



Student: Lorna Nolan

University: University of Southampton

Placement: MRC Harwell institute

Role: Investigating machine learning approaches to counting adipocyte cells

“I have gained so much experience into how real world research works.”

Can you describe a typical working day on your placement?

I worked on improving existing code that was automatically segmenting cells by incorporating machine learning. I also developed some new code for it also based on machine learning approaches.

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

I have gained so much experience into how real world research works as well as enhancing my computer coding skills and learning new ones.

What are your next steps?

I think I am going to look at a PhD after I graduate as this experience has made me want to pursue research as a career.

Employer perspective:

It has been great having Lorna work with us over the summer. She got stuck in and developed new code that we hope to use in our research in the near future. It's been a steep learning curve for her, but Lorna took it in her stride and has learnt a lot in a short space of time, including machine learning, image processing and using a Linux workstation, which should stand her in good stead in her future career.