Before starting the course of ‘Making Sense of Sensors,’ I usually tried to collect data by sending out questionnaires and doing interviews with users to get insight into their opinions. However, collecting data, with for example a MiBand, can be much more reliable than an interview or a survey. I learned how to analyse such data and I learned the importance of the ethical aspects of gathering data.

Usually, I am the leader in the group, but as someone else took on this role, I took the opportunity to move more towards the background this time. This is something I am not used to and learned from, I let others speak up more and tried to go more with the flow of the project. Nevertheless, I still did my part of the work. I wrote part of the paper, mostly focussed on the introduction and the research question and dived into the ethical aspects of the research. Just like the rest of my group, I obtained and exported the data from my office worker.

I am quite new when it comes to writing papers, doing research and obtaining data. This means that this course was very helpful and informative for me when it comes to my development as a designer and student. Since I dove into the ethical aspects of the research, like the FAIR principles, I learned a lot about the importance of ethics in research and work in general.

Most of our work was done together during our meetings. This helped us to be on the same page at all times and meant that we divided tasks when necessary. We discussed everything we worked on or wrote and this helped us during the weekly tutor meetings and when preparing for presentations or deadlines. By working together this close, there are no surprises in the final report or presentation and I had insight into every part of the paper, which meant we could learn from each other.

Regarding the course, I believe that the weekly tutor meetings were extremely beneficial. Our tutor told us we were on the right track, which kept us motivated. Him telling us we were doing well also showed us we could continue the way we were working and that we did not need to change our approach. His feedback and guidance helped us shape our project, and without it we might have felt a bit lost at times, not knowing exactly what to do.

However, I wish we would have had some extra time to obtain data. If we would have given the MiBands to the participants a little earlier, we might have had some more conclusive data in the end. A week of data is not a lot to work with, unfortunately. Additionally, the data would have been more conclusive if we would have had more participants too. As we only had five MiBands, this was not entirely possible in the amount of time we had, but it would have helped us generate a clearer conclusion.