Career day event

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On the 17th of April I went to Fontys ICT career day at TQ. Here I talked to a few different companies and talked to teachers from different topics I'm interested in for next semester as well as internship opportunities.

This event was a real eye-opener for me, and I really got to know more about myself and what I wanted as well as learning more about the general job market for my study. I really enjoyed the event and found it really helpful with helping me see where I want to go later in life.

Event description

The event is essentially a job market for graduating students and midterm students. At this event several big and small companies will showcase their company and their career opportunities. There were companies for all kinds of profiles and from all kinds of sectors.

You had companies there like the ministry of defence, branding agencies, game studios but also sections within Fontys that could help you start your own business.

Who I talked to

I talked to a few companies as well as teachers for the semester 4 and 6 specializations. I also looked at what minors I could take in semester 7.

Semester 4 topics

Front-end development

I talked to Pim at the event. He's a teacher that will be teaching at front-end development next semester. We had a chat about what the semester will look like as well as how much of it overlaps with what I'm doing currently. I learnt that the semester will be quite similar to semester 2 in terms of structure. We'll be diving a lot deeper into front-end development with there being a bunch of different new topics being taught. Topics such as frameworks, NodeJS, ThreeJS, API's, databases and more. These are all subjects we've briefly touched on in previous semesters but not nearly to the extent we'll learn them in front-end.

I told Pim he basically managed to convince me to go to front-end even though I was extremely focused on media creation. He was very excited to hear that and gave me a high-five.

Handpicked – company for finding careers and internships

I talked to a company that specializes in making it easier for students to find internships. Especially in the creative and development sector. I talked to one of the employees there and she said they work together with a bunch of smaller studios, and they help students find internships at these studios. They are mainly based in Breda but have some vacancies in Eindhoven as well.

She told me if I wanted an internship, I should act fast, because they go very quickly.

Winston – company that builds restaurant ordering systems

I talked to another company that was in my interest. They build restaurant ordering systems. These systems are used by restaurant employees to relay orders straight to the kitchen or bar for efficiency and for ease of keeping track of past orders and bills.

They currently had a few internships open for the design, testing and building of these systems in the United States. It would offer a unique opportunity to learn about American restaurant culture and see how well you can adapt to a different culture as a professional.

It's an interesting project, especially because I work in a restaurant, it would be an interesting thing to work on.

Stuurmen – branding agency in Eindhoven

Stuurmen was by far the most inspiring company I came across.
They're a branding agency based in Eindhoven that works with high-end clients, building full brand identities and websites. While I was there, I talked to one of the employees who had done the same study I'm doing now. He told me he had struggled with the same choice I was facing—media design or development. He ended up choosing development, and specifically creative development, which turned out to be the perfect fit for him.

That conversation really stuck with me. It was like a lightbulb moment—I realized that the path I was leaning toward actually has real opportunities, and even better, it sounds like a lot of fun. That moment helped me decide to go all in on front-end development, especially the creative side of it.

If I could do an internship anywhere, it would definitely be at Stuurmen. I feel like I'd learn so much there and really grow in the direction I want to go.

Reflection

I really enjoyed the career day this semester. A lot more in comparison to last semester's one. Last semester felt like it was not really of any use to me. It was meant for people in higher semester and semester 1 as well to promote different specializations, topics but also internships and career opportunities.

This semester felt a lot more useful to me, not only because I needed to choose a topic to go for in semester 4, but also because my internship is coming up in less than a year. So, it was a good thing to look at what the market for it looks like and see some potential internship opportunities I could take. Of course, I expect there to be quite a lot of competition so I might have to look for something a bit closer to home. I learned a lot about the job market, and I was surprised to see how many companies would take in people with my expertise. For instance, even the ministry of defense were looking for media students which is the last thing I expected to see. It was really interesting to see how broad the market really is for my study because I expected it to be pretty small and highly competitive.

In the summer I'll do some research into internships and see if I can maybe already fix myself a spot somewhere. I'm looking for things in the direction of front-end development or media creation. But preferably I would like to go in a creative development direction.