What is the subject of your PhD?
Using Monte Carlo computer simulations to analyse the type of plots you would get by adding a new type of quark to your model. I then compare these plots with the experimental data.

Why did you decide to do a placement?
I took part in the GRADnet Winter School at Culham and really enjoyed the task of building a CubeSat that could join with other CubeSats to form a swarm with a non-toxic propellant that could be used around the International Space Station (ISS).

Describe a typical day on placement:
There was no typical day, some days it was doing proposals to try and get money; using Photoshop to design an event poster or flyer; wiring up the electronics for the control system of the rocket; programming the control system of the rocket; sawing wood for our rocket model; doing computer simulations to find out the maximum altitude or drawing circuit blueprints so that another intern could come along and continue my work. I also built the website for the company using HTML5 among other things and spent time just getting done what needed to be done. In a small company you just have to work on everything which is interesting as you see all aspects of the business.

What skills and knowledge do you feel you have learned during the placement?
Everything I mentioned in the paragraph before I had never done before and had to learn on the spot.

How do you think doing a placement has benefited you for the future?
I learned a lot of skills and met a lot of people to add to my network. I got offered a full-time job position and a 2% share in the company. It also looks good on my CV and I can get a good reference.

What advice would you give to a PGR student who might be interested in seeking a placement?
Just do it, will be fun and a great experience, you can also start thinking about what life would be like outside academia and start to choose a possible future path for yourself by seeing what types of jobs you enjoy, instead of falling into the first job you get given. You can explore and really find a job in an area you enjoy. Why just take one placement when you could take many?