Code + Create Course Summary Report

Course: Web Design and Web Development

Implementation Period: 15/10/2018 – 14/12/2018

Instructors: Vasilis Palilis, Odysseas Platsakis, George Kalemis, Kostas Minaidis

Facilitators: Sian Rowbotham

Outreach and enrollment:

We had a high number of applicants, over 150. In the month leading up to the course, we contacted applicants to check they could attend and where applicable checked they were suitable for the course in terms of being able to speak intermediate or above English and with some previous experience with computers. If necessary we prepared some evaluation tests and interviews to verify if required. The most difficult aspect was attempting to ensure we had a mix of Greeks and non Greeks and men and women. We had a very high number of male Greeks with enough previous experience to be able to complete the course successfully, most of whom we could not accommodate.

To start the course we identified 22 and 21 (total 43) respectively for the morning and afternoon classes. This was done purposefully as our target was 15 for each class and we knew from previous courses with FCA that not everyone who confirms attends.

During the first two weeks primarily, we had 12 drop outs. These drop outs were for various reasons – 2 students had some family issues that prevented their continuation, a few students did not know their university schedules prior to confirming they would attend and then found they could not combine the course with their lecture commitments, some found jobs that prevented them continuing, 4 students simply did not show up and did not respond to any further communication, 1 student's level of English was not good enough to continue without the support of his friend who moved from the morning to afternoon group. To support students who struggled with the level required, the facilitator had weekly catch ups with students who were struggling to help them feel supported and offer them practical solutions such as additional time in the classroom prior to class start.

Beneficiaries who completed the course:

Morning - 6 women, 10 men. 8 non Greeks, 8 Greeks. 16 Total

Afternoon - 5 women, 8 men. 4 non Greeks, 9 Greeks. 13 Total.

TOTAL – 29 Students

Teaching and curriculum:

Overall, feedback from the course participants was positive. The teaching is to a very high level and the teacher's previous experience makes the teaching mostly smooth and tailored to the students as individuals. The teachers are diligent in checking that students have understood before moving on and dedicate a lot of time to explaining difficult topics individually and finding alternative analogies and explanations for students who do not have a theoretical background

in computing or maths. The teacher's maintained a good rapport with the students and the non Greek students especially valued the structure and consistency of classes.

In terms of ways we can improve many students commented that they would value the opportunity to work more collaboratively where possible, the course is oriented to the individual students completing the modules but perhaps within that there could be time dedicated to work in pairs or groups as this also helps to cultivate integration by giving the students more interaction time. The facilitator encourages interaction and promotes a welcoming, open environment alongside the teachers. Also a lot of the students felt the course could last longer in order to cover the tools that were taught to them in more depth.

There were some issues with students arriving late and occasionally skipping lessons but overall students were dedicated to coming to every lesson and made a lot of individual efforts to catch up when lessons were missed as it generally was a lot of information and content to cover in each lesson.

Social activities

We invited students to participate in a visit to the Hellenic Technology Museum as well as to join us for a social evening where we invited the leader of the Greek Wordpress community to give a presentation on his work. During this event, many students brought food they had prepared to share. Decisions on which social activities should happen were decided democratically and feedback was positive. At the end of the first term we held a graduation ceremony and closing event where students played games and socialized prior to being presented with their certificates.

Evaluation

Towards the end of the course we created an evaluation form for the students to provide their feedback. Participation was optional and all the data we collected were anonymous. 19 of the students participated and the overall feedback of the program was positive since the overall rate of the course was 4,16 out of 5 and 42% of the students who participated declared they felt very confident in finding a job in the near future. Last but not least almost everyone would recommend this course to a friend. All of the data from the feedback are included as an Annex .