Sportable Technologies hired Sabin, an MEng Engineering student, through the UCL Careers Summer Internships Scheme in 2018. Read about their experience below:

What were your aims or expectations for the internship before it began and to what extent were they met?

We had two main objectives: the first was to characterise our LiPo battery function and the second was centred around a new NFC (Near Fields Communication) feature we needed to evaluate.

Technically, the internship really matched (if not surpassed) our expectations. Both objectives got clear answers by the time Sabin left and his work has already become part of our technical knowledge and will be re-used in our future products.

The internship was also a good way for us to find out how easy it would be for our team, composed mostly of experienced engineers, to welcome a more junior profile and integrate them quickly. This was also successful as Sabin blended in quickly and was able to interact with everyone very well.

What did the internship involve?

Sabin carried out two main tasks, both with diligence and very relevant conclusions.

The first one was to characterise our LiPo battery function. Sabin evaluated our battery against its specification during which he identified a few shortcomings. He validated our embedded battery charging circuit. Finally, he used charge/discharge curve plots to write an algorithm able to estimate battery life based on battery voltage – this piece of code is now part of our product mainline.

The second task was evaluating a new NFC feature. Based on specific mechanical constraints due to the product the antenna is embedded in, Sabin came up with a few antenna designs (wire coil or FPC solution), then got prototypes built and tested. One of these designs is now very likely to be introduced in one of our products. He also had to write an embedded test framework and a simple android App for the purpose of this experiment.
How would you describe your intern and their input?
Sabin was extremely hands-on which is a very good quality for an intern because everyone can see how much he achieves. He was also very diligent with his personal tasks, and he was very happy to give a hand to other members of the team as soon as he could.

We had weekly meetings to monitor his progress and set priorities and he was good at keeping track of them and working towards his objectives. His technical abilities and knowledge were also very clear as he was quickly able to be quite autonomous around his tasks. His integration to the company was quick and seamless. All in all, Sabin gets full mark from us!

How did the UCL Summer Internship Scheme help your organisation?
As the first official intern of the developing life of Sportable Technologies, Sabin has proven to our team that an internship can bring very big rewards as well as opening doors for more junior profiles.

If you are interested in this scheme or want to find out more, please contact Rochelle Symons at rochelle.symons@ucl.ac.uk