



## Working with Barclays to raise the quality of IT graduates

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*“This is one of the most successful cooperation projects between a business partner and the faculty of Mathematics and Informatics.”*

**Linas Būtėnas**

Vice-dean, faculty of Mathematics and informatics, Vilnius University

### FAST FACTS

#### Country or Region:

LITHUANIA

#### University:

VILNIUS UNIVERSITY (VU)

#### Business partners:

- Barclays Technology Centre in Lithuania

#### Area of UBC:

- CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT & DELIVERY

**Project start date:** 2009

**Project end date:** On going

#### Keywords:

- Curriculum design;
- External teaching programme;
- Mobile application development.

### PROJECT SUMMARY

This case study is about cooperation between Barclays Technology Centre in Lithuania and Vilnius University's (VU) faculty of Mathematics and Informatics. The cooperation started with a joint work on a study program “Information Technologies” and has grown to encompass establishment of new computer labs and setting up an external lecturers program.

### CASE STUDY IN DETAILS

#### Project Background and Needs

In 2009, Barclays Bank established Barclays Technology Centre in Lithuania. For the technology centre to function, there was a need for IT specialists with a specific skill set. Therefore, there was the need to ensure that universities in Lithuania prepare adequately qualified workforce and, at the same time, Barclays was interested in positioning itself as an attractive employer to the graduates.

#### Project Solution

There are three main aspects to the cooperation between VU and Barclays, namely, joint curriculum development, establishment of two computer labs and external lecturers programme.

In 2008, the faculty of Mathematics and Informatics of VU, together with Barclays set up a 3.5 year bachelor study programme “Information Technologies” (henceforth – IT), which is the only 3.5 year study programme in the university. The cooperation functioned in the following way. Barclays provided the faculty with the information on its needs (their vision of the study plan and modules) and the faculty, in return, designed the study programme. The end result is a study programme that fits Barclays' requirements, which at the same time is also relevant to students who may not necessarily wish to pursue a career with Barclays bank after graduation.

In addition to the IT study programme, Barclays has financed the setup of 2 computer labs. The latest of the two, “Innovation Space”, was set up in 2013 and it is meant for Apple mobile application development. Innovation Space is used by students who are studying application development course at the faculty of Mathematics and Informatics (students do not necessarily have to

## Key Objectives:

- To ensure that students at the faculty of Mathematics and Informatics receive training that is tied to the needs of job market.
- To ensure that studies at the faculty of Mathematics and Informatics have enough practical elements.

## Lessons learned:

- For companies to be willing to cooperate with universities they either must have much resources or have a specific interest in the particular institution.
- Universities have to approach businesses with their possible commercial interests in mind, not those of the university.
- State agencies, such as Invest in Lithuania, can foster cooperation between universities and the industry.

## University profile:

Vilnius University, one of the oldest and most prominent higher schools in the Central and East Europe, was established in 1579. The University has 23 core academic and other equivalent divisions – 12 Faculties, 2 Institutes with faculty rights, 5 research institutes, and 4 inter-faculty Study and research centres. There are about 20 000 students studying at the University. There are 4 371 employees working at the University, of which 1 834 represent the teaching staff and 510 research workers. There are 1668 academic degree holders working at the University. Vilnius University is distinguished for its outstanding achievements in science and carries out fundamental and applied research in all areas of science.

be enrolled in the IT programme). The best students from the course are very likely to get a job offer from Barclays.

Finally, there is the external lecturers program, whereby employees from Barclays visit VU to deliver lectures at the faculty of Mathematics and Informatics. Every semester 4-5 people come to VU from Barclays to deliver such lectures.

## Achievements and Impact

Through this cooperation the faculty has managed to establish a study programme that fits the requirements of industry and it has ensured that its students have state of the art facilities. Importantly, through this cooperation the faculty and Barclays have given the brightest students the opportunity to gain employment upon graduation.

## Quantifiable Outputs for University

From this cooperation Vilnius University has gained the following:

- Approximately 80 students have already graduated from the IT study programme;
- 2 new computer labs have been constructed;
- There have been around 25 visits from Barclays to VU to give lectures.

## Quantifiable Outputs for Partner (s)

More qualified IT graduate pool from which to select prospective employees.

## CHECKLIST OF PREREQUISITES TO SUCCESS

### Formal aspects

- Formal practical level Co-operation Agreement is signed between University and Partner(s) which defines particular roles, outputs, reporting mechanisms and other relevant aspects.
- Project is related to at least one strategic priority of the University.

### Financial and/or Infrastructure aspects

- University invests financial resources in the project.
- Co-operation Partner invests financial resources in the project.
- University invests infrastructure and/or material type (in kind) resources in the project.
- Co-operation Partner invests infrastructure and/or material type (in kind) resources in the project.
- University gains non-monetary but measurable and verifiable benefits from the project.

- Co-operation Partner gains non-monetary but measurable and verifiable benefits from the project.

## Human capital aspects

- University is devoting its human capital, know-how, competence to the mutual cooperation, specifically, academic staff and administrative staff.
- Co-operation Partner is devoting its human capital, know-how, competence to the mutual cooperation.

## Marketing and communication aspects

- Project and/or project results are communicated within mass media channels.
- Project and/or project results are communicated within internal marketing and/or communication channels within the University and/or Partner institution.

## For More Information

For more information about the case study contact Linas Butenas on [linas.butenas@mif.vu.lt](mailto:linas.butenas@mif.vu.lt)

For more information about the project "FROM BRIDGING TO SUCCEEDING. University and Business Co-operation Through Success Stories." and for more case studies visit [www.university-business.net](http://www.university-business.net)

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