

Case Study: Internship

Chaoyi Zhu, Second Year Materials Student

Which company did you undertake work experience with?

I went to Max-Planck-Institut für Eisenforschung in Dusseldorf, Germany (part of the DAAD Rise Program).



How did you go about finding the internship?

A friend of mine recommended me this program and it can be found online at <https://www.daad.de/rise/de/>. Applications are submitted online.

What was the timescale for your application?

I started my application in November, 2013. I only applied for three research internships and only received a reply from DAAD. There was no interview.

What was the application and interview process like?

I had to send a CV, Cover letter, Recommendation letter and Transcript. There was no interview.

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

There about 20 people in my research group. Here, one professor has several groups to manage and each group has a group leader.

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- Chaoyi Zhu

What was your role and what did it involve?

My role was to assist one of the PhD students with his final PhD project and it involved lots of experiments as well as analysis. We worked on an in-situ tensile testing machine which was quite major work for the project.

What was the most valuable thing about your work experience?

The most valuable thing about the work here is to know many people from different background. Getting to know scientists from other countries has opened up my views towards research and possibly my future careers prospects. Most importantly, I have experienced the German work culture.

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

For people who would like to spend time in the lab and at same time travel a little bit during weekends the RISE program is a good choice.

