

Case Study: Internship

Jim Yip, Third Year Civil Engineering Student

Which company did you undertake work experience with?

My internship was at Foster and Partners – a global and integrated design practice.

How did you go about finding the internship?

Mr Andy Coward, an associate, from F+P came to Imperial College and gave us an inspiring presentation. We had a short conversation after the presentation and I showed my interest in working at F+P by sending my CV and cover letter to him. He forwarded my email to the engineering group. I was invited for an interview. I received an offer from them a few weeks after.

What was the application and interview process like?

The application was simple in comparison to other industries. However, the interview was demanding. It was a one-to-one interview with a partner. I had to show my enthusiasm as well as my academic abilities.

How big was your team and where did it sit in the organisation?

F+P are an integrated design practice. We provide all kinds of services for our clients including architectural design, structural design, mechanical design, interior design and more. I was in one of the engineering groups which have a significant number of engineers. Structural and environmental engineers work alongside the architects from the beginning of the design process. By doing so, we believe that they can learn from one another and combine their knowledge to devise wholly integrated design solutions.

What was your role and what did it involve?

I was an assistant structural engineer and was involved in a wide range of practices from structural analysis to technical drawings. I worked on some major projects at F+P which I am not allowed to disclose.

What was the most valuable thing about your work experience?

- I gained a passion for working on large scale projects
- I formed some great professional relationships with work colleagues
- I gained professional skills
- I have useful experience to add to my CV



“If you really want to work on real projects, work as long in the summer as you can.”

- Jim Yip



Do you have any tips for future Imperial students looking to make the most of their summer?

My internship lasted for 14 weeks. Even though it sounds a bit too long, it is definitely worth it. I recommend working in the industry as long as possible for your summer internship or even take a gap year to work in the industry. It will take you a couple of weeks to settle down, a few weeks to understand how the team functions and by the time you are trained and are able to contribute, your internship ends. If you really want to work on real projects, work as long in the summer as you can.

