

Name: Alice B
Job role: Extreme Blue Intern
Degree subject: Computer Science
University: The University of York
Year on Extreme Blue: 2008
Insider Tip: Just go for it! You never have anything to lose from applying.

1. Why did you apply to the Extreme Blue Scheme?

It's recognised by the IT industry as being one of the best placements to do over the summer and I really wanted to be part of that.

2. What is your role?

I am one of the technical students so there are three of us- and although we are all designing the whole system together as a three, we each have little bits to implementing and I am doing the flash visualisation part.

3. What is it like working at Hursley?

Working at Hursley is really fantastic it's such a relaxed environment and obviously we don't have to wear business dress. There are no shirts or ties or anything, especially if your doing a technical role where you're not customer facing. We have flexi time so you can come in at 10am if you want and just leave a bit later. Or you can take no lunch break and just work core hours. Hursley is set in fantastic grounds and they've got sports facilities and the Hursley House - which is this big nice old house. I really like it.

4. A typical working week?

So a typical working week on Extreme Blue would be, we have one meeting a week on a Monday which is with all the other Extreme Blue teams ad interested parties with mentors- where we just discuss our goals for the week what we want to achieve in terms of software development and business goals as well and also how well we achieve those goals that we set for ourselves last week. Then throughout the week we work in our teams with the support of our mentor, who is the person who came up with the idea of the project originally.

5. How will the Extreme Blue scheme help you with your final year at university?

I've learnt a lot with how business works, which is going to be useful in seeing the bigger picture at university and what my degree is going towards. My final year project is a Java implementation of a graphical user interface which is very similar to the work I did with 'Say it, Sign it'.

6. Would you recommend the scheme to someone?

I would definitely recommend joining IBM as a placement. There's a really great relaxed atmosphere. All the other students here make it really worthwhile. Even though you're a student your treated as an adult you're given responsibility for a certain piece of work. I've learnt so much here, things that I can list and there's a whole load of things that I couldn't list, all the intangible skills that I have picked up just through working with bright, exciting and enthusiastic people.