

Introduction

Looking back at first semester of my second year of education, I realize my path from being a novice student has changed to a young professional.

While my first year was primarily about adjusting to the new academic environment, this semester challenged me to refine my soft skills and take ownership of my professional development.

This report reflects on my progress of my Personal Development Plan (PDP), my experiences with feedbacks, and how my current situation relates to the previous reflections.

Personal Development Plans

At the beginning of the semester I have Defined three personal development goal for myself :

- **Improving my Dutch proficiency :** My first goal was to learn more Dutch to speak more confidently where I work and in the society. Being an international student, I realized that while English is sufficient for academic tasks, but for future specially when it comes for applying for software developer positions in companies I would need to enhance my Dutch knowledge. So, I studied Dutch 3 hours per week it was uncomfortable to fit this to my schedule since it was already busy with work, gym and other activities but now I am more confident when I start a Dutch conversation.
- **Implementing Weekly Planning :** To combat the stress of last minute deadlines, I implemented a semi strict weekly planning routine for myself. Every Sunday, I sat down behind my table with my tablet and write all of my priorities for the coming week. This allowed me to break large projects into manageable tasks, significantly reducing my anxiety. Although I occasionally ignored planning for some weeks but in general I feel more disciplined than ever.
- **Listening to audio Books :** I planed to extend my horizons by listening to three audio books *The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez*, *The Adventure of the Second Stain*, and *The Adventure of the Abbey Grange*. By using my dead times for example before sleeping I improved my concentration skills and especially following Holme's stories requires you to pay attention to small details.

Receiving and Giving Feedback

A crucial part of my education Involves exchanging feedback between me and my project member and even further than that my teachers and clients.

During this semester, I received a lot of feedback, especially from my group members. Most of it pointed to my positive behavior and personality, but some was negative. At the beginning, my reaction toward the negative feedback was defensive, and I was stubborn about my point of view. However, I realized that for personal growth, I need to listen to people who are observing me from the outside; they see room for improvement that I would never see. I took their comments into consideration. For instance, when they told me I am a good developer but could spend more time researching new solutions, I acted on it. From the very next week, I spent more time finding solutions for the group's problems.

Regarding giving feedback, I always try to be honest but at the same time direct. I usually use the hamburger method, where I put negative feedback between two pieces of positive feedback to reduce the sense of defensiveness in the other person.

“I really like that you take initiative for doing task but letting us know about your status can improve your communication skills although you are dedicated and always deliver the best ”

Connection to my previous Reflection Reports

Reviewing my first year reports shows that I have switched from a survival mindset to a professional one. In the past, all I was trying to reach were academic goals, focusing on how to be a better student and fighting for credits and grades. But now, I am building my professional lifestyle. I am doing weekly planning to be more disciplined and manage my tasks better; I am learning Dutch to hold conversations not only at school but at the workplace; and I am listening to books to have a calmer mind and a more conscious life.

Conclusion

This semester has been a period of maturing. By sticking to my goals and improving myself, I have stepped forward in not only being a better student but also a better person. As I look forward to the next semester, I have exciting goals and new development plans.