



Student:

Grace Maxted,
University of Kent

Placement:

Tesla Engineering Ltd

Role: Magnet

Division Project
Engineer Intern

“I’ve got a lot of experience now both with industry and in engineering, and I’ve also got a more balanced view of working life.”

Describe a typical day

My project with SEPnet is to wind some breakable coils which I can study and characterise. A lot of the time I spend helping out with the testing and winding of coils which make up a proton therapy magnet. There are also times where I end up on a winding line to wind coils destined for the European Synchrotron Facility or overwrapping said coil (my least favourite job!). A fair bit of paperwork is involved most days along with some data entry to help with keeping production running smoothly. Doing my project sometimes takes a bit of a back-seat, with everything that’s business critical coming before it.

Hopefully at the end, I’ll be able to tell them whether all the testing procedures are necessary along with giving them a procedure for locating and defining any faults in their coils. So far it’s looking pretty good!

How do you think this placement has benefited you for the future?

I’ve got a lot of experience now both with industry and in engineering, and I’ve also got a more balanced view of working life.

In all honesty the money is a big help and will take the pressure off me next year so that’s a good short term benefit. I feel that I’ve got a head start in knowing where I want to go with my future, and although that’s not necessarily into industry or into a more engineering-like branch of physics, I think this placement has helped me learn more about my own preferences and to become more confident in my own abilities.

I’ve also learnt a lot, from practical skills like not hitting my thumb as much with a hammer to a new programming language and a deeper understanding of some of my previous modules.

What are your next steps?

Finish my undergraduate Masters degree, get some experience working in medical physics, preferably in a hospital environment, hopefully become a medical physicist working in the NHS!