

Semester 1 - Reflection report

I started the first semester of the information technology course at NHL Stenden about 4 months ago. During this time I had to adjust myself to the new environment, overcome many challenges and deal with many unexpected situations. One of the many things that were new to me was working in the design based education system. This means that most of the grades and results came from working with the newly acquired knowledge in practice. Second important thing is that most of this was done cooperatively in a group of multiple people which meant I had to focus on teamwork and professional skills. All of this while being in a completely new environment meant I had to be very careful about balancing my academic and personal life.

When the lessons first started the lecturers started quickly pouring a lot of information onto us, a bunch of deadlines and deliverables, new terms and skills I needed to quickly acquire. I was completely lost on what exactly I have to do. I even doubted I could get the first assignments done in time for the due date. Another thing that didn't help was the situation that started forming within our team. Some of the members started having personal problems with each other and after a few weeks all of us started to become very exhausted. All of this was starting to become a real problem. During the second period we were already used to lots of the things but despite this it wasn't so smooth sailing either. For most of the period there was a lot of confusion and misunderstandings on the assignments. This led to a lot of false assumptions which meant we had to constantly readjust what we were actually working on.

Once the initial stress settled in and I clumsily finished the first assignments I started paying a lot more attention to organising myself and making sure I had everything under control. I familiarized myself with the course ins and outs. I took a close look at the module books and identified patterns. I created a dynamic todo list system to keep track of what I need to do. I paid close attention to what was discussed during class and I asked as many questions as possible in case I had any uncertainty about the current topics. After me and my team members started following a more structured approach we also managed to resolve any misunderstandings between each other. We started giving each other feedback and with a clear goal and a path in mind we worked as efficiently as possible. Things were still slowing down as we got closer to the end but sticking close to my plans and organisations I managed to maintain a reasonable tempo which was sufficient enough to complete everything.

Combining these efforts I managed to reach results that I was beyond satisfied with. I managed to maintain a structured approach and deliver quality work in both individual and group tasks. All of my grades were above the minimum passing and some of them were very good. The team project even ended up impressing some of the teachers and both me and the rest of the team are very proud of what we accomplished. In the second period we managed to get out of the confusion and very quickly managed to finish what needed to be done.

Looking back at these past experiences makes me really motivated. It proves to me that I can really do something if I think about what I'm doing. It taught me to always look for solutions even when the situation seems impossible to solve. Despite this I still recognize areas where I still

need to work on myself. I still need to work on my procrastination and occasional lack of motivation. I also need to constantly remind myself to keep being organised because even a small thing I miss can lead to a lot of confusion and unnecessary research down the line.

As for the future, I am looking forward to continuing this path. I feel like I made a good look ahead and that I'm well set up for the second semester. I'm confident I can do at least as well as I did in the first one. I am definitely ready to continue this path and want to see how far I can make it.