

Program report
Study Abroad: Destination India
December 29, 2015 to January 15, 2016
Hubli, India

Faculty – Ashwin Mehta, Nitin Kulkarni, Cao Yadong



60 students from US, India, China, Japan and Thailand assembled in Hubli, India for a 2 weeks of intensive entrepreneurship learning in a multi-cultural, multi-disciplinary environment! Since its inception in 2014, over 230 students from 8 countries participated in the program, in Hubli and Lowell.

Dr. Shettar, Vice Chancellor, KLE Technological University welcomed students on the first day with an inspirational conversation. His message stayed with students throughout the 2 weeks on their entrepreneurship learning journey! They were all pumped up and ready to go, even after many with long journeys of 24+ hours and time difference.



Students from different cultures, never met before, bonded together from that point on in an amazing way!

"...the exchange program gave me the opportunity not only to build on my educational career and professional experience, but also to form everlasting



friendships that were fruit of genuine connections with one another. The experience allowed me the opportunity to reflect not only on my career goals, but life in general. I will forever cherish the experience afforded to me through this program." Brian Pena, an MSB MBA student

Start of the Journey

UML and Chinese students met at the Bangalore airport. The flight was delayed by a few hours, no surprise! 26 students and 4 faculty camped out at an area, napping, working, meeting each for the first time, and, just having a good time



What did they learn?

The format of this program was almost the same as in the previous programs. On the very first day, after getting a brief introduction to the entrepreneurship, including a few examples, students were divided into groups to go through an ideation process. It was a quick entry into how to work in a diverse groups and be ready to present to the class of about 60 students and faculty



problems, ideas to solve and how! One would not know that these students barely knew each other, had difficulties in communication and never had any exposure to ideation.

- Worked on 12 group projects sourced from UML Faculty, New venture Development, and KLE student ideas. Each Team had students from US, India and China; plus, business and engineering.

- Students received discussions

about the business model canvas so they can put it to use in their project tasks

- Students were asked to make presentations 4 times throughout 2 weeks; each time they got more and more confident in making presentations
- They listened to entrepreneurs narrating their journeys; students were very much engaged in these talks
- Students attended a day conference on Make in India, specifically focused on innovation in engineering education. The main aim of the conference was to discover challenges and opportunities in engineering education in India, finally linking it with Make in India (a national thrust to make India a global manufacturing center)



- Desh Deshpande and Jaishree Deshpande came to the class and talked to students; a few students gave an overview of their projects
- One day, student spent on a farm, developed from a barren land into rich fruit and other trees, wild life and peaceful setting! They received a discussion on innovation and entrepreneurship from a BVB alum and an entrepreneur in the US.

- The farm was started by Dr. Sanjeev Kulkarni, formerly a Gynaecologist in Dharwad. His story from practicing gynaecology to starting a farm on a barren piece of land and creating biodiversity was highly inspirational. His work displays innovation and his concern for the environment. Students took a tour of the farm and came across many plants and trees like coffee, cinnamon, sandal wood, litchi, mango, custard apple, cashew etc.



- Students learned a lot about different cultures (Indian, American, Chinese, Japanese, etc.)! They celebrated New Year in different cultures and customs!
- They attended an Indian wedding, an event they are certainly going to remember for a long time!!
- Students explored Hubli with their Indian friends and hosts; tasted Indian cuisines and specialties.

- Visited one of the largest kitchens, AkshyaPatra , which makes 200,000 meals each day for school children.
- In Delhi-Agra, US and Chinese students experienced historical and cultural sites, including famous Taj Mahal!



Outside Akshya Patra, largest kitchen serving **200,000** children each day in Hubli area!

Enjoying a Chai Time!

Highlight of any day, morning and afternoon, was the Chai Time! Yummy masala (spicy) tea!



Students Comments



"...these are the beautiful Kids of Sushanti Children's home in Karnataka Hubli. My friends and I spent an evening with them which was by far my best day ever in Hubli. Seeing them smile because we spent a couple of hours with them just melts my heart. They are so precious, so innocent, so beautiful and really smart. Although we barely understood words they said we did play with them and that meant a lot to them. They kept calling me "Akka" which I later found out means big sister in kannada. Having other kids besides

my siblings call me big sister is an honor because it makes me think about and pray for them everyday. They truly are the reason why I'd love to go back to Hubli to visit." Christine Ngugi, an MSB undergrad student

"When we were touring through Delhi the tour guide knew an old snake charmer. We were able to get off the bus and interact with him and his snakes. He had two snakes, a charming flute and while we meet him on the street his beard, age and bite marks were enough accreditation for me." Joseph Hyatt, an MSB undergrad student



Abha Kulkarni from BVB College says
' All through this course, the classes were great, very informative and intense. I also enjoy working in teams after class. But, I want to talk about the learning outside class. Each person I have met has a wonderful story to share. There is a great amount of learning in every conversation I have had. I have

learnt from one of my American friend that you can do whatever you want if your vision is clear and you have a passion to do what you love. You just have to keep working persistently, have continuous undeterred efforts. I learnt from another Chinese friend that even though you face hardships in terms of resources and support, even though people will try to bring you down, if you have the will power you can do what you want anyway. I had had some deep conversations with a few people and I realize that, deep down we are all in the same boat, we all go through the same kinds of confusion in adolescence. But ultimately, we all have our own, unique ways to sail through it."

"I celebrated my 19th birthday on January 3rd in Hubli, India. On that day, we bought toys and games at a local book store and brought them to an orphanage to give to the kids. While there, I had a couple of magic tricks from my children's show with me and I performed them for the kids. After the performance, the director of the orphanage spoke to the kids in Hindi, then called me back up before the kids, where they all sang "Happy Birthday" to me. It was a birthday I would have never dreamed of a year ago." Ryan Lally, a business student

"I feel honored to have taken part in this exchange program and I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude for the hospitality I received these days from India. It incredibly improved my ability to communicate with different students from different countries and through participating

in this program, it helped me develop the knowledge and understanding of innovation and entrepreneurship. And above all, I got to know some friends who share same thoughts and vision with me, which indicates that in one corner around the world, there will definitely be one who understands you and strive for his goals like the way you are doing.” (Nanjing Univ student)



“It was a great experience with working as a team in multinational environment. We had a difficulty in communication with 4 Indian students, 1 Chinese student, and 1 Japanese student in our team. However, we had a clear goal in two weeks therefore we tried hard to understand each other to achieve our goal. We all felt great after we have done our final presentation and appreciated each other. This was truly a lifetime event.” Yukiko Oikawa, an MBA student (from Japan)

“So for me, an incredibly strong takeaway and transformation that occurred is my understanding of how my ideas don’t need to be a forest right away, they don’t need to be an incredibly complex model that I have to grow overnight. Instead I have to plant my idea, and grow that idea into something bigger, and as it grows something else might turn up to grow with it, and I can continue to add new ideas along the way that may eventually turn into something fruitful. If I am able to do this over and over, even on a small scale, I will be able to grow my ideas into my own forest, and who maybe with some help from Mother Nature, that forest may compare to the one I visited Dharwad.” (business student)

“I emphasise on the value that a learning process provides rather than its academic benefits (i.e. marks and grade). So, I think that this thought process provides better results. I personally learnt from the people in the program that, it is okay to learn things at your pace, it is okay to not know a certain things and accept the gap in your knowledge and learn it later! I’ve learnt to have a lot of patience. I can see the difference in myself from the day the Student Exchange Program was started and the present day, which is remarkable and makes me extremely happy!” – Swati V from BVB.

“The morning of the last day in Hubli was very emotional and everyone was crying, hugging and reminiscing about the amazing times we shared in Hubli. We boarded the bus Delhi and began our long journey to Bangalore. Eventually we arrived in Delhi from Bangalore and went to the luxurious Royal Plaza Hotel. The rest of our leg in Delhi and Agra was filled with breathtaking tours of temples, both Red Forts and the Taj Mahal. My favorite of all tours was the Taj Mahal, its architecture and design is unmatched and truly lives up to the hype that it receives. With real Indian marble and other rare stones, the Taj Mahal truly is one of the great wonders of Earth.” (business student)

“This was my favorite part of working with my group; we just laughed and worked together as if we had been friends for years. The night before the project, where we stayed up, we took various breaks cracking jokes and even taking naps. I learned how to be patient when working with a group. I learned how to use the strengths of the individual members to maximize productivity. I have never considered myself a leader, but in India, I felt I was able to lead my group and keep

us focused on completing the project. This experience has helped me develop not only as a student but also as a person.” (business student)

On 3rd January, it was a day off, but the students created their own value propositions and made the day a great one by reaching out to the unique people. After lunch, a group of 38 students rushed into the stores to get many books, pens, colours, chocolates and games which were to be taken to an orphanage nearby. The orphanage named ‘BalaGraha’, is not just any ordinary orphanage. It is



a Non-Governmental Organisation which shelters kids from two backgrounds- one from the judicial custody and the kids who were exposed to abuse, child labour etc.

We enjoyed meeting kids and played all the games that we had taken for them. We also taught the kids to play badminton, basketball, volleyball, and other games. All the kids were glad to meet us and even gave a dance performance for us. It was a very sad thing to know that the kids so young are living without parents. We truly felt that we are lucky enough to have all the love and affection of our parents, and that it's time for us to make them feel special.

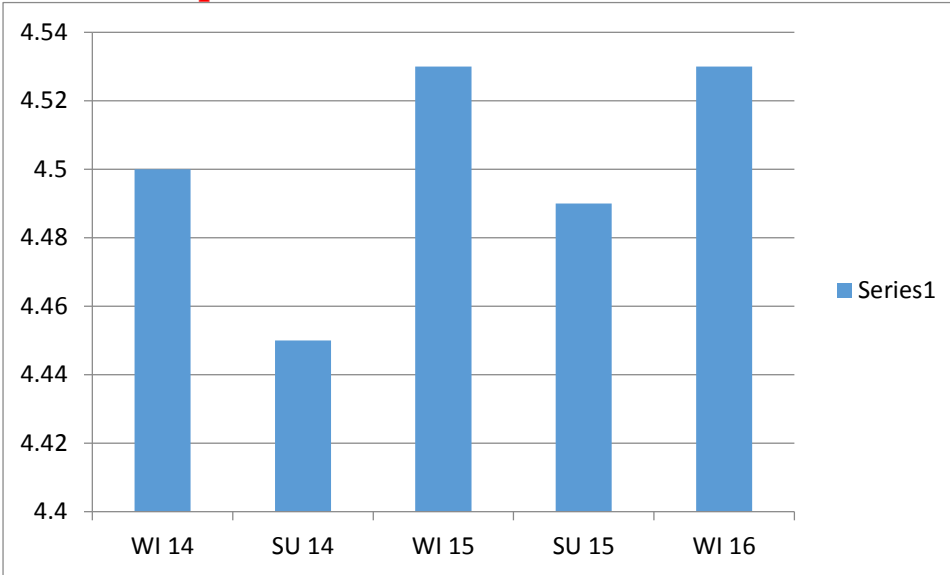
“I sit in the front of window and through photos. I think I finally can calm down to recall the experience of the 20 days and think the 20 days’ harvest. In the 20 days, we completed the project which we have discussed and worked together for everyday and several nights. In the 20 days, we met many friends who we may not see each other again. We studied together, played together. In the 20 days, we experienced the different unique life. It was totally an awesome experience! It was a unique learning experience of multi-cultural and multi-disciplinary environments and a great opportunity to understand an important emerging economy. It was a different study, an awesome experience. I think I will never forget it.” (Nanjing Univ student)

“The team project helped me to understand the need to communicate in cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural teams. We come from 5 different countries and have different majors .Big difference exists in both language and culture. ... And try to learn things from others, then you can feel comfortable working in a multi-disciplinary environment. Through the team project, I have a deeper understanding of my personal learning process....” (Nanjing Univ student)

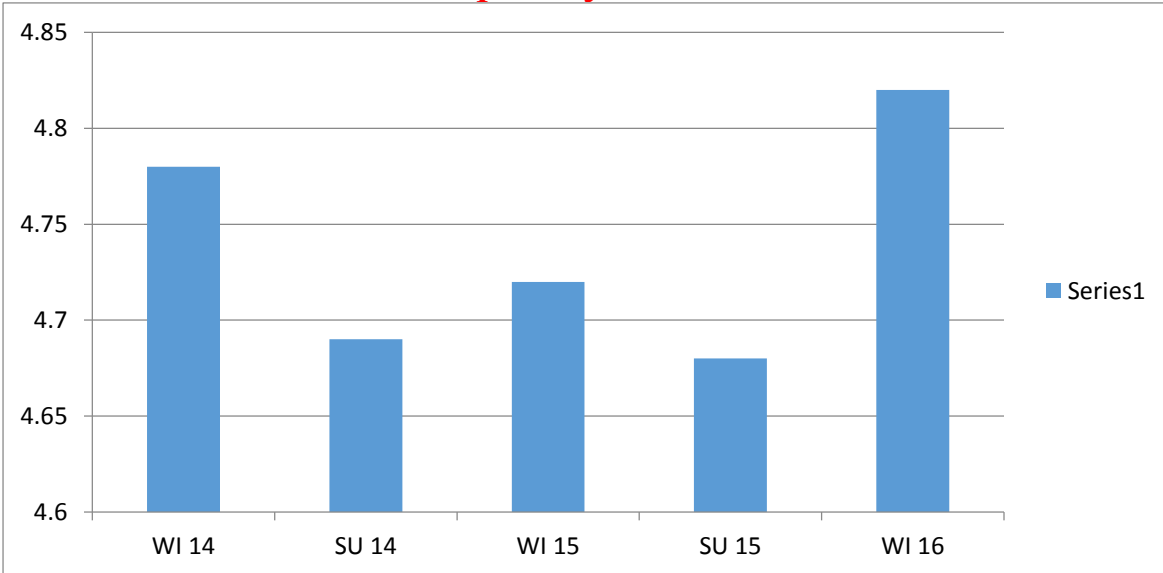
Student Surveys

For each program, students completed a brief survey of their experiences. Below are results of a few questions with Rating Average. Each question asked students to rate a statement on a scale of 1 (=strongly disagree) to 5 (=strongly agree).

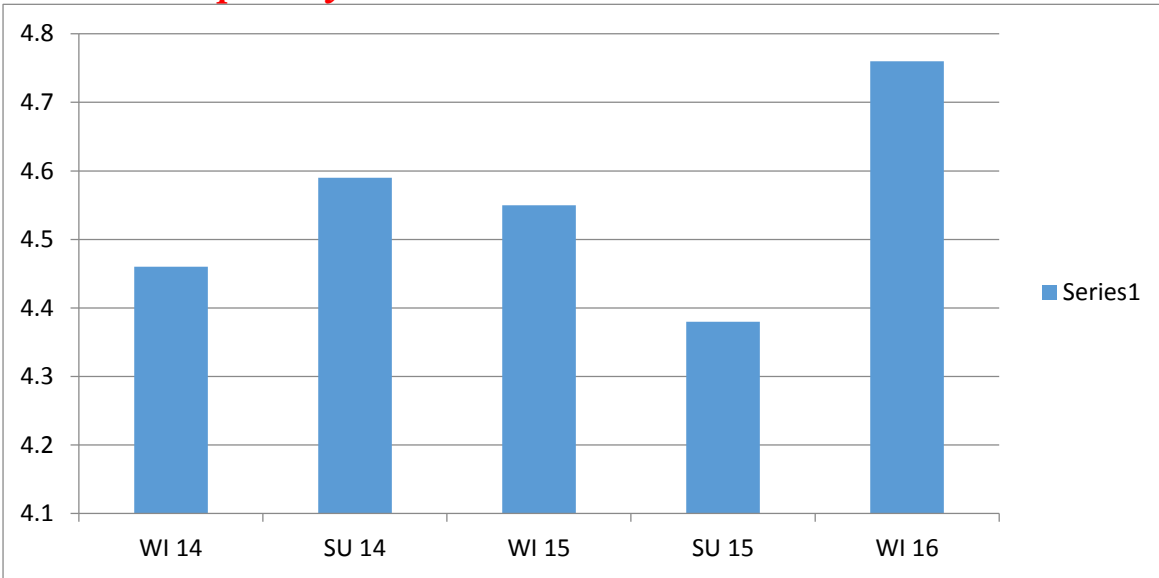
The team project helped me to understand the need for collaboration in the entrepreneurial environment



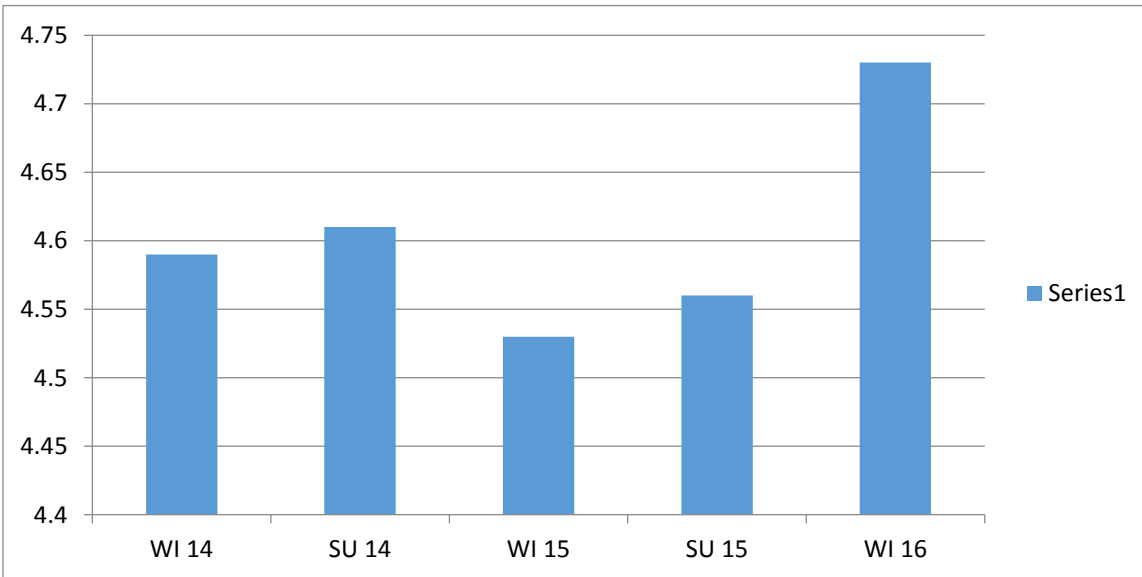
The team experience has enabled me to better understand the need to communicate in cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural teams.



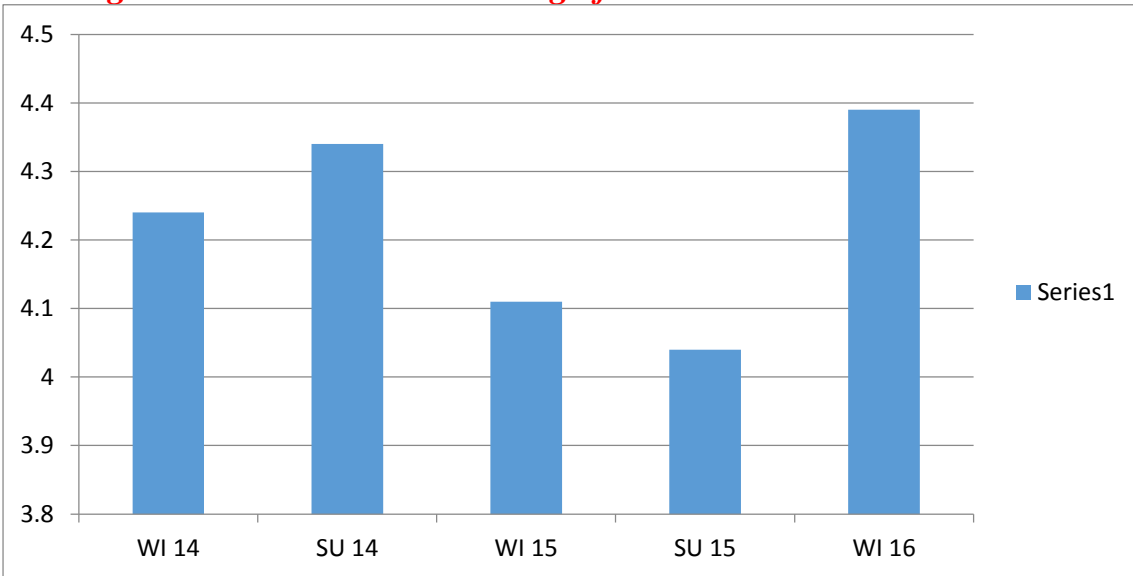
This experience has helped me become more comfortable working in a multi-disciplinary environment.



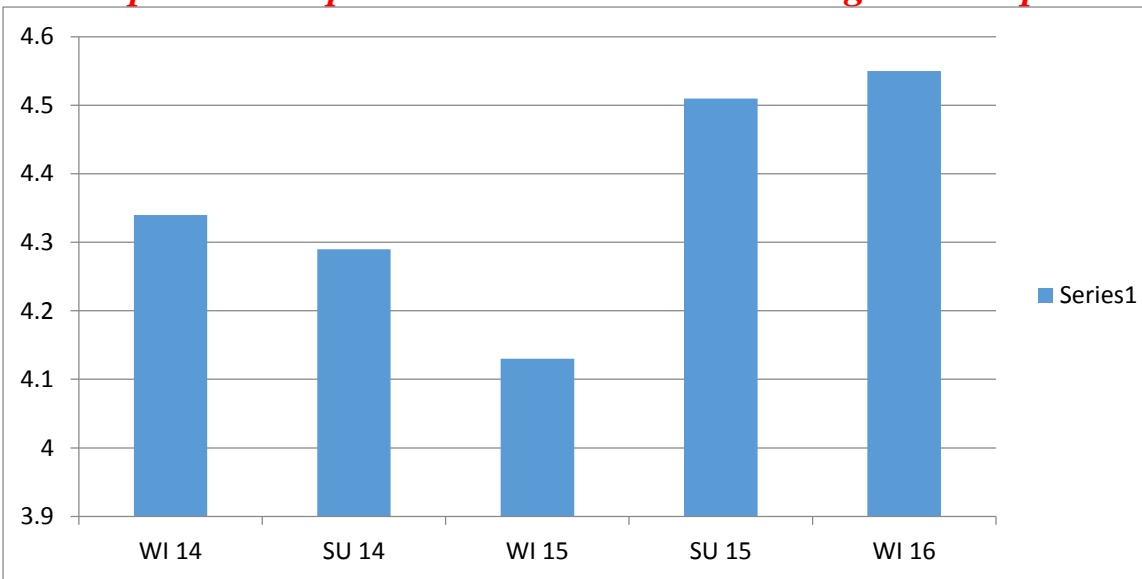
This experience has helped me become more comfortable working in a multi-cultural environment.



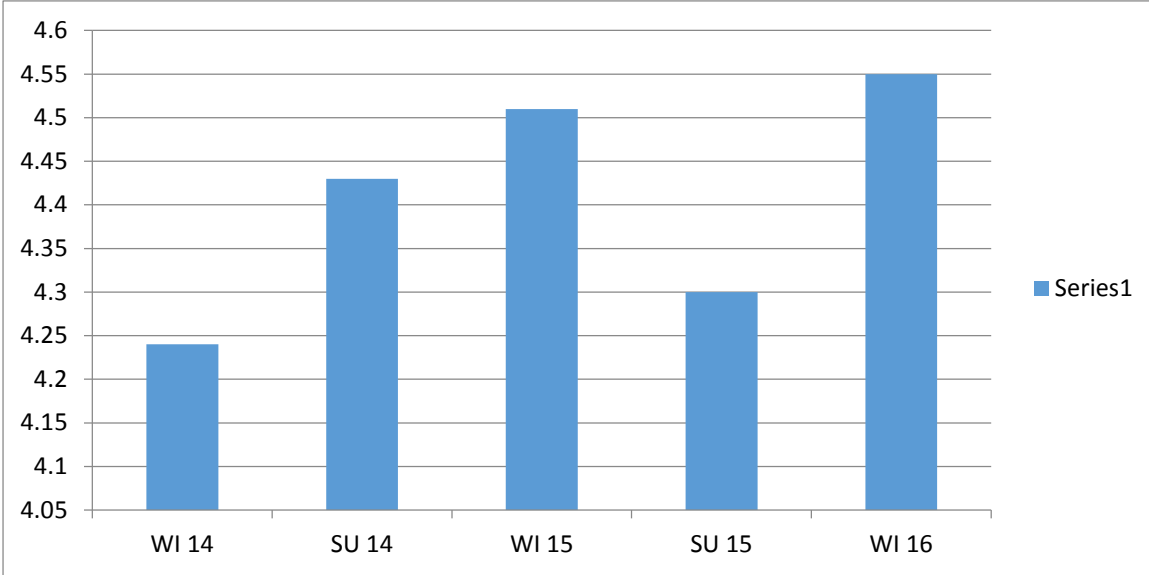
I have gained a better understanding of how to start a venture.



Guest speakers inspired me to consider becoming an entrepreneur.



The technology projects helped me better understand the entrepreneurship process.



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