



**Student:** Yusuf Musa Abubakar , University of Surrey  
**Placement:** Lumie  
**Role:** LabVIEW optical test platform

*“Placements offer you opportunities to discover yourself prior to choosing a longer term career for yourself.”*

**What is the subject of your PhD?**

Silicon and silicon carbide radiation detectors for alpha and neutron detection at elevated temperatures.

**Why did you decide to do a placement?**

During my PhD I learned LabVIEW and used it for my experiments. However, I have not used it to solve a specific problem in research or in an industrial organisation. Having undertaken a similar placement at NPL, I was motivated to secure experience of problem solving in industry using LabVIEW as a tool. As I was waiting for my PhD viva, it was a good time to undertake some further work experience and boost my transferable skills.

**Describe a typical day on placement:**

A normal working starts with a short discussion with my manager to review progress made so far. I then continue with the design of my program, which is the key focus of the placement. Occasionally, I made presentations to my group for advice and suggestions towards improving the project. I used many different light sources to acquire data for validation of the LabVIEW software developed. At the end of the placement I trained technical staff in the company on how to use the software.

**What skills and knowledge do you feel you have learned during the placement?**

I have learned to work with people from different cultures and backgrounds. I have also assumed a position similar to a consultant and this has given me confidence in moving forward to look for consulting roles of a similar type in future. Working on a challenging project and delivering to a specific deadline under pressure with very little supervision is an incredible experience.

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

The placement has boosted my confidence and broadened my horizons beyond academia. I learnt that my PhD is one thing and the skills I can offer to the wider community are also important. In addition, my CV is richer than before and more balanced, with both experience in academia and industry.

**What advice would you give to a PGR student who might be interested in seeking a placement?**

Placements offer you opportunities to discover yourself prior to choosing a longer term career for yourself. This is the best opportunity for you to try something and know what works for you before deciding on your future career.