ACEMS Internship experiencethat talk

1. Why did I decide to do an internship?

* I didn’t have prior industrial experience on data science related business environment. So I decided to do an internship after completing my phd

1. How did I get an internship (at a tech company).  Process for recruitment to assist people who might be interested.

* I attend to a forecasting conference where I met the senior Director of Data Science in Wal-Mart eCommerce.

I talked with him regarding my research area and then we discussed about an internship opportunities at Walmart.

* He connected me with the principle data scientist of the team.
* Attended a couple of interviews with the team as well as with the HR
* Meantime I discussed with Rob about other possible opportunities and he also coordinated me with few such opportunities.

Had a couple of interviews.

* And finally I decided to go ahead with Wal-mart

1. Arranging visa and logistics for overseas internships.

* Of course it was not an easy task, specially for an international student.
* However, Wal-mart has an dedicated immigration team who helped me with the entire process.
* I also got a sponsorship from the AISCEC US, which was a great financial support with the visa related matters.
* So I think, it is not a hard process as it appears to be.

**Time at Wal-mart**

* I worked with the smart-pricing team at Wal-mart eCommerce.
* The team work on automating pricing adjustments on online retail platform
* This includes monitoring competitors price, adjusting prices against comperitors, setting rules that guarantee the target profit margins.
* This team is combined with data scientists, data engineers, and product managers.
* I was working with the data scientists who mainly work on sales forecasting
* **Main projects I involved** –

Seasonal fashion sales forecasting

This project involved forecasting daily girls clothing items during the holiday season.

Challenge of these data is that seasonal fashion items may not last too long.

There may be new items that we need to forecasting which doesn’t have any history.

* Technical skills needed – They work with Python – this was a challenge for me since I have not used python before. But I could learn it well.
* **Value team member** –

Team is very productive and helpful.

They have daily standups where we talk about what we do during that day. Share our work with the team

* **Other work**

Working with the team was really fun! We were not always working.

Almost everyday was ended with a pingpong game and popcorn session!

Volunteering programs – Our team attend to a volunteering program organised by –

To grow plants in a bare land. We planted different kind of berries. It was really fun!

Potluck – Team also organises fun events. One of which I attended is a potluck

We had authentic dishes from different cultures. Music session and game round was also included.

**Why I now am a research fellow not a in the industry**

* I got this research fellowship before I ended the internship
* However I presume that the experience, knowledge and exposure to the business environment that I gained from the internship is valuable if I want to transfer from academia to the industry.

**What is the perfect time to do an internship?**

* With my experience I think end of the PhD program is the best time to do an internship if you are really keen to join with the industry.
* I say this because, 90% of the time you will be hired by the company at the end of your internship.

**Is the summer internships always?**

* Usually the companies in US get interns during the summer time.
* With the summer internship programs you will get to work with other students who comes as interns. Also company organise special programs during this period for interns
* However, I did not get into the summer internship. So some companies does hire interns during the off summer periods as well. If you know what time you need to do an internship, then there are many opportunities out there regardless of the usual summer internship program schedules.