



Student: Ilana Wisby
Royal Holloway, University of
London
Placement: Snap Out Ltd
Role: Software Development

“I have gained many transferable technical skills as well as an appreciation of my own skill set to benefit others outside academia.”

What is the subject of your PhD?

My PhD is in experimental physics as part of a joint studentship between Royal Holloway University (RHUL) and industrial partner, the National Physical Laboratory (NPL). I work on hybrid quantum systems for quantum information processing applications.

Why did you decide to do a placement?

To experience working in a start-up and improving my programming skills for industry applications.

Describe a typical day on placement:

Each day is varied. I have been working on software design elements, coding background software processing in Python and helping writing new grant applications.

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

I have gained a general appreciation and understanding of life at a start-up, insight into grant application and software development processes, as well as improving my technical coding knowledge. Also I can now work on a Mac!

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

The placement has highlighted some of the benefits of working in a small company in a start-up environment. I have gained many transferable technical skills as well as an appreciation of my own skill set to benefit others outside academia.

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

Understand what you want to gain from your placement and speak with your host to ensure that both yours and your host’s wishes are facilitated by the placement.

Employer perspective:

The SEPnet programme has been an enjoyable and rewarding exercise. The outcome from the short internship has exceeded our expectations and has made a major difference to the associated projects and our business overall.

We created a new job for the intern so that we could continue the work past the programme.

www.sepnet.ac.uk www.facebook.com/physicsSkills employerengagement@sepnet.ac.uk

SEPnet is part-funded by HEFCE until 2018