My Internship Experience

NGC Lab, Ritsumeikan University

I have spent a total of 3.5 months working with Professor ShiGERu Yamashita in his lab, Next Generation Computing. The first phase of my work was in the summer of 2015, from mid May till the end of July. The second phase of my work was in the summer of 2016, in the entire month of May.

FIRST PHASE: I had finished by 2nd year in college and the 3rd year would begin after the summers. The 2.5 months I spent in Japan were full of exciting adventures both in and outside the lab. While inside the lab, I was working in the emerging field of Digital Microfluidic Biochips. And as I stepped outside, I became an explorer ready to experience and enjoy the Japanese culture. The entire duration of my internship was a perfect mix of work and sightseeing. Sightseeing included travelling to different world heritage sights in Kyoto, various festivals of Japan, famous beaches and big cities like Osaka and Tokyo. Almost every weekend of my stay in Japan would be a time for sightseeing activities. During the week, I got to work on a very well defined research project. I was mentored personally by Yamashita Sensie and his Masters student Trung-San. The work involved a lot of code development, brain storming sessions and preparing documentation for all insight developed towards the research project. The work environment was very conducive and the deadlines were very reasonable. I never felt any pressure and therefore my work experience was really great. Every Thurday, all members of the lab would go out together for sports, frequently joined by Sensie himself. It used to be an exciting time for everyone and I used to look forward to that every week. The members of the lab: Gawa-San, Sharp-San, BB-San, Hub-San and all others became really close friends to me and we are still in touch. It is a part of the Japanese culture to be helpful towards others and I could see it in the way my friends in lab treated me. Overall, it was an experience I would cherish my entire life.

I would recommend that all the students who wish to experience first hand research and enjoy the Japanese culture should write an applications to Professor ShiGERu Yamashita for an internship spot.