

# *Reflection Report on the First year of IT Studies*



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The purpose of this report is to reflect on my first year of studies at NHL Stenden and evaluate its impact on my studies and life. In this report I will cover my study choice and progress, an elaboration on the consequences or impacts some of my actions had on the course of my studies, a summing up of the warnings I issued based on my groups Code of Conduct, a brief summary of all the feedback that I have received and given and how it influenced me, an evaluation on my PDP and explaining how I achieved all the goals I set and a description of one of my PDP goals.

This scholar year was probably one if not the most eventful year of my life. It started with me moving from Romania to The Netherlands which was a very big step for me and it made me very anxious and nervous at the beginning, especially that my father had a heart attack in the morning of my departure so he had to stay behind with my mother and I had to do a lot of work on my room before it was livable which made me very stressed and sad. Gladly my sister and her friends family also came to The Netherlands, and they were here to help me get accommodated in my new room and after a week of working hard I finally managed to finish my room. It was very important to me to have a clean and well-organized room because that's the only way I can properly learn and it's one of my principles. Right after that the study start week began which was very fun and it made me feel hopeful for the future.

The first period started very strong, we were thrown into the deep from the very first day and all the information was overloading, even though I am very curious of nature and I love learning new things and going in depth this was still very much to me, and it made me feel very tired after only a few days. Luckily, I managed to adapt quickly and pass over it after the first week and after that it became way better, especially because my first project group was very nice and friendly and we got along very well. After 8 weeks of working hard on the project we finally managed to deliver a very nice-looking website that our client loved, and I was very proud of all the work I have done. After that 2 weeks of exams followed but they were quite easy and relaxing for me since I learned a lot during the classes and I managed to pass the exams we had easily.

The second period started yet again with dumping a lot of new information and tasks but this time I was more prepared and managed to handle them easier thus making my studies

feel way better and more relaxed. The team I was part of contained a lot of hardworking good people, so we managed to pass the project quite easily without facing too many hardships. The problem was on the other course I had where I was studying individually database designing and database realization, these being taught to us by 2 different teachers. From which one of them fell ill after the first week of school and we didn't do anything for about 4 weeks, which made me feel quite anxious. In the 5<sup>th</sup> week finally, a supplementary teacher replaced him, and we had online courses but sadly it was too little too late and most of the studying I had to do on my own without relying on the teacher. But in the end, I managed to pass all the exams, so I was happy on that side, but another issue occurred during the final weeks of the period. The landlord which owned the house where I was staying sold the houses and we had to be out by the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> period, beginning of 3<sup>rd</sup> period, so I had to look for new housing which made me even more stressed especially that everything was occupied at that time of the year and no housing listings were online. After a lot of struggles and with the help of some people I managed to find a nice house to stay in and convince the landlord to take me in. This was yet again a very big and important change for me because it's one of my principles to live in a clean and organized house where I can study and relax in peace and quiet.

The 3rd period started after a day of me moving into the new house, so I was very tired but luckily, we had a lot less information during the first week, so I managed to rest and recover. This time I took the role as the team leader for the project, and I had a lot of responsibility. Especially that the teammates I had on this project weren't so motivated and it was very difficult to communicate with most of them. During this project there was the first strike I had given to a person that didn't attend the team meetings and was always behind with his work. After thinking long and hard I gave him a strike which also contained feedback done with the BECD method and he took it quite well and I was impressed that after that he actually started attending all the team meetings and working way more on the project, managing in the end to finish his part very well. This was very hard for me because I like to be nice and kind to people, but I learned that sometimes it's good to be harsher when needed because otherwise people will take advantage of your kindness and only use you. I was very happy with the decisions I made, and the project ended very nicely, we managed to take 2nd place which made me very proud. Sadly, the individual exam was one day after the project had to be finished and I was very tired and couldn't learn too much for it, especially the hardest exam this year so sadly I didn't manage to pass it, but I was quite close. Next time I will learn more from time and prepare way better for it so I will pass it. Everything is good though because I have managed to pass everything else so even if I do not manage to take the resit for this exam I still passed the year and have full access to the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. Overall, I am very pleased with my improvement and my results so far.

The 4<sup>th</sup> and last period was a very interesting one, this time we could choose our own team members if we joined the MDT hidden hero's project. I managed to form a team with the colleagues and friends I made this year, so I was very optimistic about this project. This was very important to me because it makes me feel more comfortable working with people I already know that I can rely on. After a few brainstorming sessions we managed to choose a subject for our project that everyone liked and from there on we all got along very good and managed to work on the project and be on track with everything, even though there were a few struggles along the way.

During this final period, we also gave and received a lot of feedback, and I was very happy to see that everyone has a high opinion of me, and they like the way I act and work. It is too early to say how exactly this feedback influenced me and the others, but I can say that it was very welcomed, and it made me feel better and have a higher opinion of myself.

As the summer vacation is approaching, I plan to start looking for a summer job that I can hopefully keep as a part time job during the next year while I'll attend the university. I am quite hopeful about this because I made a lot of connections, and I have learned the Dutch language a little bit so it will be easier for me to find a job which makes me feel good and hopeful.

This was also the first period where we had to work on a PDP-personal development plan for the whole time along with the project. In this PDP I had to choose 3 personal goals that I want to accomplish by the end of the period, the ones I chose were learning Dutch, learning how to cook and make new recipes and develop my social awareness and teamwork skills by collaborating with people from diverse backgrounds to create a digital storytelling website. I worked hard on these goals, and I am happy to say that I managed to accomplish all of them. I am going to explain one of my goals with the STAART method now:

S – my whole life I lived with my parents, and they provided me with food and moving alone in another country was very difficult for me. At the beginning I was eating a lot of pre-made food or frozen food which wasn't very healthy and was quite expensive.

T - With the help of this PDP I finally decided to start cooking for myself to have healthier and cheaper food. Every week I had to cook twice and make sure at least 6 days out of 7 I have cooked food that I made.

A - During the beginning I went to shop in Germany and buy cheap meat in order to have for the whole next 3 months for cooking. Then every week, Wednesday and Sunday, I choose a recipe that I want to make and go shopping in the morning for the vegetables and the rest of the ingredients that need to be added in case I didn't already have them and cook the meals later that day. I usually cook 6 or 8 servings depending on the dish and I was sharing it with my friend so that's why I cooked double amount of portions.

R - The results were delicious. We both enjoyed the food that I cooked, and I am very proud to say that everything came out great from the first try, I am very happy with the result.

R- Everything went very well so the only change I will do is learn and make new recipes and try different ingredients or amount of condiments to experiment.

T – From now on I will always cook for myself because it is healthier, and I've seen that it costs way less to make my own food than purchase it pre-cooked or made.

In conclusion, this scholar year had a big effect on myself, and I changed a lot, I used to be shy and introverted but now I feel more confident, and I learned how to be more open, and I can talk more freely about myself. I am very pleased with this university, and I am happy that I chose to come here. I will continue this study course, and I hope to have even more great experiences!