams consist of 6 or 7 students, selected to have diverse backgrounds and skillsets. Students can be PhDs, PostDocs, MPhils, undergraduates or Cambridge residents, from any discipline – the goal is to bring in as many different viewpoints and experiences as possible.

Teams will work for 4 weeks with an experienced mentor and an existing technology, learning about the realities of development, and making a recommendation to the inventor about how to make use of their technology in a development context.

Questions that the team will consider include:

- What is the development need that this technology or product aims to address?
- Is this appropriate for use in a development context, and if so, how, and in what geographies?
- Can it be used to create or enhance good-quality low-cost products, that are affordable for ordinary people?
- What are the best routes to market, and how does pricing affect these?
- What is the best way to generate sustainable long-term impact? For example, via commercial organisations, social enterprises, international or local NGOs, charities or a combination of these?
- Does the technology lend itself to a mixed approach, with customers in both the developed and the developing world?

A key part of the project will involve finding relevant knowledgeable contacts and gathering real-world feedback on your ideas and on the usefulness of your technology. This will build and extend your existing network of contacts, as well as helping you to develop hands-on experience in talking to new people with a range of different backgrounds about your project. You will also gain experience in working in a team of people with different skills and experience to yourself.

Each team will present their findings to a broader audience at the end of the course, and will have the opportunity to present their results as a poster at the annual International Development Conference.

Schedule

Each session will consist of a talk or presentation, followed by inter-team discussion and updates on the status of the projects, focusing in particular on problems experienced and how to address those. At the end of each session each team will give an update to the group on their progress and next steps.

<p>i-Teams session 1 7pm-10pm May 3rd</p>	<p>Introduction to i-Teams Getting started: Assessing target markets and finding relevant contacts – this session provides the tools to get started on your projects</p> <p>Meet the inventors: Teams meet each other and their researchers, and brainstorm the issues their technology might face in a development context, and what questions they need to answer</p> <p>Actions: Assign tasks between team members, based on each person's knowledge and experience. Exchange contact details! Agree times for weekly meetings with team mentors as appropriate.</p>
<p>i-Teams session 2 7pm-10pm May 10th</p>	<p>Best practice in international development – Lara Allen, Director of the Centre for Global Equality Some guidelines on what works and what doesn't, based on real-world examples and case studies</p> <p>Working time for teams Verbal updates from teams</p>
<p>i-Teams session 3 7pm-10pm May 17th</p>	<p>Guest Speaker – TBC, from an NGO</p> <p>The realities of working in international development, and how technology can be used to improve the lives of the world's poorest 50%</p> <p>Working time for teams Verbal updates from teams</p>
<p>i-Teams session 4 7pm-10pm May 24th</p>	<p>Working time for teams Verbal updates from teams</p> <p>Discussion of how to get good feedback from external contacts</p>

<p>i-Teams session 5 7pm-10pm May 31st</p>	<p>How to conclude your i-Teams project * Selecting the best market for a technology * What features can be compared * What are the routes to market for each application</p> <p>Working time for teams Verbal updates from teams</p>
<p>i-Teams session 5 7pm-10pm June 7th</p> <p><i>To be attended by an external audience</i></p>	<p>Final presentations: Teams present their results and recommend next steps for their projects</p> <p>Team members, mentors, inventors and a number of invited guests from the University and local development and business communities will attend this presentation</p>
<p>International Development Conference November 2016</p>	<p>Teams will be presenting posters at this event</p>

Acknowledgements

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