

Create a CityLab to Build a Better City Through Your Students

PD3002 and PD3502

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All quotes are from student reflective reports

CityLab provides a safe space for students to experiment in a professional environment

“We are a very diverse group and each of us is from a different discipline: jewellery design, engineering, architecture, neuroscience and chemistry.”



We guide students as they move from the their discipline into interdisciplinary practice

“City Lab has shown me that, no matter what field you profess in, there is always more opportunity to learn and more space for innovation.”



CityLab is a joint project between the University of Aberdeen, the Robert Gordon University and Aberdeen City Council to prototype solutions to city challenges

We provide a platform for level 3 and higher students to explore sustainable solutions to the city challenges they identify

“Through the CityLab course, I have been able to gain a multitude of experience and skills that I would otherwise not have been able to through most university courses.”

Teams self-select with students from both institutions and only two students from the same discipline

“...I deeply appreciated the fact that all of my team members were from different disciplines than mine. This massively improved our capabilities and creative output...”

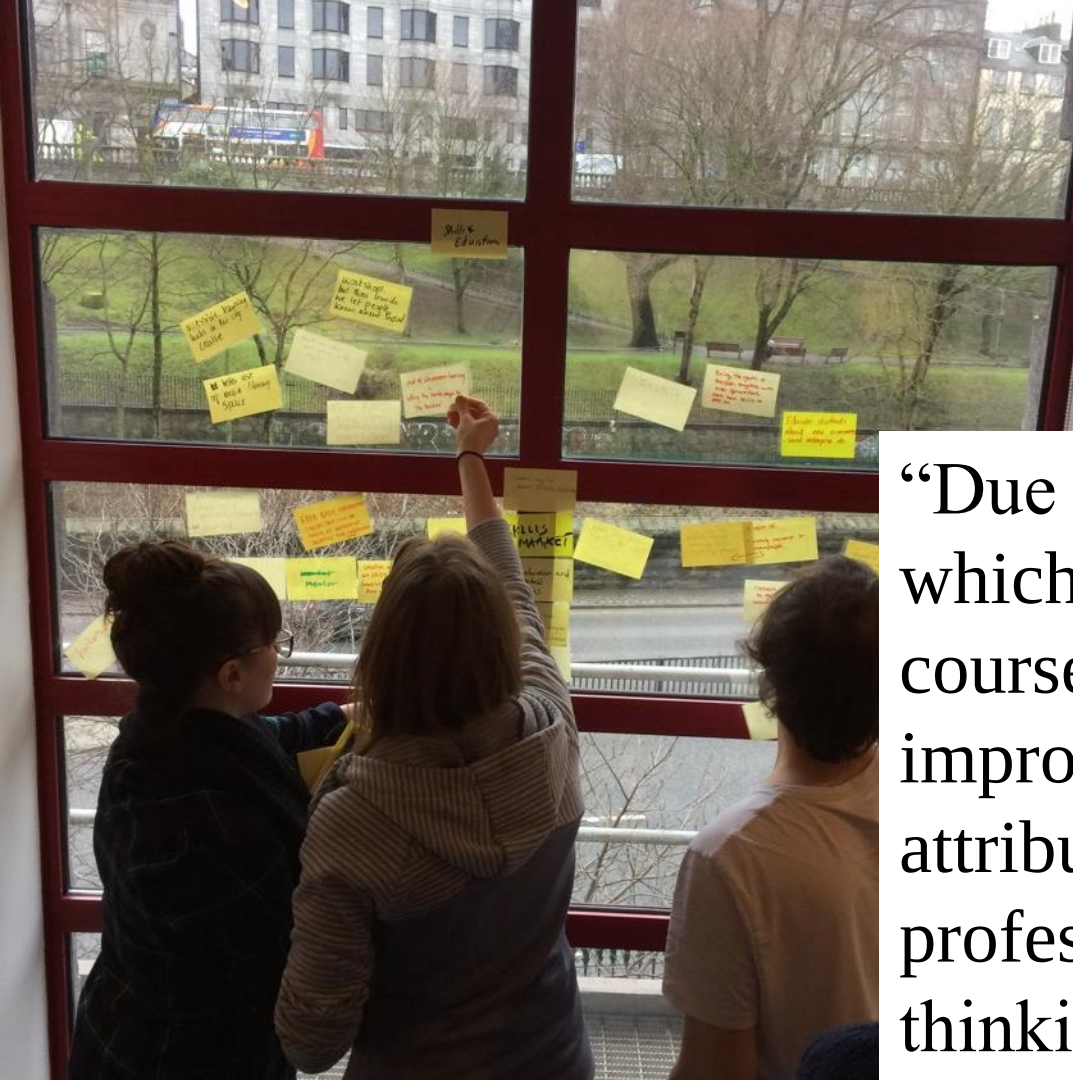
We use a platform of service design for students to approach their challenges because this provides a platform for solution prototyping

“This empathetic approach, reaching out to for emotional intelligence of its designers, creating cohesive solutions, was something I have not realized before. “

Students understand their skills in the context of their prototype solution development

“By getting involved in the course all the students were taking an active role in society and understanding enterprise and developing leadership skills all that can be transferred into life during and after University.”

Create space for interdisciplinary options



“Due to the positive nature on which I found taking the course... I also think it has improved my graduate attributes greatly, especially in professional skills and critical thinking sections.”



Iteratively apply
discover, design,
develop, deploy

“My group did not learn from listening to lectures- instead, we learnt by creating prototypes and modifying them after constructive feedback. Unlike in other courses, where you simply design a solution, we were encouraged to test our theories.”

We repeatedly challenge student assumptions about what they need to do as we teach them service design approaches and guide them beyond their comfort zone

“The course put us in front of a problem and gave us time and opportunity to solve it by our own means.”

We trust our process to work with all project challenges students choose

“This course enables me to better identify, understand and eventually learn how to cope with my strengths and weaknesses. I now also have better knowledge of how to apply past experiences to future work and I feel prepared to undertake new and exciting upcoming

The many faces of CityLab projects

Food waste reduction and distribution

Improving public spaces –
lighting and parks, cycling,
street furniture

Creative economy

Building city culture

Better use of empty office space

Public science
education for kids

Energy reclamation and data gathering

Sustainable prototypes have been taken up by partner stakeholders



<http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/tuk-in>

<http://www.soofa.co/>



“The meeting with stakeholders taught me how to engage with professionals in critical and constructive discussions, and how to effectively communicate our ideas in relation to the kind of stakeholder we were talking to, pitching accordingly our project.”



Students gain credit for coursework irrespective of the project outcome

“The experience provided by this course and project has been the most “real” experience so far of my academic years as an undergraduate...”



Students gain appreciation of their abilities in relation to their career aspirations

“...something that I did learn from the tutors was that in the face of challenges and difficulties one must be ambitious and not be hindered by struggles and challenges to achieve one’s goals.”

Get in touch if you want to get involved

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