

Dear next generation of AMOS students,

this is a letter from one of the teams of summer term 2021 trying to give you some valuable tips and tricks on how to make this project work.

We hope you are reading this letter before the project has even started yet. This is because you should prepare yourself beforehand!

The project will start right in the first week, unlike other subjects you know from university, the hard part is at the beginning, not at the end!

A recommendation from our side is: put a lot of effort into the project and research to your topic at the beginning and it will get easier along the way.

The project is supposed to be as realistic as possible. This means, your customers might not always tell you what exactly they are expecting right from the beginning. In our case, we had to conduct several workshops as a team and with our industry partner to create a common sense. Even if this seems to be a lot of effort: do it, it will be worth it! Involve your customer as much as possible by having (at least) weekly meetings with them.

Another important hint is to try to adjust the scope of the project with every week that passes. Really make it an iterative approach and develop step-by-step. At the beginning, the project scope might seem overwhelming, but with every sprint that passes you will get a better idea of how far this project will be taken. If you ever feel like you have too much work to do, it helps to mark fixed “AMOS”-times in a calendar, so your teammates know exactly when to approach you.

During the team meeting it is necessary to focus on the given structure. This might seem a little weird at the beginning but you will quickly notice how valuable it is for your team. During the retrospective as a Scrum Master you should ask each person individually if they have any impediments. Like this, everyone gets to say something and even the less communicative people in your team get the chance to share struggles with the team. For us, this worked amazingly and we can really say that during the project we grew together as a team.

It will be necessary to have a short developers meeting after each sprint planning to make sure everybody knows what to do. Technical details should not be part of the weekly team meeting as this will be too time intensive.

From a PO side we can recommend to work as closely together as possible and always know what the other person is doing for the project. You will have to justify your ideas, the customers' wishes and the tasks together as a team, to gain the trust of the developers.