

Why I wanted to do the Internship

After finishing a research masters, I was keen to stay in the research field, but wasn't ready for the commitment of a PhD. This internship offered the perfect opportunity to utilize and build upon my bioinformatics skills, and determine whether a career in academic is right for me.

What skills have I learnt during the internship?

With a project focused on genome analysis, I have developed my bioinformatics and coding skills in linux and R. This primarily includes problem solving skills to overcome error messages. Regular laboratory meetings gave me the opportunity to discuss results, and interpret graphs from multiple angles. I gained skills in literature searches to discover new methodologies, and evaluate their use through critical analysis. My writing skills also improved as I end the internship with a draft publication.

What have I enjoyed most about the internship?

Whilst the project had key aims and objectives, I was largely able to take the analysis in directions which interested me. I had independence to conduct solo analysis, and was trusted to carry out finding-driven research into new areas. Working within Kew Gardens itself was a major perk. It was a privilege to watch the gardens change through seasons and immerse myself in the culture of Kew from attending genomics group meetings, running club and the orchid festival.

How has the internship benefitted me?

I was able to expand my network not just within Kew, but also within Forest Research, DEFRA, and beyond. I have met countless supportive and interesting people all willing to talk about research and future careers. Being based in a multidisciplinary team, I have benefitted through the variety of expertise, and have learnt the importance of approaching analysis using multiple methods to ensure thorough and accurate results. This internship opportunity solidified for me a future in genomic research of tree species.

What I hope to do next

Having dedicated the last six-months of my life to Alder trees, I am not ready to give them up quite yet. My next steps are to stay on as a research assistant in the same lab group to continue analysis.



Experiences during the Internship:

- CFP symposium
- Christmas at Kew
- Kew Genomics Group
- Kew Running Club
- Science Away Days
- State of Our Worlds Plant and Fungus Symposium
 - Tour of Kew
 - Tour of Alice Holt
 - Orchid Festival
 - Exploring Kew Gardens
- Visiting Wakehurst and the Millenium Seed Bank
 - Queer Nature
 - Photography Workshop
 - Tropical Nursery Tour