

## **The Self-organising University**

The University is a business network for people working in software and new media. The primary aim of the network is the professional development of its members.

The short-term goals of the University are to:

1. Sign up a group of founding members.
2. Encourage members to study together, using services like Coursera, Edx and Udacity.
3. Set up one or more strategy groups.

Longer term, the goal is to build up a network that is capable of maintaining a broad programme of self-organised education and training activities, and that can provide a comprehensive body of skills for members to draw on.

Members can be self-employed, in employment or running their own business. The main requirement for membership is to want to develop skills and to do so in collaboration with like-minded people.

### **Short courses**

There is a growing number of short courses available online spanning a wide range of academic and vocational disciplines, including computer science, software development, design, management and business. These courses typically run for six to eight weeks and require perhaps four to six hours per week of study time, making them suitable for fitting around a work schedule. Studying a course together will bring some of the benefits of college-based study that are otherwise absent from self-paced learning and is likely to strengthen the connections between our members.

### **Strategy Groups**

The Strategy Groups, for business owners and managers, originally took place at the Shoreditch Building of the London Met. Each group consisted of five to six people from different businesses, who met monthly for a couple of hours over the course of a year and took it in turns to present and critique some aspect of each others' business strategies in a supportive and confidential environment.

*D Sofer. January 2013.*