



## **i-Teams, Cambridge University Michaelmas Term 2017**

***Be part of an exciting team, learn about taking real technologies to market, strengthen your skills, and have fun!***

*“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, i-Teams Programme Director, IfM  
Am678@cam.ac.uk  
**Time:** Mondays, 7-10PM  
**Room:** Lecture Room 2, Institute for Manufacturing,  
West Cambridge site

## **Overview**

i-Teams allows entrepreneurial post-graduate students to work with real inventions to determine the best route for their commercialization, and present the results to a diverse audience of business and academic experts.

Each i-Team consists of up to 7 students from different disciplines and experience, who work with a nominated University research project. The i-Team assesses the commercial prospects for the technology, by discussing the technology with real target customers in relevant industries. The teams are guided by the researchers, the i-Teams Programme Director (Amy Weatherup, an experienced local entrepreneur), and mentors from the local business community. Together the teams will identify suitable product markets, and define directions for future technology development, helping to drive the use of University research in real-world applications.

Identifying the best path for commercializing a breakthrough technology is an iterative process, so the programme is designed with many small checkpoints. We expect that you will put forth hypotheses, test them, then go back and revise them based on customer input or other feedback. At several points during the term, teams will have the opportunity to present updates on their progress, to get feedback from the other teams. At each step, the entire group will have the opportunity to review and challenge your hypothesis and conclusions, helping to ensure that the final conclusions represent a well-justified analysis of the technology's commercial potential.

## **i-Teams Goal**

The goal of i-Teams is to explore, identify and analyze the commercial potential for your team's emerging, breakthrough technology. At the end of the term, your team will have identified the markets and applications with the most potential. It's also entirely acceptable for your team to come to a well-researched conclusion that there is no attractive market for the technology.

A key part of the i-Teams project involves finding contacts in relevant industries to gather real-world feedback on your ideas for applications for the 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.

Your final presentation will provide an overview of the competition, the most appropriate applications for your technology, and the next steps for moving forward. This analysis will be presented in the form of a power point presentation along with supporting materials, which could serve as the starting point for a subsequent team to develop a business plan or licensing programme.

Each team will make a presentation of their findings to a broader audience at the end of the term, and will have the opportunity to present their conclusions in poster form at the CUE Grand Finale and the CUTEC Technology Ventures Conference.

## **Deliverables**

### ***Initial Presentation:***

At the end of the second session, each team will make an informal verbal presentation to the other teams, summarizing their project and brainstorming results.

### ***Weekly team meetings:***

As well as the group sessions, teams will need to hold weekly team meetings to report to their fellow team members on progress, and agree priorities for the following week.

### ***Mid-term Presentation:***

The mid-term presentation will be 10-15 minutes long and is given to the other teams, their mentors and researchers, and an invited panel of 3 or 4 University and business experts. This will be your first formal presentation and should include:

- Summary of your technology and its benefits
- Market areas investigated
  - Applicability of technology to market areas
  - Any background information you have discovered so far
  - Companies or people you hope to speak to in each area
- Anything else you have found out!

### ***Customer Interviews and Analysis:***

The most critical aspect of the project will be identifying the markets that hold the most potential for the technology. To that end, contacting and interviewing potential customers in that market to determine their level of need for/interest in the product is critical. Each team will be expected to conduct a minimum of 10 customer interviews, which will be summarized in a pack of supporting materials for the final presentation.

### ***Verbal Updates:***

At each i-Teams session, teams will update the group on their progress so far, including:

- Important or interesting findings (from market analysis or customer feedback)
  - Findings of direct relevance to the technology, eg key needs for a particular market as relayed by a customer,
  - Findings of more general applicability, eg we found customers were more forthcoming under the following circumstances
- Any roadblocks or hurdles that need to be resolved

These updates will usually be around 5 minutes long

### ***Final Presentation:***

The final presentation should be designed for an audience with no prior exposure to the technology. It will need to be short and to-the-point, covering in 10 minutes the following key aspects:

- Brief introduction to the technology and its key differentiators
- Review of markets analysed
- Summary of results from different markets
- Recommendations and next steps

Each presentation will be followed by Q&A to defend the conclusions reached.

**Information Pack:**

In addition to the final presentations, teams will hold a final handover meeting with their inventor and Cambridge Enterprise representative to go through their findings and recommendations in more detail. Teams should also package up their detailed findings (including summaries of discussions and contact details for industry contacts) into a useful form for them to use going forward.

**Poster:** Teams are invited to present their results in poster format at both the CUE Grand Finale (where the winners of this year's Business Creation Competition are announced) and at the CUTEC Technology Ventures 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.

<p>i-Teams session 1 7pm-10pm Oct.2nd</p>	<p><b>Introduction to i-Teams</b>  <b>Getting started:</b>          Assessing target markets and finding relevant contacts – this session provides the tools to get started on your projects</p> <p><b>Meet the inventors:</b>          Teams meet each other and their researchers, and learn about their technology</p>
<p>i-Teams session 2 7pm-10pm Oct.9th</p>	<p><b>Team brainstorming session:</b>          Brainstorming session in individual teams to generate ideas for applications and uses of the technology</p> <p><b>Each team summarises their results at the end of the session</b></p> <p><b>Actions:</b>          Start to assign tasks between team members, based on each person's knowledge and experience. Exchange contact details!          Agree times for weekly meetings with team mentors/Pis/Amy as appropriate.</p>
<p>i-Teams session 3 7pm-10pm Oct.16th</p>	<p><b>Workshop session:</b>          Katie Bardes – how to communicate with industry contacts</p> <p>An interactive workshop focusing on the key communication skills you will need to gather information and feedback effectively from industry experts.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b>          Before next week, each team must meet with their PI to identify which of their market applications are technically feasible</p>
<p>i-Teams session 4 7pm-10pm Oct.23rd</p>	<p><b>Discussion of presentation skills</b></p> <p><b>Actions:</b>          Before next week, each team member should try to contact at least 3 people in relevant industries</p>

<p>i-Teams session 5 7pm-10pm Oct.30th</p> <p><b>To be attended by a panel of 3 external commercial experts</b></p>	<p><b>Mid-term presentations</b></p> <p>Powerpoint slides – up to 15 minutes to present, 15 minutes for questions – to include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A summary of your product/technology and its benefits</li> <li>2. The target markets or routes to market you are investigating for your product (expect questions from the group as to why you are looking at those particular ones, and further application ideas from other students...)</li> <li>3. A list of companies you would like to contact, and who you'd like to contact in them (names if possible, otherwise descriptions of roles) - this is where the teams may be able to help each other find good people to talk to</li> </ol>
<p>i-Teams session 6 7pm-10pm Nov.6th</p>	<p><b>Workshop session:</b> Simon Pulman-Jones – using Design Thinking and Human-Centred Design in your i-Teams projects</p> <p>An interactive workshop to help you understand some of the steps needed to take a new technology and use it as the basis for a product that will fit smoothly into people's lives.</p>
<p>i-Teams session 7 7pm-10pm Nov.13th</p>	<p><b>Guest Entrepreneur Speaker – TBC</b></p> <p>Understanding the Customer - the importance of customer feedback (including some real world examples)</p> <p><b>Discussion of progress in making approaches to external people and how to get the best information from them</b></p> <p><b>Team input (5 minute verbal updates):</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Further ideas for target markets</li> <li>2. Feedback from technical meeting with PI to assess which market applications are technologically feasible</li> <li>3. Feedback from customer discussions, including problems encountered, as well as any discussions that gave good feedback</li> </ol>
<p><b>i</b> Team session 8 7pm-10pm Nov.20th</p>	<p><b>Guest Speaker from Cambridge Enterprise</b> - A brief introduction to intellectual property and methods of protecting it.</p> <p><b>Team updates (5 minute verbal updates)</b></p>
<p>i-Teams session 9 7pm-10pm Nov.27th</p>	<p><b>How to conclude your i-Teams project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Selecting the best application for a technology</li> <li>* What features can be compared</li> <li>* What are the routes to market for each application</li> </ul> <p><b>Team input:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Summary of your technology for a non-expert audience</li> <li>* Key tasks remaining before the final presentation session</li> </ul>

Team meetings 7pm-10pm Dec.4th	Individual team meetings
Final presentations 6.30pm – 9pm Dec.7th <b>Maxwell Centre (THURSDAY)</b>	<b>Final presentations:</b> Teams present their results and recommend next steps for their projects  Team members, mentors, PIs and a number of invited guests from the University and local business community will attend this presentation
<b>Posters at CUTECH conference</b> June 2018	Teams are invited to present posters at both events

Teams will be responsible for arranging weekly team meetings at other times.

## **Acknowledgements**

The i-Teams name and logo are reproduced with the permission of MIT and the Deshpande Center.

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