

Advantages of an industrial internship during the journey of a PhD program

Experience at Wal-Mart

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Why I wanted to do an internship?

- I didn't have prior industrial experience
- I wanted to see how the data science is being used outside the academia
- So I decided to do an internship

How I got the opportunity?

- At ISF 2019 - it is a great place for networking
- Finally decided to go ahead with Wal-Mart

Was it hard to get visa for overseas opportunities?

- Of course it is not an easy task - specially for an international student
- But the company has a dedicated team to process the logistic matters
- Many sponsorship out there - AIESEC US
- Not that complicated as it appears to be!

Time at Wal-Mart

- Wal-mart is the largest multinational retail company in the world
- Distributed over large number of countries including North America, China, India
- Online platform is very popular among customers
- I joined to the smart pricing team at Wal-Mart eCommerce
- They make pricing adjustments on online retail platform
- Team is combined with data scientists, data engineers and product managers
- I worked with the data scientists - sales forecasting

Time at Wal-Mart

- Main project - Seasonal fashion forecasting
- Data shows hierarchical structure - the work from my PhD research was useful
- Technical skills - Python, Spark SQL, Hive
- Team is very helpful and easy to work with
- Daily stand-ups
- Weekly data scientists meeting
- Attending the data science summit

Fun time at Wal-Mart

- Volunteering to plant sapling in bare lands in Bay Area



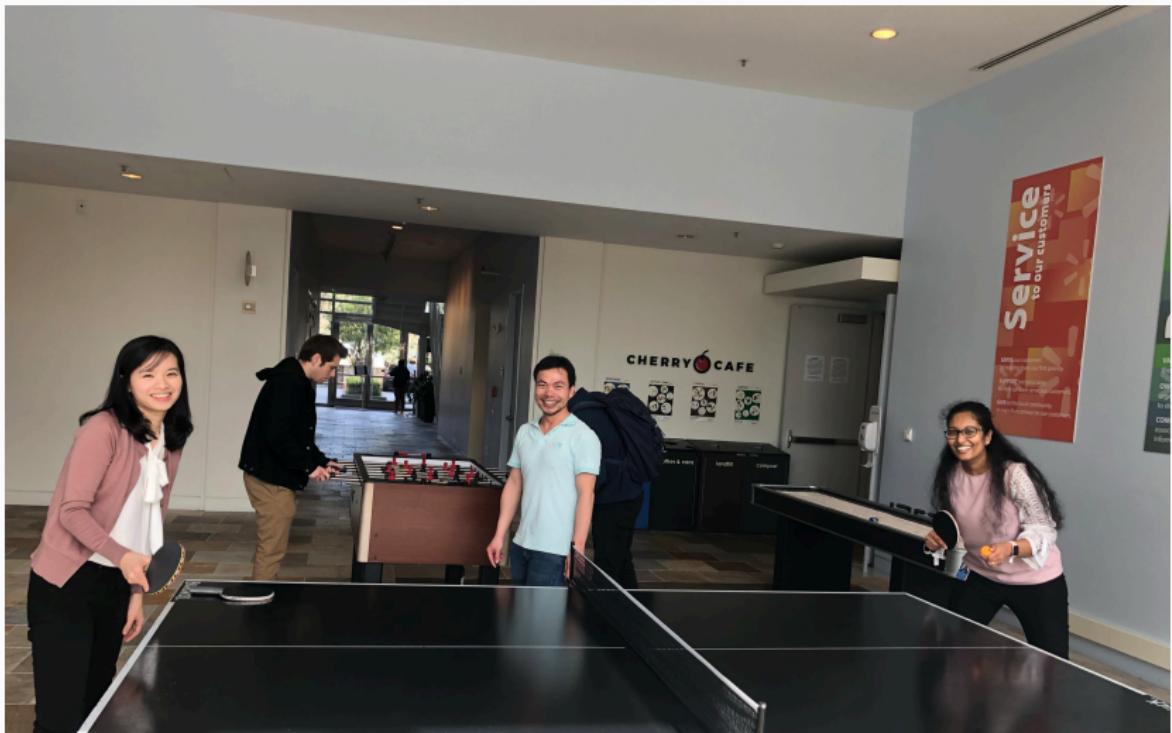
Fun time at Wal-Mart

- Potluck with authentic dishes from different cultures



Fun time at Wal-Mart

- Almost every working day is ended with a pingpong game and a popcorn session!



What I gained from the internship?

- Networking
- New connections
- Improving technical skills

Other information

- When is the perfect time for an internship?
- Is the summer internship always?
 - Summer internships are popular in US
 - But there are opportunities for off summer internships as well