

Assistant Professor at Instituto Superior Técnico

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(Learnings report)

Abstract—This report has the objective of describing the acquired learnings developed as a Professor of Interface Pessoa máquina (IPM) at Instituto Superior Técnico (IST) and what motivated me to participate in this Activity. The activity had direct supervision by the experienced professor Mário Rui Gomes in Tagus Park Campus, and also in Alameda by professor Alfredo Ferreira. The necessity of interacting with a students and professors makes this, the perfect activity to improve my soft skills which will help me both at personal and professional level.

Index Terms—Learning, Responsibility, Planning, Communication, Autonomy, Classroom, Students, Professor, Tagus Park, IST, IPM

? (Anonyms!)

1 INTRODUCTION

MY integration in Departamento Engenharia Informática (DEI) as a collaborator of IPM in IST Campus Tagus Park, allowed me to acquire a wide set of learnings and improve on others.

This new learnings were not achievable through out my academic path as student, since students, normally, only experience the student side of college and not the professor side.

This report will start by providing my motivation (section 2) to accept the activity, which were my most important acquired learnings (section 3) and a brief conclusion (section 4) for the overall activity.

2 MOTIVATION

I've always wanted to contribute as professor, to teach people in contents that I feel I can help them with. Now that I'm ending my Masters degree I'm still not sure what I want to do after college. Professor was an option but I had to try it in order to know if it was the right option. This activity allowed me to improve in a big variety of skills as:

- Improve my sense of responsibility;
- Improve my capacity of relationships;
- Improve my capacity of time management;
- Improve my autonomy;
- Improve my human sense;
- Improve my organization.

The next section will go into detail in the previously mentioned topics.

3 DEVELOPED LEARNINGS

In the next subsections will be presented by topics my most important developed learnings.

3.1 Autonomy

Autonomy is an essential aspect in all activities, and in this case it wasn't exception. It allows us to work in an independent manner without the constant need of help from a third party.

In my activity all work was developed in solely by me, this means that I planned the classes prior to it, I graded every week all work from my students and final projects, I had to prepare myself to all possible doubts of my students and all that autonomously. Weekly, I had reunions to show the work done and discuss and explain certain aspects and criteria I took to make the evaluations.

All this contributed to my autonomy in the sense that I had to do all this work autonomously, without help of any of the professors of IPM.

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Qual o work??
Manuscript received June 20, 2014.

	LEARNING					DOCUMENT						
	CONTEXT x2	SKILLS x1	REFLECT x4	S+C x1	SCORE	Structure x0.25	Ortogr. x0.25	Gramm. x0.25	Format x0.25	Title x0.5	Filename x0.5	SCORE
(1.0) Excelent												
(0.8) Very Good												
(0.6) Good												
(0.4) Fair												
(0.2) Weak												
	1.6	0.7	3.2	0.7	6.2	0.25	0.2	0.2	0.15	0.5	0.5	1.8

3.2 Communication

There are two main topics in the communication. As mentioned in the Activities report, I had communication both in the classroom (also in office hours) and in reunions with professors.

My communication had to adapt to the environment in which I was currently on. In reunions with professors it started by being a lot formal, but with the time passing the confidence with IPM teachers also increases and the conversations start to not only be about the context of the Course, but also about different things like Football for example. For classrooms it's quite different, I learned that if you give too much confidence to students they take advantage of that, and you find yourself in a position that as to allow things that otherwise wouldn't. So in classroom I tried to be as formal as I could possible be, avoiding informal communication.

My communication skill improved a lot since I was required to talk to a full class for three straight hours, which improved my speech in presentations without a doubt. Also helped me control the fear I had before talking in presentations.

3.3 Planning

One important aspect that I have improved a lot is the planning aspect. Every week I had to 'lose' between five to six hours to plan the next class. It's required a big amount of time to understand the most common mistakes that my students make in order to give them good feedback on their work and allow them to improve for the following week. I felt that every week the time required to make this planning reduced and, that is consequence of my improvement in Planning.

3.4 Responsibility

Professor is a job that all your students depend on you to be punctual or else they will most certainly not attend the class. Not only that, if the class starts a little bit late then it will not end in time and due to that fact classes have to be planned to start and end at exact times.

Also every week I had my job as a professor of evaluating the homework that the students

made as a group, and it was my responsibility to have the results in the following week.

With this in mind, I can now see that my sense of responsibility as improved, and I did everything that was my responsibility.

3.5 Organization

Organization is key when you have a lot of students under your responsibility and you have to keep track of everything they do. So to keep my work organized, for example, I had a paper sheet for every group with photos, names, grades and comments on the work, so that my interaction with the groups could be more personal instead of asking every other week for their name.

3.6 Human Sense

It's no easy to not feel guilty when giving a bad grade to people you know that put a lot of effort into it, but is important to keep standards and guidelines to grade. It's not easy to distantiate your emotions towards certain groups from grading, but is strictly necessary, especially when you deal with this groups every week through a whole semester.

Of course is also important to connect with groups, because you want your students motivated and committed in your class.

As a professor at IST I had to be either more or less strict depending on the situation and now I feel much more experienced in this area that will no doubt help me in my professional career.

3.7 Time Management

This semester was very complicated to me due to the overload of work provided by the Thesis I'm currently working on and by one Course that I'm also enrolled in. Of course it wasn't easy to conciliate all this activities.

I had to choose between teaching on Monday or Thursday and in both I had to miss one class of the course I'm enrolled. But since the classes are not mandatory I had to compensate the class I missed every week. Also, not to have to travel more than one time per week to Tagus Park me and Professor Mário Rui Gomes had

to work on a plan so that I could give all classes and work office in the same day.

Even though it was not easy, I made it every week to both of the activities even when I knew no students would come to ask questions.

4 CONCLUSION

With this experience I know now what it is like to be a professor, the good and bad things inherent to it.

I believe this experience has been a asset, and I would recommend it to any person with the objective of acquire learnings that otherwise would not be possible to achieve, and that bring advantages both at professional and personal level.

Given my interest towards this activity, I believe it is now a big possibility that my future job will have some kind of teaching, since I enjoyed it a lot.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank professor Mário Rui Gomes for allowing me to work as a professor of IPM with his mentoring.

In this type of document (technical), the conclusion should start with a summary of the subject addressed and then should highlight the results.