



Student: Diana
Patricia Mendez,
University of Sussex

Placement:
RedOptima

Role: Data Science
Intern

*“Getting more
experience on how to
clean data and deal
with different
formats has been
valuable.”*

What is the subject of your PhD?

Experimental Particle Physics

Describe a typical day on placement

I would arrive in the morning and continue developing the code to feed some data into my analysis. I would have a meeting with my direct supervisor just before lunch where I would summarise the work that I did the previous day and discuss the next step or my plans for the day. After lunch, I would continue my work which mostly consisted of developing code and submitting my changes to the RedOptima software.

What skills and knowledge have you gained during the placement?

I gained experience in Python and learnt SQL. Getting more experience on how to clean data and deal with different formats has been valuable.

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

It has given me the chance to gain experience in data science so I do not need to start from zero when I look for permanent jobs.

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

Knowing how to program is an advantage, independently of what language you choose. I think that reading about what a data science job is like is useful so you get an idea of what to expect.

Employer Perspective:

Diana's work saw her building a valuable new component of the RedOptima modelling capability. She took full ownership of the project from development to production, sourcing her own data, building ETL pipelines to integrate that data into RedOptima infrastructure and incorporating insights using that data into the main analysis codebase. The internship was a great opportunity to learn first hand how fiddly some of these processes can be in industry, a lesson best learned from project experience.

www.sepnet.ac.uk

