

How an Industrial Placement Influenced Me

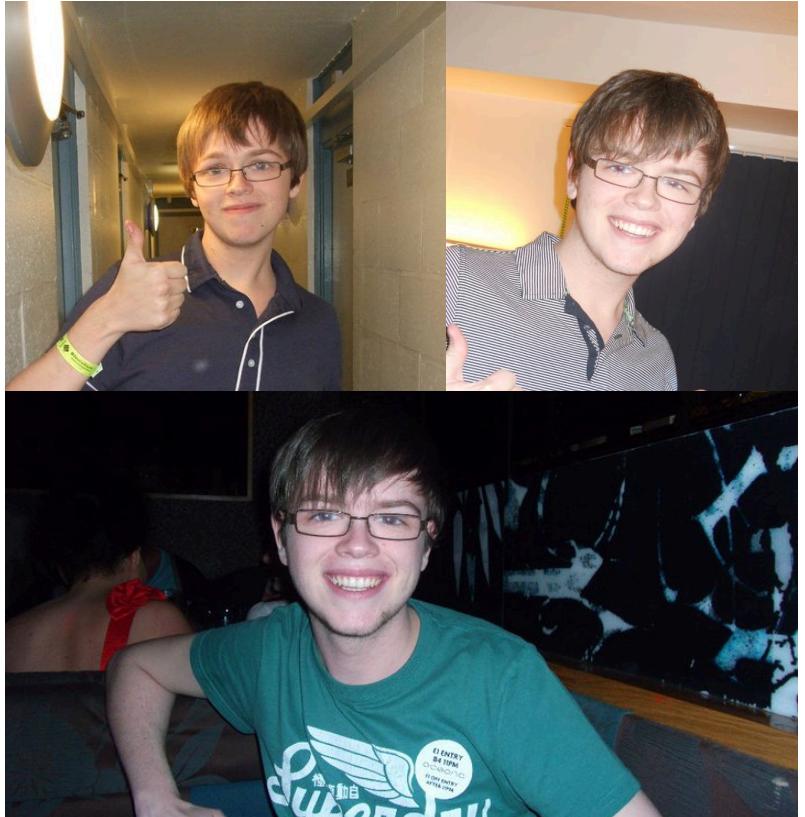
Matthew Thomas

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Back in 2010-2011

- Matthew Thomas
- From Llanelli, South Wales
- Mathematics and Statistics Degree
- Typical Lifestyle
- Always stressed/nervous
- Undertook a Placement
 - Employability after university
- Experience
 - Fathers Chip Shop & Clarks



Roche Product Ltd.



- A leading global healthcare company
- Employs over 80,000 people in offices around the world
- Over 18 million people treated in 2012
- Number of famous drugs
 - Valium, Avastin and Herceptin
- **Job Title:** Associate Statistical Programmer



My Placement

- Assigned to Rheumatoid Arthritis therapy
 - Phase 3 trial
 - Working with outsourced teams in Ukraine and India
- Exploratory analysis with Clinical Rheumatologist
 - Lead to two publications
- Part of a new R training initiative
- Looked after Wiki sites and in-house processes
- Other duties
 - News and events team
 - Social Events
 - Big Bang Events



What Placement taught me

SAS Basics Course	SAS Macro Course	Advanced SAS from internal mentors
Advanced R	UNIX	In-house Processes
Statistics Training for Clinical Trials	Industrial Knowledge	Focus
Confidence	Presentation Skills	Other Key Skills



Post Placement

- Took university more seriously
 - Much more confidence, drive and focus
 - Graduated with a first
 - Wasn't ready to finish learning!
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- My next adventure: Postgraduate Study!
 - Lined up MSc. Statistics at Warwick
 - But something much more exciting came along



- Centre for Doctoral Training in Statistical Applied Mathematics
- 4-Year MRes and PhD programme
- Aims
 - Break down intra-disciplinary boundaries
 - Encourage work with industry
 - Big Impact
- Fostering Independence
- Training to be good research students



SAMBa and the Future

- Taught courses
- Integrative Think Tanks (ITTs)
 - DNV GL and EDF
- Independence to find the right project
- My Project
 - Modelling air pollution
 - In collaboration with WHO
 - Interdisciplinary
 - Big Data!



Thank you For Listening!

