Case Study: Internship

Matin Mohseni, Third Year Bioengineering Student

Which company did you undertake work experience with?
The company I worked with was Tajhizat pezeshki Pishrafteh Co that is the only authorized GE healthcare distributor in Iran.

How did you go about finding the internship?
I found this internship placement online on the companies’ website. I also had a friend working there as an engineer which helped me to gain more information and get to know more about the work environment there.

What was the timescale for your application?
I started applying in May. I applied for three placements including this one. The other two places were a company developing new processing platforms for Cochlear Implants and a financial institution. My interview was arranged in early July when I came back to Iran.

What was the application and interview process like?
After making my application online, I received a phone call from the relevant department in June asking me whether I was still interested in the placement and when I would be able to attend a formal interview. My interview was quite relaxed. The interviewer had a copy of my CV printed on their desk. Initially I was asked some questions about my CV so I explained few parts with more details to them. Then they started asking technical questions with basic levels of difficulty at first but getting more detailed as we went through. This took approximately 20 minutes.

How big was your team and where did it sit in the organisation?
I was working in the MRI department, which has the responsibility of maintenance of instruments. The main job of this department is regular service or repairing the relevant sites containing MR devices. There were 9 Engineers and 2 interns (including me) working in this department.

What was your role and what did it involve?
In the first two weeks I had the responsibility to learn about the MRI instruments, for example the main principles of the MR imaging and the causes of inefficiencies or image artefacts that may arise. Then I was given two main roles. Firstly, I had to keep monitoring the Helium Pressure and Level of all the GE MRI devices in all over the country and report any deviation from the desirable numbers to my supervisor. Secondly, when the presence of a faulty device was reported to the department, I had to search in the database history of the company for similar hardware errors or artefacts that happened before for other devices and try to troubleshoot and find causes of errors based on previous recorded experiences.

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What was the most valuable thing about your work experience?
I think the most valuable thing about my experience was not only I was able to gain an extensive amount of technical hands on knowledge that wouldn’t be provided to me in an academic environment, but also I had the opportunity to work and cooperate in a real world organisation as well as examining and improving my teamwork skills.

Do you have any tips for future Imperial students looking to make the most of their summer?
I think the most valuable tip would be not to worry too much about qualifying for the most competitive summer internships or placements. Any experience with any level of technical theory or hands on knowledge is very helpful and influential in the way of providing a broad view about future education and employment.