



Student: Filippo
Contenta
University of Surrey
Placement: Audatex
Role: Data Science
Intern

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What is the subject of your PhD?

Astrophysics

Why did you decide to do a placement?

I wanted to do a placement to have some working experience, to help me transition from academia to industry.

Describe a typical day on placement:

The day starts in the office around 9 am and finishes around 5 pm. Everyone works on one or more small projects and every 2 weeks we have a meeting to sum up what has been done. In my case, I was mainly programming and using different machine learning algorithms.

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

I have learned new techniques and terminologies. These can be learned reading books and papers online, however, now I have a more practical experience in how to apply and transform them into a product.

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

It has given me the working experience necessary to fill the gap between academia and industry.

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

If you do not know what you want to do after academia and you feel that you are not ready to start a random job in a company, an internship can be a good starting point.

Employer Perspective:

Filippo was a great self-starter. He adapted to our way of working in two week sprints very quickly and was able to work on small projects and complete tasks while requiring very minimal supervision. I was very impressed by his attention to detail and the innovative ideas he came up with.

Audatex was very pleased with the results Filippo achieved in his project and will certainly be taking more SEPnet interns in the future.