Reflection 3: Final Assessment

Please complete all fields.

Name:	Ruchit Bhardwaj
Company:	ZS Associates
Department/Team:	Software Development Track
Project Name:	Field Incentive Compensation Ops (IC-Ops)

1. How did you like working for this company?

Working with ZS has been a pleasure. The company focusses on culture which is evident from its motto — Do the right thing, treat people right, and get it right. During my time here at ZS, it has become evident to me that my fellow ZSer's truly abide by this rule. I was never hesitant is asking for help and there was someone to help me anywhere I got stuck. The tech stack that the company uses has a lot to offer and I got the opportunity to work on some new technologies which I did not have any prior experience in. All in all, this internship experience for the Summer of 2022 was truly one of my best times as it allowed me to grow intellectually as well as a person.

2. Did you complete your project goals?

As part of my internship, I was expected to complete one project in its entirety and if possible, i.e., if the time permitted, it was expected that I start working on another project as well. Today, I have successfully completed the first project that was assigned to me, and I have been staffed to work on the 2nd project from now till the end of the internship period. As interns, it was expected of me to improve on the documentation of the projects that I undertake and during my feedback meetings with my manager, I feel that I have completed those tasks as per my supervisor's satisfaction.

3. What experience did you gain?

Working in the Software Development track allowed me to understand how ZS's PaaS (Platform as a Service) offering – ZAIDYN actually works internally. I was staffed in its Field Incentives vertical and was expected to contribute to the software tool that was being built. I got the opportunity to work with backend technologies such as Java, along with database technologies such as PostgreSQL. For the frontend tasks and stories, I worked on Angular 2. I was integrated with the actual team and was a part of the sprint plannings and daily scrums which helped me understand how the Agile Methodology actually works in the Software Development Lifecycle.

4. In what ways do you feel you were well prepared for this job?

The courses that I had undertaken during my Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 semesters were truly relevant and helpful for the successful completion of this internship. For example, during the Spring 2022 semester, I had taken CSCI-571 Web Technologies course which introduced me to the world of Angular. And now, during my internship here at ZS Associates, I am able to complete UI tasks as the application that is being built internally has Angular as its frontend framework. Apart from this, my prior work experience had made me familiar with Java and hence, my skillset aligned with the company's requirements which made me feel well-prepared for this job.

5. In what ways do you feel you could have been better prepared?

One thing that I feel could have made me prepare better for this job was if I had prior work experience with working on large codebases. The projects that we build during my academic year are not nearly as large as enterprise applications that I had to work on during my internship. Understanding and modifying a large codebase is also a skill of extreme importance for every engineer for any new job. Furthermore, being habitual to reading documentation before jumping right into coding is also a valuable understanding that I wish I had known earlier.

6. Other comments?

I would like to thank the department for organizing this course in tandem with our internship. I could definitely understand the benefits that this course brings to the table. While the communication component of this course was indeed helpful in understanding of how to write clear, concise and impactful emails in a professional setting, the internship component of this course helped me to introspect and keep myself in check of what I had learnt and gained during my internship. It was an enlightening experience.