**PRACTICUM FAQ (DRAFT – FOR INPUT)**

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| **Question** | **Answer** |
| **What are the goals of the practicum?** | The main goal of the practicum if to provide you with an opportunity to experience and demonstrate what you have learned through the program as either a Premium or Leadership participant. You will do so by prototyping solutions to real-life problems, using a design thinking approach and Agile techniques, with support from coaches and facilitators. In addition to solidifying your learning and generating concrete solutions, we also hope to create a community of Digital Leaders and Practitioners who will spread their new knowledge, skills and digital mindset across government. |
| **What are my learning objectives?** | Learning objectives vary depending on your program (Leadership or Premium). By the end of the practicum, leaders should be able to: (add content)   * define a workable problem * work as agile teams to... * iterate a concept/solution with users * create a product out of the process * tell a compelling story around the product * Show a product to others   Leaders should be able to:   * Create a vision for team project * Enable of cross-functional team * Facilitate and agile process * Articulate a change management needs assessment * Lead the demonstration of a prototype |
| **Are we excepted to come up with a fully developed solution?** | No. You are however expected to present a plan on how the solution could be developed and implemented if full development of the solution is impossible within the scope of the practicum. |
| **What will be my role, as a learner?** | If you are a Leader (Leadership tier), you are expected to guide your team towards a desirable (from a user perspective), feasible and viable solution to a real-life problem or challenge. You will provide directions to your team, and be available for decision-making. You will also present iterations of your solution to other teams and panels throughout the practicum. If you are a Practitioner (Premium tier), you will be expected to "do" the work needed to bring the solution to life. |
| **What type of support will we get?** | Leaders - and teams in general - will be assigned an Agile coach. Design, data, AI/ML, and DevOps practitioners will also be available to help teams validate problems, brainstorm ideas, select ideas for prototyping, and prototype and test solutions. Technical assistants will be available to resolve technical issues, and the practicum coordinator will be available to help leaders and teams solve other types of problems. |
| **How will solutions be accessed?** | Solutions will be accessed twice: in the middle of the practicum, and at the end, on the last day or Pitch Day. We have developed assessment criteria that will be communicated to you during the orientation session that will be held before the practicum. The same criteria will be communicated and used by panel members as well. |
| **Will there be a "winner"?** | The assumption is that you will all win from the experience. Team awards may be given based on pre-determined categories. However, no decision has been taken yet in that regard. You have suggestions? Let us know! |
| **How will I be accessed on an individual level?** | Individual assessment for the beta cohort will be self-based, and linked to learning objectives that could vary from stream to stream. It means you will have to fill out a self-assessment survey at the beginning of the practicum, and another at the end that will give you - and us! - a measure of *how much* and *what* you have learned during the practicum. The self-assessment surveys will likely be available on line. More to follow. |
| **Will I get some type of certification?** | For the beta version of the practicum, you will only get a completion certificate if you participated a minimum of 7 days in total (out of 14) for Leaders, and 10 days for Premium participants. Days don't have to be consecutive, but there will days were attendance will be mandatory, particularly in the first week. Attendance will be monitored. For future iterations of the practicum, we are exploring the concept of badges. If we decide to go that route, you will be informed on what you need to do to qualify for them at a later date. |
| **What happens if I can't participate during the minimum required number of days, or during mandatory participation days?** | Let us know as soon as you can, and we will see what we can do. Because this is a beta, we need to explore different scenarios and think of solutions that would work now, or in the future. Your contribution in that respect will be valuable. |
| **How will I get my completion certificate if I can't attend Pitch Day?** | If you participated the required minimum number of days and were present during mandatory days, we can certainly arrange for you to get you completion certificate even if you can't be there on Pitch Day. However, you will need a justification for your absence. "Being too busy at work" won't be an acceptable reason. |
| **When are the groups formed?** | The groups are formed at the beginning of Day 4 of the practicum. |
| **How are the groups formed?** | Once the solutions to be prototyped have been selected, you decide where your contribution would add most value. Can't decide what group to join? Don't worry! We can assign you to a group. |
| **How many people in a group?** | In addition to the Leader, there are 4 to 6 people in a group. You may need to switch group some days to replace absentees, or work with more than one group if your expertise is unique and required for more than one solution. |
| **Will all Premium streams be represented in each group?** | Potentially, but not necessarily. Group composition will vary based on the solution being prototyped and the type of expertise it requires. However, there will be at least one designer per group. |
| **How many groups will there be in total?** | Number of groups will not exceed 16. |
| **Can two groups work on the same problem?** | Yes. Two groups can work on the same problem, on a different solution. |
| **Can I participate virtually?** | Not for the first 4 days, but potentially afterwards. Once the groups are formed, team members decide on how they want to organize. Some groups may decide to work on site every day to take full advantage of the coaching and expert resources, while other teams may decide on a mix of on site and virtual participation. |
| **What happens to the prototyped solutions after the practicum?** | What happens to them is up to the executive sponsor. Some prototypes may go into full development and implementation, while other may remain as potential solutions for the future. |
| **Will we be kept informed of what happens with solutions that were prototyped during the practicum?** | Yes, that's the intent. We haven't yet fully figured out how, so we are open to suggestions! |