

Dear future AMOS teams,

If you are reading this, you have either already made the right decision to take the course or you are currently thinking about taking the course. Let us shortly explain why we believe this AMOS is a good choice and also let us provide you with some “dos” and “don’ts” and our key learning throughout the semester.

AMOS is overall a course which needs extensive attention throughout the entire semester. It is not a course that can or should be handled “by the way”. Accordingly, the advertised weekly hours are realistic and are also required for a good project from both a Product Owner and Software Developer perspective. Nevertheless, the positive points were dominant by participation in AMOS. You get an extremely good impression of what it is like to work in a comparatively large software team for a certain customer. Normally in agile software projects the client is the customer, who provides you with a certain task and whom you in turn enrich with your progress and ultimately final product. In this case, however, the business partner also acts as a consulting part, bringing expertise in software projects that have been extremely valuable to us.

The most important takeaway or learning within the project for us was the collaboration and proper functioning of an agile team as you work closely together over 14 weeks towards a specific goal. We always tried to have a clear but relaxed way of working during the project. One point which definitely helped us was an in-person meeting of the entire team because it simply ensures a greater cooperation within the team as you get to know each other better. We have just met in the middle of the project but would suggest for you to schedule this meeting within the first weeks.

In such a meeting you will certainly get to know the different ways of communication of the project participants. After all, communication is key in the AMOS project. It is of extreme relevance to be in constant close exchange with the entire team to guarantee constant further development and quickly identify any missteps. We, for example, used Discord for project-related information and WhatsApp for organizational short messages. This approach has absolutely proven itself and we would recommend it for your project as well.

The most important meeting in the week, are the team meetings. It is the Product Owner's task to prepare extremely well for these meetings, to formulate proper issues, prioritize them and, above all, to pay attention to precisely described acceptance criteria for these issues.

We have found it extremely helpful to note the progress made over the week in relation to each issue in the comments of the issue in GitHub. This is another communication channel to watch out for, but it allows for task-related feedback. Maintaining these comments is again a clear task for the software developers.

Overall, communication and cooperation are surely the two points that will accompany you permanently in the course of the project. Nevertheless, this letter could of course have mentioned many other points that you will certainly notice in the course of the project. However, the most important thing is of course to have fun with the project and this is exactly what we wish you now. Enjoy the project!