



Student: Sheona Day
University: University of Southampton
Placement: Gill R&D
Role: Student Research Physicist

“The placement a great opportunity to experience working in a research and development company.”

Can you describe a typical working day on your placement?

The day starts with a short team meeting covering our aims for the day and if there are any technical issues that we might need help with. The rest of the day is spent on my project within the research innovation group. Some days could involve literature reviews, modelling and running simulations or report writing while other days were more hands on including design and construction work or testing of the product.

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

My SEPnet placement got extended to a 6 month industrial placement as part of my university masters degree. Therefore not only was the placement a great opportunity to experience working in a research and development company but also provided me with a great topic for my masters thesis. I developed my coding and modelling skills and also gained a deeper understanding of the physics involved in my project while at Gill.

What are your next steps?

After my industrial placement I will complete the rest of my 4th year of my MPhys before hopefully finding a career in a similar research and development environment. Both my SEPnet and Industrial placement have encouraged me to pursue a future in physics research.

Employer perspective

Sheona was assigned to a number of different projects and has risen to the challenges of each; performing experiments, recording and analysing the results and providing weekly reports. Regular reviews of these reports with Sheona have allowed us to mutually agree the best direction of each project. The work performed by Sheona is directly linked to new capabilities within the organisation and to the innovation and development of a new product.

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