



**Student:** Daniel Goddard,  
Institute of Cosmology and  
Gravitation, University of  
Portsmouth

**Placement:** Bank of New York  
Mellon

**Role:** Summer Associate

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

Astrophysics

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

The academic job market is incredibly competitive so I was keen to investigate other disciplines where I could put my skills to use.

**Describe a typical day on placement:**

Started every day with a morning meeting discussing the overnight markets and information regarding our portfolio holdings. Most days varied quite a bit (which was exciting) and could involve compiling market research, providing assistance modelling financial instruments or attending meetings with prospective clients/meeting with management from companies we had invested in.

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

I learned a tremendous amount about economics, politics and the financial markets. Having no real background in these areas made it a tremendously fascinating and demanding learning curve when I first started. In addition to this, working in an environment where teamwork was paramount helped to improve my teamwork, communication and interpersonal skills.

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

I think the placement has opened my eyes to the tremendous amount of intellectually stimulating problems that the financial industry faces. It has also helped me learn/develop skills that I wouldn't normally need in my day to day PhD life.

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

If a PGR student is interested, they should definitely do some detailed research into the areas they would contemplate applying to. There are lots of really interesting roles that many people just don't know about, which are essential to the workings of a company.