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Summer Internships Scheme

## UCL CAREERS SUMMER INTERNSHIPS SCHEME

### STUDENT CASE STUDY – Sabin Gheorghiu



UCL Engineering student Sabin Gheorghiu, undertook an 8 week internship as an Electronic Engineer at Sportable Technologies, a sports technology company, during the summer of 2018. He describes his experience below:

#### What were your aims and expectations of the internship before it began?

I really wanted to intern for a start-up from the beginning because in a large company you are always limited to your particular department or area. My wish was fulfilled with Sportable Technologies because I got to talk to everybody in the team and I also did small jobs for people when they needed me to. I was expecting a very group hack atmosphere as opposed to a corporate one and this has definitely been the case. That said, I was very pleasantly surprised with how well the team is organized in terms of scheduling meetings and brainstorming sessions so that was definitely a plus! I was hoping to get to talk to the head of the company in order to get a feel of how the company started and again the expectation was fulfilled as each of the team members have occasional one-on-ones with the CEO.

#### What did you do on your internship?

Sportable Technologies was interested in doing battery testing for one of the products and potentially also investigate the feasibility of having an NFC (Near Field Communications) interface to read and write data in a passive mode. I have done the battery and charger testing and reports in the first two weeks and a half and then started on the NFC. I wrote code for the microcontroller they had chosen and made an NFC interface. I designed about 10 NFC antennas and even printed some on flex PCB (printed circuit board) to test out. This went really well and I am still working on NFC now developing a mobile app. I also did a couple of other jobs for our main engineers and helping with tests. My job was never boring.

#### How did you find working for an SME (small to medium sized enterprise)?

Working at a start-up is massively different from a big company. I got the chance to meet everybody on my team and I was assigned my own part of the project (a freedom seldom found in bigger offices). The responsibility was a lot larger in my case but I really enjoyed it.

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**How did the internship impact your professional and personal development?**

I have learned very much about how to plan and the importance of periodic meetings with parts of the team – focused brainstorming rather than a full meeting where some of the parties would not be directly interested in what was discussed. I have also been recommended reading related to the business model of the company which has been of major help in understanding how the funds in the company circulate and what goals should be set first.

After my summer internship with them, I have been offered further work on small parts of the products they are developing pending the time I have available in my final year.

**Would you recommend this experience to other students interested in this company or scheme?**

The work was massive and most times you will have some device/project that no one knows about which is common in startups. I think the workload is more than you would get in a big company so if you are up for it, I would recommend it!