

Feedback from undergraduates who have previously undertaken summer research experience placements

General comments

“Definitely apply! an incredible opportunity to get research experience before deciding on whether to do graduate study.”

“If you're interested in pursuing a PhD or doing research in the future, this is a great experience.”

“I truly had an amazing experience during my internship.”

“...an amazing experience. I have enjoyed being able to completely immerse myself in a challenging new problem, and get a taste of what it is like to do mathematical research.”

Things to think about

“Choose a project in an area that interests you, but also consider the sort of work that will be involved. I found it an excellent opportunity to take part in the experimental side of a research project.”

“Consider searching for supervisors and projects outside of your current course - this is a great opportunity to branch out into areas of research that interest you but may only be tangentially related (or completely unrelated) to your course. Also, that you get as much out of the experience as you put in!”

Perceived benefits of undertaking a research experience placement

“I've really developed my knowledge of an area I previously knew little about and have found something that I am keen to continue learning about.”

“I have had some insight into what it might be like to do a PhD and what it is like to work closely with one academic researcher.”

“Deeper understanding of the subject. How to read, write & structure an academic paper. How to work independently & perform research.”

“It was a useful experience to get a taste of what postgraduate research would be like, and what I would look for. I also gained useful skills for continuing my degree.”

“I've gained experience of working with various people. I feel that I have gained a realistic idea of what academic research is like.”

“I have also developed a wide range of skills necessary for research. There are the fundamentals like time management, organisation and communication and more specific ones too like reading papers, writing reports and collaborating with other researchers.”

How the placement helped with future career planning and development

"This year I will be applying for graduate study...I feel more confident in my applications by already having research experience. I now know for sure that I want to pursue a career in academia."

"This experience proved to me that doing a PhD should be my next step."

"After completing this, I am more inclined to investigate postgraduate Masters and possibly PhD options. I would also look for R&D based job roles."

"Having completed the internship I have been able to decide that a studying for a PhD upon completion of my degree would *not* be the right choice for me."

"I now know for sure that I want to pursue a career in academia."

"I am very open to the option of continuing a career in academia - I found the process of research very enjoyable, and it is a mindset that I am maintaining on my placement currently."

