

Case Study: Internship

Niccolo Lamanna, Second Year EEE Student

Which company did you undertake work experience with?

I worked for Dresser-Rand at the Peterborough manufacturing site. They are an American global supplier of custom-engineered rotating equipment solutions for applications in the oil, gas, process, power, and other industries worldwide



How did you go about finding the internship?

The way I found the company and the internship was through a direct approach, thanks to a family friend whom introduced me to the company and suggested that I apply.

What was the timescale for your application?

I applied for the internship in February and it took some time to figure out which best site and office to send me as the company mainly deals with mechanical engineers. As I am studying Electrical and Electronic Engineering they had to look for somewhere in which I would be able to best apply what I learnt in university during my first two years of study.

What was the application and interview process like?

After a location was found I was called by the Branch Manager for a phone interview in which I was asked some basic questions about myself and what I was doing at University. Then he explained what the Peterborough site does and what kind of opportunities there were for me. A week after I was emailed by the Human Resources office asking me to go for an interview and a tour of where the internship would be placed. The interview was with a Human Resources Partner and the Branch Manager that had called me on the phone the week before. I was asked general questions about my interests and why I wanted to work in this field. Then we had a conference call with a controls engineer whom later became my supervisor for the first half of my internship. He asked me what we have covered on the course and then explained what kind of project he was planning for me to do.

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

My internship was split in two equal parts, and in both I worked alone and independently on two different projects. I had to report daily to my supervisor regarding my progress.



What was your role and what did it involve?

The first project involved an optimisation evaluation of the current control system for Steam/Gas Turbines and Centrifugal/Reciprocating Compressors. I actively collaborated with General Electric, SKF and PROGNOST to revamp the existing Vibration Control Monitoring package. The second part of the internship consisted of designing and producing a control unit for machinery transportation for Statoil. This measures internal nitrogen pressure and orientation; if a problem is detected it sends a GPRS signal to the operator in charge.

What was the most valuable thing about your work experience?

The most valuable aspect of my internship was understanding and appreciating the working environment in a big company that deals with international suppliers and clients.

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

The tip I wished I was given when I started to look for an internship was to consider companies in fields in which you are not familiar with and have little knowledge of. It is incredible the amount of experience you can get out a completely new environment. I started appreciating topics which I would have never learnt about was it not for this internship.

