

Polytech Students Won Russian Case Competition FinTech Cup 2017

What an employer is looking for in a CV of a young specialist? Of course, his or her work experience! But if you have not had it yet, participation in various case competitions would be a great opportunity to gain invaluable experience.



One of them is a programming and analytics competition in the field of financial technology and banking FinTech Cup 2017. FinTech are technologic projects in the field of financial services. Nowadays FinTech is considered to be one of the most advanced and in-demand ways for startups. About 400 participants came to the final contest which was held in Moscow in the middle of July. While their friends enjoyed a worry-free time playing video games and watching series, they immersed themselves in the world of FinTech and met the representatives of the leading companies. The participants were the students and PhD students from all over Russia who took interest in programming, business analytics and financial technology; had a nose for business or would like to develop this skill; believed in a better tomorrow with Internet of things and highly developed payment technology.

'Case competition allows people who have not had work experience yet show their capacities, - says Alexey Blagirev, Bank Otkritie director of innovations, - I share the opinion that the business model of FinTech development will be the driver of digital economics, that is why it is important to create a platform where young people will be heard by the major competitors and will have a feedback. Under the competition the partner companies expect to see many prospective students. They are interested in bringing them into the fold'.

The expert jury chose 28 teams; all of them came through to the finals. The runner-ups not only mastered their skills, worked with real business targets and gained knowledge from mentors, but also could find the future employers and the partners for their projects, test their business solutions on the real audience of the competition partners. The competition was held in two categories: business analytics (development and market integration of a new product concept) and financial technology software programming (creation of mobile apps: messengers, chat-bots, and speech recognition services). Among the finalists were Polytechnic students Vladislav Kaluga and Arseniy Bondarev who presented the team 'Peter's Thunder' . The team was first in the business analytics section. Under the competition it had to create the concept of p2p product (transfer from card to card) for QIWI Company. Polytechnic students succeeded in the task thanks to the knowledge they gained at the Graduate School of Industrial Management and Economics of the Institute of Industrial Management, Economics and Trade (IIMET SPbPU). According to the head of the QIWI investment department Olga Turzhansky, the team 'differentiated itself from others with the deep-laid concept and understanding of the customer needs'.



Vladislav Kaluga noted that participation in the competition was not as easy as they expected, and the team won because every teammate clearly understood his or her tasks. *'FinTech was a good test for us to check our ability to solve business targets quickly, - added Arseniy Bondarev, - p2p market analysis showed that there are many market windows in Russia which can be effectively used by the major competitors'*.



Now the best teams are able to undergo training at partner companies, and CVs of each teammate have been sent to their HR Departments. In conclusion Olga Turzhansky professed that it has been really hard for the jury to define the winners of the competition, because all teams have coped with the business cases in a perfect way. *'We are very pleased with the results. The competition was really huge and useful from the point of view of development of new generation of entrepreneurs. We have plans to continue our cooperation as with the winners of our competitions, as with the other teams and participants'*.

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