



UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

INTERNSHIP REPORT

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Introduction

Internship are opportunities where students are put in test to prove their skills or what knowledge they had acquired through their training in academic or nonacademic qualification or course. In this report I will describe my experience at QuantumHeights, as well as I will also state my expectations before starting the internship and the different, I came across with while doing this internship. I will also be debating over the decisions I made on how to solve those problems and also to mention the differences between academic life and real-life scenario (working in a real work where you have to understand the problems you face and suggest tangible solutions within a short amount of time.).

In this report I will also include the history and the structure of the company as well as the background information, the different services they offer and where the company is located as well as the different branches they have. That will allow me to better picture the different tasks I was given and how I interacted with the different team members, especially how working with different people helped me to grow and develop IT and other related skills. Furthermore, I be also bring the how the internship affected me and what were my out takes out of the internship as well as what skills I should ameliorate.

Company Background Information

QuantumHeights is finance consultant company with located in Germany with branches sin Mozambique, Nigeria and new one in Kigali. Due to the nature of the working area QuantumHeights does not have an IT department in constant period, they rather hiring IT professional when handling IT projects, however, even for a consultant there are some filed in IT they have to keep constant staff, for instance there is a permanent staff who manages the database of the company as well as they have other permanent staff in several non-IT fields.

Internship Information

I started working with Quantumheights in November 2020 as a web developer, QuantumHeights had a project to develop a website from a Mozambican that aims to connect African farmers with diverse markets in Europe, America and Asia. The company also aims to empower women in agriculture and assist them with the use of technologies in agriculture as well as advocating for organic agricultural products. My role as IT professional at QuantumHeights was not limited on the developing the website only, I also was assigned to work closely in database design as well as to advise the company on the best technologies that could be used to improve the visibility and the performance of the company in Mozambican market.

Required Skills

Throughout the four years of education at United States International University I have been enrolled at Applied Computer Technology, and concentrated in Software development. The role being offered at QuantumHeights was website full stack developer, which means I required skills such as:

- HTML/CSS
- JAVASCRIPT
- TYPSCRIPT
- PHP/LARAVEL
- DATABASE (MySQL)

Although my concentration was concentration was software related, I did not have many problems working with website development, specially because throughout the academic training I had website development classes, where I acquired basic knowledge and other basic skills needed for this position. However, there are several challenges I faced while asked to implement my skills and one of the reason is the fact that there although I had the opportunity to have some of the classes in University implementing few of them in a real demanding word is challenging and there are more requirements than those presented in classes.

Internship procedure

Adapting myself at the companies required was not that challenging, the company has opened policies and is very welcoming with a vibrant team, with clear procedures on how to handle interns. The internship was online based and goal oriented, so my tasks were more based in deadlines and I had a dynamic schedule, however several times I found myself working extra time or taking sometime at night to do more research and improve my skills as the job was demanding and did not have all required skills, so I had to required them as they were needed.

Constant meeting before undertaken or starting a project happened quite often, that helped to better understand the scope of the project and the requirements of the project before starting it, as well as it presented me with the room to present my doubts about specific requirements or even to present my opinion in how to undergo certain tasks. There was also room to always to meet again the team as the development of the project would take place or if the project needed some changes or feedback was needed on the system progress. Proper communications channels were established and these channels were used to communicate in case of any problems or if something that could easily be handle or to schedule meetings.

Throughout the internship process my position was not stationary I had to work with different people based on the tasks I had to take, this helped me to interact with different people and to learn a lot because I would interact with specialist based different fields. Some of the skills I developed throughout the internship are:

- Php/ Laravel
- Database Design
- Website hosting
- Domain creation and hosting

Internship Assignments

While taking the internship I had several assignments I had to perform different assignments, such as website development both front and backend development. This role was important because it helped me to develop my programming skills. But being a small size company I also worked in different area such database design where I learned basic database concepts and their applicability in real industry as well as I had meeting that were business oriented.

These meetings helped me to understand more business approaches that are related to the financial department or the steps taken when for the economic development as well as branding of startups. This opportunity did not only help me to improve soft or hard skills but also helped me to have more brought understand in other aspects related to real life scenarios and helped me to think more outside the box. I am at this point looking forward to implement some of the learned skills not in other positions only has a proceed with my career growth but to also be able to implement some of this in my future startup company.

Internship Challenges

Before starting the internship, I had my expectations over the internship and what possible challenges, but I believe in my case I had fewer challenges than what I expected and one of the reason for that, I believe was the support given by the QuantumHeights staff. Most of the times I would have challenges or concepts I did not understand they were more than willing to assist me and share with me supportive material which helped a lot.

However, one of the problems that was a bit challenging to overcome was the language barriers, being a Germany company all software and tools used are in Germany and some of their software did not offer translation to English or n other language I understand. I was able to go around this by using google to translate most of the words I needed, but this took me longer than expect because I had to concentrate in also understand how some of those tools worked.

The second challenging is the gape between academic qualification and skills required at the work place. Working environment tend to be more demanding and most of the times I had to do extra research and spend more time trying to embrace few other concepts that I had no opportunity to learn or if I did they were not emphasized enough, however as I mentioned before research and putting extra time in research as well as asking for helped when needed to the different team members.

Conclusion

As a conclusion I would like to highlight few problems I faced and believe that if they are strong solved can help future students who will be taking internship. The first problem is the gap between what we study in classrooms and what is expect for us to implement in the market. I believe the University only covered basics, and I strongly Understand that it is impossible to teach most of the skills students need in short amount of time however, I believe there is room for amelioration in both sides. Both students and lectures. I would strongly encourage students to go one extra step and try to work more and do more programing outside the classroom that would help a lot to be ready for the world scenarios, on the other hand I don't think teaching students how to write "Hello world", common approach by most lectures teaching programming, and this make students lazy and most of them end up not believing programming is something easy, I believe students should be challenged yet in classroom and have real life experience.

Therefore, my experience was great and had the opportunity to use some of the skills I learned however, most of this skills I had to learn by my own what make me believe that if the student is not dedicated and taking time to improve his\her skills it can be challenging.