Elina Desaine

How did you hear of CFG and why did you want to take part?

Initially, I heard about CFG from a university friend (Samuel Wood) who does Computer Science. As well as this he is a co-founder of our company JEMS Technology Ltd ([www.ticklo.com](http://www.ticklo.com)).   
  
The reason I wanted to partake in CFG is because currently whilst working on our start up, we have hit the development stage. I was useful during the business stage and setting it up and getting contacts, however now I felt that my skills where a bit limited to help the guys with product development. Hence, this course sounded great to me ! It would teach me how to program but with a hint of entrepreneurship and help for start ups, as well as the opportunity to meet like minded people. This course was exactly what i needed during my summer holidays.

What are you doing at the moment? (e.g., student)

University of Exeter – Going into my 3rd year (of a 3 year course)   
BSc IT Management for Business   
  
Also I am working on my start up as mentioned above.([www.ticklo.com](http://www.ticklo.com)) If you would like to find out more about how we came up with the idea and how it all started I am more than happy to provide you with that / answer additional follow up questions.

Also, during the summer I am working as a youth mentor for the National Citizen Service. (<http://www.the-challenge.org/> )

What are you learning at the moment?

At the moment we are learning about sinatra and how to create online apps. Addition to this, we have a group side project going on which involves web development and the using HTML, CSS & Bootstrap. Heres what we have so far :   
<http://esmeraldabyberi.github.io/X-Files/>

How are you finding learning to code? Has it been easier/harder than you expected?

 Because of my degree I have done coding before, however learning a completely new language at times has been challenging yet fun. Also, the addition things like github and sinatra and bootstrap i have found very useful. It is not just a coding course its a lot more. Overall the difficulty level for me has been just about right, not too easy and not too hard.

How will you use the skills you have learnt after Code First?

 First, it will and already has helped me to understand my start ups development platform a bit better and i am able to contribute to the development of it. I will carry on with the app programming making use of version control with my team, which I believe I now understand a lot more about.

Secondly, I have a broader knowledge of coding and my skills have improved. So it will help me in my 3rd year at university , especially my 3rd year dissertation project.

Finally, it will be very useful for prospect jobs and going into the technology industry with more experience and understanding.

What has been the most useful part of Code First?

Top 3 most useful parts :

* The entreprenurship atmosphere and advice of the course
* Learning how to use github and collaborative coding (version control)
* Learning the ability of creating good looking websites and being able to use analytics on them,

What would you tell a person who is about to start learning to code?

It will be hard at start but lots of practice will make it a lot clearer, once you get the hang of it and it clicks in your head then you’ll be unstoppable.