



Student: Sam Rowley
University of Southampton
Placement: Symetrica Security
Ltd.
Role: Algorithms Team Intern

"The internship inspired me to perform better... after having seen what I am working towards..."

Describe a typical day:

I would start by having a ten minute meeting with my supervisor to discuss my aims for the day or the week, along with a small discussion of results from the previous day or any problems I had encountered. Days would generally be spent analysing data from previous experiments and drawing conclusions from that data. I would also run my own simulations on that data and write-up my findings. Some days were spent collecting test data at Symetrica's on-site test facility.

Why did you decide to do a placement?

I decided to do a placement to boost my CV and to get an inside perspective on physics in industry. This internship enabled me to do both.

Would you recommend doing a placement?

Definitely, I had an excellent experience. Team-working was crucial and I developed my communication skills during my time at Symetrica, along with some valuable computing experience and data analysis skills. Also I had the chance to develop my report writing and scientific writing style.

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

Not only has the internship helped me develop many valuable skills but now I also know that at some point I would like to work in a physics-related industry.

What are your next steps?

I am currently at the end of the 3rd year of my MPhys, the internship inspired me to perform better than I ever have previously after having seen what I am working towards. Currently I plan on applying for a PhD or industry position next year.

Employer perspective:

"Working with students over the summer gives benefits to both Symetrica and the students. Being able to introduce students to the experience of working in a Physics based SME provides key insight for them into the differences between academia and industry and the additional skills required for industry. For the company having skilled Physics students input can provide an injection of new ideas as well as additional effort and critical analysis of projects. Sam took on and succeeded in all the analytic and experimental challenges given to him during the internship and as a consequence was able to learn new skills as well as enhancing existing skills."

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