## What you need to get what you want

Hello there,

Welcome to Technology Entrepreneurship. TE has one laser focused goal: foster entrepreneurship around the world and help people like yourself make a difference. It's that simple and yet that hard.

It is especially hard because this course is attended by tens of thousands of people from all over the world so it's often hard to really understand what your entrepreneurial goals are and how we can best support you.

To give it our best shot we need your help - answer the two questions below now and help us shape TE to serve you best.

thanks!

The TE team.

1.

Remember when you first found out about this class? Why were you interested? How do you hope TE will help you?

I apologize in advance to anyone who may have read this question that was similar on my post to the discussion forum yesterday!  I did not see a response yet, so perhaps no one saw it yet.  This would have been the correct place to post, but I got this after I had already made that post.

I hesitated to sign up for this class at first, since as you will see in my response to question 2, I took a course last semester on becoming an entrepreneur, but it had a slight twist to it, since it discussed the economies for doing so, since Silicon Valley is famous for getting all the venture capital it needs to do these things, and where I live in Boston, it's not too hard either, but for a place like Cleveland, Ohio, where the course was from, that economy for starting a company can be more challenging.   So they addressed how to do that there too.  They also interviewed people internationally that have very challenged economies, and how they may go about starting a company in that environment.  However, when we did the assignments, although you may answer questions about how to start companies in transitioning economies, your focus was your own economy - what resources where available where you lived to be an entrepreneur.  Your entrepreneur interviews were mostly focused on your local economy too, but I explored others as well.

So that is why I hesitated to take another course - but the reason I signed up is because of the group nature of working together on a project, making a business plan, things we did not do in the other course.  I'm still not sure though if it makes sense yet - which I will elaborate upon in answering question 2.

2.

Have you taken similar classes/courses or read books on entrepreneurship before? What are the last 3 resources you consulted and what did you wish they helped you more with?

I took an entrepreneur course last semester (titled: Beyond Silicon Valley: Growing Entrepreneurs in Transitioning Economies, out of Case Western Univ. in Cleveland,Oh on Coursera, taught by visiting professor, Michael Goldberg and other guest speakers). I did well and enjoyed learning how to form companies in both thriving economies but also in economies which would find that challenging (with Cleveland being one of those as an example, but also in other parts of the world). I live in Boston, and the economy here for entrepreneurs is pretty good so I hear, but perhaps not as thriving as the reputation that Silicon Valley has. In this course, we did not work in teams, but took quizzes and did case studies and evaluated our own ecosystem (mine being Boston) for being an entrepreneur. I interviewed 8 entrepreneurs in depth, one being someone for whom I worked in the Boston area years ago, but also from other locations in the US (Albany,NY where I grew up, San Jose and San Francisco, where I have relatives involved in them) but when it came time for the final report, my focus was my Boston interview.

In terms of resources, we had to look at the various ways people start companies, and they said in Silicon Valley it's mostly venture capital, but in economies that are challenged to find that type of support, sometimes they get their start from government donations that they ask to be matched by other funding places, whether angel investment or venture capital.  They also discussed universities and hospitals as resources in the sense that the research done there helped them form by way of being an "anchor institution".  They also looked at group funders who want to invest locally to promote entrepreneurs, and also funds that are considered philanthropic in nature.

So I saw this course offered this semester and wondered - should I take another entrepreneur course?  Well, this one forms groups of people, makes business plans to promote a product, and these are things we did not do in the other course. So I signed up, and I'm currently job searching and unemployed here, and have the time - it's not currently an investigation outside my day job. My husband is a computer science professor, and I've asked him if he ever might consider forming a start up with what he developed with his research group, and so far, that answer has been no. However, I know the thought has crossed his mind, either in start up format, or otherwise some large company buying their research project to become part of a group within a large company. But so far--although the thoughts have crossed his mind – he continues to work on it only in academia.

So if I were to go through with this class, I would do it because I like the idea of being part of a team, but my question is as follows in terms of idea. Would my group be able to hypothetically investigate whether or not it made sense to form a start up out of the research project my husband's group works on in academia (would that be an anchor institution?) It would be completely hypothetical in nature, since it's his group's design, and they are the experts, and I would only be doing the investigation of whether or not it would ever make sense in the market today.

If it would not work - I really do not have any design or idea of my own to investigate - and would welcome becoming part of someone else's team, just to be working on a team from home. However - that would also mean that my skill set I have to offer would be a match with the groups offered here, and I have no idea about that!

Also - I'm new to novoed.com but have used EdX.org and Coursera.org many, many times in recent years. I watched the first video and saw it was offered in both Chinese and English, and then it said to go on to video 2, but I could not find that in English, only Chinese. So please let me know where to find that and I apologize that I'm so new to this forum of online classes!

So I will leave it at that for now. If anyone knows the answers to these things, please let me know.

Thanks and happy new year!

Karen