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Ian Giles
ian.giles@phoenixphotonics.com
Tel:01843 0843709
Phoenix Photonics Ltd,
Sarre Business Centre,
Canterbury Road,
Sarre CT7 0JZ

Ian Giles,

I am writing this letter to express my interest in SEPnet Summer Placement Project "Fibre optic components and instruments". I am a third year MPhys student at the University of Southampton.

My goal is to be an experimental particle physicist, and therefore I am looking for opportunities to improve my practical skills as a physicist. Therefore, experimental based projects are more appealing options for me, which is why this project interests me. I have taken every lab module possible in my university so far as I enjoyed learning physics through experiment rather than lecture and reading through literature review of some hard to teach topics. There are a few aspects that I wish to improve on such as better understanding in the technical report and data/error analysis through programming since each opportunity I get to work on is a precious experience for me as it is not frequent that I can work on an experiment for an extended period of time.

I took the 2 photonics modules in my course so I would say that I have a fair understanding of optical physics and handling of optical tools. Based on experiments in the lab modules I took in my course, for my photonics essay, I have written on the topic of plasmonics and I would not be too foreign on the topics relating to fibre optics based on what I have learnt about it so far. Since my previous placement was with a reasonably big company, I would love to experience working in a smaller group of people.

In my last summer, I did a placement with Oxford Instruments working on a shrink fit problem of a NbTi magnet. I was tasked from designing the experimental set-up to analysing the result of the experiment. The project involves heavily on handling of a 17 tons press and liquid nitrogen with minimal supervision. The result of the project was later then used in their other products which required a similar fitting technique. I enjoyed the work I did there, so this project about fibre optics components would be something that I would enjoy.

I would be gladly accept and travel for the interview if needed if it is within my ability to do so.

Sincerely,
Ken Keong Lee