# **MODULE 2 REFLECTION**

## The Things I Appreciate this Week and this Module as a Whole

I started the module 2 with a lot of excitement because to me, it was the beginning of the journey of learning the relevant skills needed to be a data scientist. I recollect some of the aims and instructions in the opening of the module - from Introduction to Python for Data Science to our first Module Project. Coming to the end of this module gives me such joy as I have somewhat built the general knowledge needed at this level. The key competency of this module was Python Programming, and I am satisfied with the progress I have made so far in this direction. I have learnt how to use Python’s standard constructs, use Python for basic data visualization and also to transform data structures.

There were more than enough resources available to complete assignments and improve on the skillset: DataQuest, DataCamp and Puralsight. Initially I tried to keep up with DataQuest and DataCamp but after completing course 1 for both of them, I resolved to stick to DataCamp because of it’s relatively steady approach and ease of understanding. I do appreciate the approach of DataQuest, however it seemed to take more time to complete a single course. I also decided to go with DataCamp becaused I noticed the assignments on campus was more biased towards DataCamp outline.

I have been engaged weekly with the assignments and workshops. I was also intrigued by the goal of action learning and hope to explore that more to get a better grasp its structure and benefits. Indeed, I was happy to be the first to be put on the spot for our first practical action learning – I want to learn more!

I do participate actively in workshops when I attend, but for the last one this week, the scheduled time was within my work contact hours and so I was on ly a passive member of the workshop. I have had challenges with the mentoring sessions as the best time suiting the cohort doesn’t usually favour me due to the time difference, however, I have taken enough time to ask for summaries and follow Branko closely via his LinkedIn page.

The cohort facilitation and sharing was also a major highlight of this module, as we were exposed to those who had gone ahead of us and made it despite the hurdles. It gave me such great motivation to keep pushing and chasing my data science dream.

My main challenge so far is the shift from no work to official contact hours. The month of January has been the toughest since the program started, but I have done well to keep it under control in the last few days. Hopefully, apart from when meetings that fall within work contact hours, I should be available to participate as I used to. I survived this module without completing the courses on DataCamp because I had recently learned Python programming. Going forward, I have resolved to make make use of the Android app version of DataCamp to keep up.

The past week, was deadline for submission of project and reflection of the module. Altogether, I look forward to module 3!

## My Suggestions or Action Items to Improve this Module

Generally, the current structure of the module is without fault. Based on my experience the high level explanation for why both DataCamp and DataQuest were selected as the two for the Data Science bootcamp should be well explained. It took me a while to select, and at the end I selected mainly based on the time I can make for studies, otherwise based on my research I’d go for DataQuest. The good thing about this problem though is that it made me research about the two platforms and I am glad I did.

Communication channels currently are through official emails, Campus, Slack and Zoom. I have personally missed some meetings or arrived late due to failed alarm going off - for one event, it may be automatically added to my calendar, but subsequently, not added. I have selected the option on Campus calendar settings but for some reasons it doesn’t always sync with my calendar. As I started an internship with Wicresoft (a company 50% owned by Microsoft), here in Shanghai, I’ve come to learn more about Office 365 and the various applications and services on offer. Thus, I explored the .elu email on office.com and I realised I could access apps like Teams(I actually created a dummy Teams page for my cohort) on my account: that together with O365 groups can be used to easily replace both Slack and Zoom, and further on seemlessly solve the calendar syncing issue. Yammer also on the O365 stack can be used for social communications. I do not know the financial implications of operating Zoom and Slack; I however suggest since our emails are on the O365 subscription, we could explore the full array of apps and possibly cut off some expenses. This move also helps maintain data in one central place.

With regards to my actions: after going through this module, I have decided to explore the mobile app version of DataCamp to make up for lost time in watching videos and practicing codes. I have also resolved to talk more to my colleagues in my cohort to facilitate team sharing and learning.

Module 3 – here I come! 😊

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