

## My experience at CuriousU Summer School, University of Twente.



*University of Twente entrance*



*EntrepreneurialU Class 2018*

The CuriousU summer school is a ten-day programme that encourages people of all ages and levels of knowledge to come together and develop new ideas based around technology. Participants could choose one of 15 courses that were based upon current research at the University.



*Main Tent*

Prior to my arrival, I was asked to think about global problems and possible solutions. After hearing about the general structure of the course, anyone with an idea was asked to present it in one sentence to the course leaders.

Having just completed my second year of medical engineering at the University of Leeds and taking part in the HTCf seminars both years, I chose EntrepreneurialU course as it allowed me to learn a new skill whilst using previous knowledge. I decided to share an idea that I had been thinking about for a while and presented it as 'a

device that is used to help rehabilitate visually impaired children's spatial awareness'. It was selected to carry forward. We were assigned to groups of six; my group came from five different countries and all studied different subjects, resulting in a range of experiences, opinions and ideas that contributed to the growth of the project.



*A talk by NovelT*

Everyday, we had talks from professors and industry experts that would help us develop our ideas. Talks ranged from how to create a business model and finances, to speeches from previous students who successfully run businesses. The course partnered with 'NovelT'; a company that advises start-ups across the Netherlands. The junior business developers came in to coach us on our pitches and challenge us on our ideas.

On the final day, it was competition time! First, we spoke as a team to the judges about our business model, showed them a short presentation and gave them a chance to ask initial questions. I then represented my group giving a three-minute pitch, before the rest of my team joined for more questions. At the end of the competition, we won 'Best Idea' and 'Overall Winners of the EntrepreneurialU Pitch' out of six teams.



*Winners!*



*Our accommodation*



*Breakfast keynote*

The summer school is set up to provide a 'festival experience'. During breakfast, we had a speaker present a 15-minute 'TEDtalk' style keynote about their area of research. At lunch and dinner, they provided us with activities ranging from 'fun' escape rooms and salsa classes to 'academic' lab tours. We also visited the nearest town, Enschede, where we attended the 'Grolsch Summer Sounds' concert.



*Health technologies lab tour*

With students from over 50 countries, I met someone new every day. The social activities encouraged me to go out of my comfort zone. I was fortunate to be able to listen to different people's experiences, learn and share my own ideas and forge friendships across the world. The University of Twente places a massive emphasis on student entrepreneurs and allowed me to see the possibility of taking my idea further in the future. The CuriousU summer school exceeded my expectations in every way. Thank you to HTCf for providing me with this wonderful opportunity.



*Night out to see Grolsch Summer Sounds*