



Student: Filippo Contenta
University of Surrey

Placement: eOsphere

Role: Satellite Scientist
(now a job role)

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

What is the subject of your PhD?

During my PhD in Astrophysics I was modelling the stellar systems in our Galaxy, using numerical simulations and comparing them with the observations.

Describe a typical day on placement

The day starts in the office around 9 and finishes around 5:30. Everyone works on one or more small projects but they often overlap therefore it is possible to help each other. In my case, I was mainly studying the feasibility of using Earth Observation to monitor the life of mines in Mongolia. Therefore I have been reading papers on how to use Earth Observation in the mining sector and focusing my study on a specific mine.

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

I have learned new techniques and terminologies that can be applied to Earth Observation and how these can be used in developing countries.

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:

We enjoyed having Filippo with us over the summer. He did a good job and picked things up very quickly. So we offered him a job and he's working with us now on a full-time basis. He's recently been looking at measuring rain rates over Malaysia using satellite data and he's currently helping to build an Open Data Cube for Mongolia.

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