



Student: Joy Talbot
Queen Mary University
Placement: Neur
Role: Junior Data Scientist

"I wanted to do something worthwhile with my summer by gaining invaluable experience which would let me tailor my final year at university. I am now able to choose appropriate modules, go to exciting events related to tech start-ups and perhaps get further relevant experience in the industry."

Describe a typical day:

As a Junior Data Scientist intern in the team, my role was to research and then help build a brand new question and answer system for Neur's business intelligence service. On a typical day, I check my emails and the team task board to see which tasks I need to complete. I read research papers on my project in order to develop my own understanding and then focus on particular interests in more depth, aiming to find either existing tools and techniques or enough information to build my own. This stage also includes many meetings with the team to brainstorm ideas and design the solution. Following this, I write a report so that other team members can follow it when building the system. I can then write the algorithms for each individual component ensuring that they are easy to follow and entirely self-explanatory.

Why did you decide to do a placement?

I wanted to see for myself how my Physics degree would be applied in the real world instead of in a lecture theatre. Whilst I knew I wanted to work in a fast pace, exciting environment involving analysis and problem solving, I didn't know which role I would be best suited to. I wanted to use the internship to find out where my strengths lie, improve on my current skills, build new ones and see what tasks I particularly enjoyed doing so that I can focus on them when I graduate.

Would you recommend doing a placement?

I would absolutely recommend doing a placement. Not only have I developed personal and professional skills ranging from organisation to programming, but I have had my eyes opened to what it is like working for a tech start up-something I had never considered before. Don't just do a placement, do one at a start-up! It might just kickstart your career in a direction you didn't even know was an option.

How do you think doing a placement has benefited you for the future?

Interning as a Junior Data Scientist has allowed me to vastly increase my programming skills in C#, learn how to write effective and accurate algorithms, improve on communication skills by continuously presenting my findings to the CEO and given me a deep understanding of natural language processing, machine learning and statistical analysis. This internship is my first experience of working 9.30-6 in a professional environment, which has also taught me a great deal about what work will be like when I graduate and what will be expected of me.

What are your next steps?

I have been offered a graduate job with them, which shows what a fantastic opportunity the placement is for making connections. I hope to continue developing the skills that I have gained during my internship and look forward to returning to Neur!

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