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Development i-Teams
University of Cambridge
Lent Term 2027

Is our technology fit-for-purpose for sustainable 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"

Instructors:	Amy Weatherup, i-Teams Programme Director, IfM Dr. Lara Allen, Centre for Global Equality
Time:	Tuesdays, 7-10pm Pizza from 6.30pm
Location:	Lecture Theatre 2 Institute for Manufacturing, West Cambridge site
Contact:	Amy Weatherup, am678@cam.ac.uk

Delivered in partnership with the Centre for Global Equality

Overview

Development i-Teams brings together teams of students with real university inventions, and asks what should be done to maximise their impact in helping to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Teams consist of up to 8 participants, selected to have diverse backgrounds and skillsets. I-Teams participants 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 with an experienced mentor and a new Cambridge technology, learning about the realities of development, and making a recommendation to the inventor about how to make use of their technology in a sustainable 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 countries of differing income levels?

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.

Deliverables

***Initial Presentation**:*

At the beginning of the second session, each team will make an informal verbal presentation to the other teams, summarising their project and their ideas about it so far.

Weekly team meetings:

Teams will have weekly team meetings to report to their fellow team members on progress and agree priorities and task allocation for the following week. Time is available for these after each week's lecture.

Expert 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 relevant experts in that market to determine their level of need for/interest in the product is a key requirement. Each team will be expected to conduct a minimum of 10 interviews, which will be summarised 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 interviewees 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 10-12 minutes the following key aspects:

- Brief introduction to the technology and its key differentiators
- Review of markets analysed, including any competitive products
- 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, Handover meeting and Poster:

In addition to the final presentations, teams will hold a final handover meeting with their inventor and Cambridge Enterprise representative (where relevant) to go through their findings and recommendations in more detail.

Teams must also compile their detailed findings (including summaries of discussions and contact details for industry contacts) for them to use going forward.

Teams are also asked to present their final results in poster format so that they can be shared at a future in-person i-Teams presentation session.

Platforms

i-Teams uses several cloud-based platforms – you will receive invitations to join each of these.

File sharing via Google Drive*:*

Each team will have a designated Google Drive workspace set up for their project. Slides and recordings of each lecture/workshop will also be shared via Google Drive.

Team communications via WhatsApp*:*

Teams need to communicate regularly between sessions to share progress updates as they happen. We will set up a WhatsApp channel for each team.

Online whiteboard via Miro*:*

If you need an online whiteboard application for brainstorming or organizing your thoughts as a team, then miro.com is the best we have found so far.

Online meetings via Zoom*:*

Zoom links are set up for anyone who cannot join an evening session in person. This is also used if we cannot hold a session in-person (e.g., due to bad weather).

Schedule

Each session consists of a talk or presentation at 7pm, followed by inter-team discussion and updates on the status of the projects, focusing in particular on problems experienced and how to address those.

Pizza is provided at 6.30pm outside the lecture room.

After the weekly lecture the teams will have time for their weekly team meetings with the support of their project mentor, Lara Allen and Amy Weatherup.

i-Teams week 1 **Feb. 2nd** 7pm-10pm Inventors from 8pm	**Introduction to i-Teams, Amy Weatherup** **Getting started:** Assessing target markets and finding relevant contacts – this session provides the tools to get started on your projects **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 **Actions:** Each team member should carry out background research into their technology and application areas before the next session
i-Teams week 2 **Feb. 9th** 7pm-10pm Team meetings from 8pm	**Best practice in international development** **Dr. Lara Allen, CEO of the Centre for Global Equality** Some guidelines on what works and what doesn't, based on real-world examples and case studies **Verbal updates from teams** **Working time for teams**
i-Teams week 3 **Feb. 16th** 7pm-10pm Team meetings from 8.30pm	**Workshop session:** **Design Thinking and Human-centred Design** **Ben Moore, Founder, Supplyable** An interactive workshop covering 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.
i-Teams week 4 **Feb. 23rd** 7pm-10pm Team meetings from 8pm	**Guest Expert Speaker, TBC** The realities of working in international development, and how technology can be used to improve the lives of the world's poorest 50% **Verbal updates from teams** - Discussion of how to get good feedback from external contacts **Working time for teams**

i-Teams week 5 **Mar. 2nd** 7pm-10pm Team meetings from 8pm	**Market selection approach for i-Teams projects, Amy Weatherup** * Selecting the best market for a technology * What features can be compared * What are the routes to market for each application **Verbal updates from teams (Areas of focus for the last 2 weeks)** **Working time for teams**

i-Teams week 6 **Mar. 9th** 7pm-10pm Team meetings from 8pm	**Pitching for resources** **Dr. Bang Ming Yong, Institute for Manufacturing** **Verbal updates from teams (Key tasks remaining before the final presentations)** **Working time for teams**
i-Teams week 7 **Mar. 16th** 7pm-9pm **Maxwell Centre** ***Attended by an external audience***	**Final presentations:** Teams present their results and recommend next steps for their projects Team members, mentors, inventors as well as representatives from the University and local development and business communities will attend this presentation session Finger buffet from 6.30pm, presentations start at 7pm
Handover meeting with inventors and mentor	**Final meeting to go through the team's detailed findings, and identify any key contacts to follow-up with** Date and time to be arranged by the team and inventor
Posters at IDC conference Date TBC	Teams will be invited to present posters at the annual IDC conference

Acknowledgements

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