Amazon Research Internship Experience in the USA

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Speech Processing and Machine Learning Laboratory

Outline

- Introduction
  - Bio
  - Amazon alexa
- Applied Scientist Internship
  - Recruiting procedure
  - Intro of working visa in the USA
  - Expectation
- Office
- Benefits
- Living
- Others

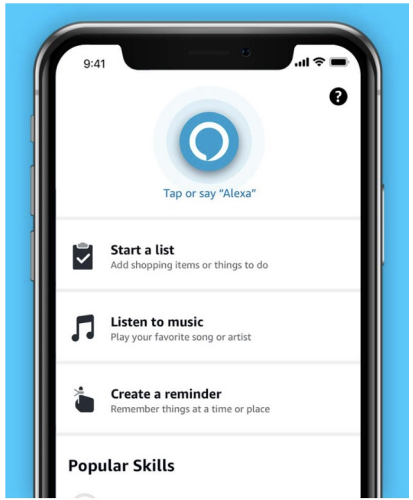
Bio

When applying (Feb. 2022)

- First-year GICE master student
- 1 first-author ICASSP paper, 1 N-author Interspeech paper
- 2 years experience of speech processing

Amazon Alexa

- **Alexa**: Amazon's voice AI
- **Amazon Devices**: Echo, Ring



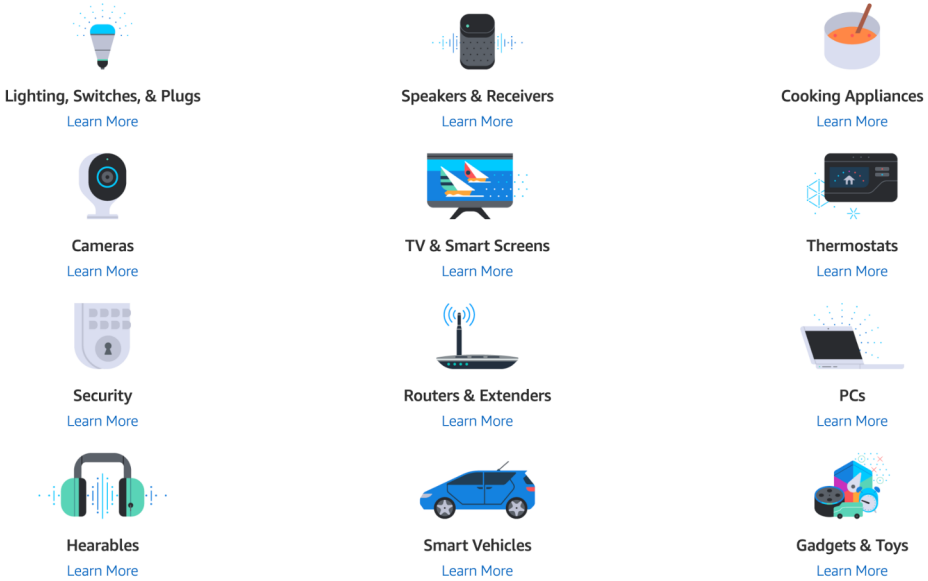
Alexa App

Echo Devices

Echo Show Devices

Alexa built-in devices

- Build Alexa Into Your Device
- Connect Your Devices to Alexa



Alexa Perceptual Technology

- Model audio beyond want you say (speech)
- Including
  - Emotion
  - Speaker
  - All types of audio

Guard Plus

Dog Barking Detection

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Applied Scientist Internship

- Type: On-site
- Duration: 14 weeks
- Location: United States (Cambridge, MA)
- Support international student with J1 visa

Recruiting procedure - interview

- Requirement
  - Currently enrolled in degree program (MS or Ph.D.) in Electrical Engineering, Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Mathematics, or related field with specialization in machine learning, NLP, ASR, deep learning, computer vision, data science or related fields.
  - Practical machine learning experience
  - Published and/or presented papers at ICASSP, ICML, NIPS, KDD, CVPR or similar top-tier conferences and events
- Online interview * 2
  - *2* Behavior questions + *2* coding test + *n* ML questions
  - *2* Behavior questions + *n* ML questions
- Offer get (2 to 3 weeks)

- **ML question**: Any kinds of knowledge related to ML or their team expertise (Open question, from general concepts to details)
- **Coding test:** Leetcode medium level
- **Behavior question**: https://www.amazon.jobs/en/principles

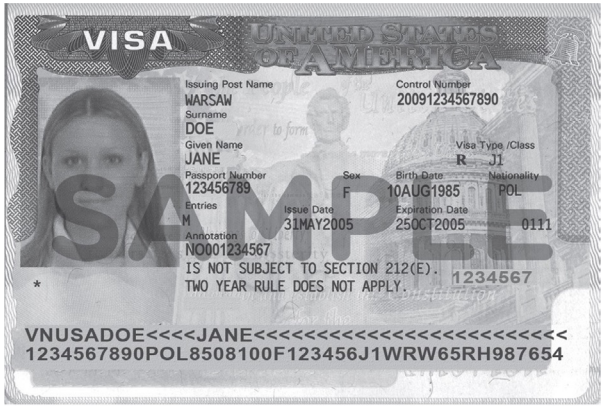
Working visa in the USA

- Internship
  - F1 -> CPT: For those who study in the US
  - J1: for international visiting scholar/student
- Full-time
  - F1 -> OPT: For those who study in the US
  - H1B: 抽抽樂
  - L1: 公司內轉
  - O1: 特殊學術人才

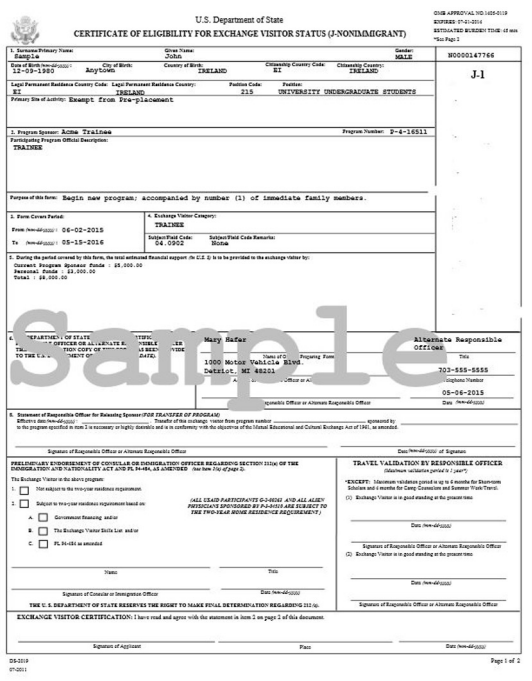
Recruiting procedure - J1 visa

- Third-party visa application company
- DS2019
- AIT interview
- Get J1 visa

AIT 美國在台協會



J1 visa



DS2019

Internship Expectation

- Work on a individual research project, including:
  - Research proposal
  - Implementation
  - Better to have results enough for publication
- Evaluation
  - Midterm presentation
  - Final presentation
  - Weekly documentation
  - Project summary

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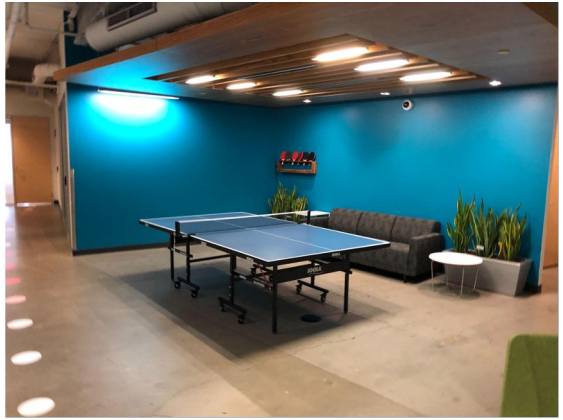
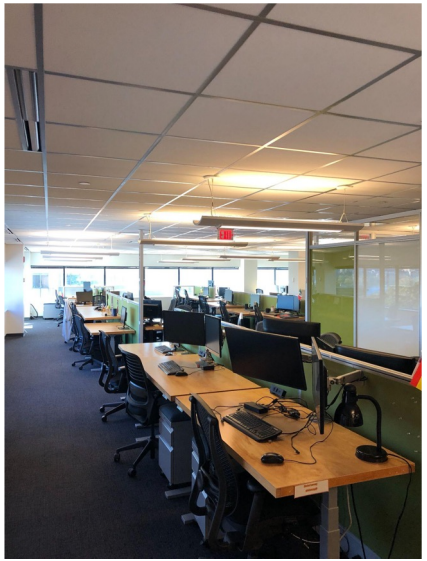
BOS11

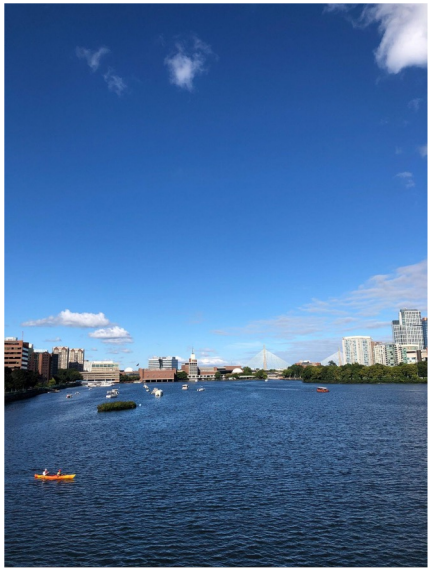
Harvard

MIT

BOS 11







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Relocation

- House stipend

  Zone A: Around $ 2400 USD per month (Bay Area, New York, Seattle)

  Zone B: Around $ 1800 USD per month (else)

- Flight
  - Roundtrip flight

Pay

Internship pay (per month): Base pay 11488 USD (**before tax**) Around 7500 (After tax)

Per year

The base pay for this position in New York City is $137,862. Our range of benefits may include health care, employee discounts, 401(k) savings plans, paid time off, and more. This information is provided per the New York City Human Rights Law. Base pay information is based on market location. Applicants should apply via Amazon's internal or external careers site.

screenshot from amazon.jobs

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Living cost

	Taipei, Taiwan (NTD)	Boston, USA (USD)
Lunch	120	13
Dinner	250	~40 + 20% Tips
Clothes	Similar	Similar or even cheaper
Housing	~12000 (台北套房)	~2000
Grocery	1	~ 2倍台灣物價

Bluebikes 26 USD / month

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Activities

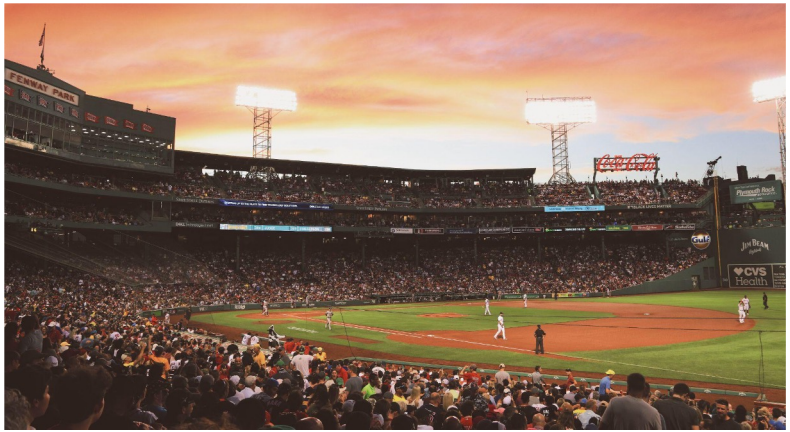
Kayaking on Charles River

Party with colleagues

Dinner with Team manager

Mount Rainier, Seattle

Boston Downtown, Massachusetts



Fenway Park, Massachusetts

Mountain State Park, Connecticut

Columbia Univserity, New York

Time Square, New York

One World Observatory, New York

Yankee Stadium, New York

Summary

從這次實習中學到，對於短期研究型實習來說

- 好的主管與團隊比領域方向重要
- 擬定非常具體的研究專案目標
- 最好有認識的人脈遇到問題（不管是生活或公司上）比較好解決
- 美國各城市的生活型態差異大

Thanks for listening!