After experiencing my first internship, I have learned a lot about what takes to work in a business environment, but more importantly how I work in a business environment. Now that I have seen ways that the business world works firsthand, I have a much better understanding of what parts of it matter the most to me. I’ve highlighted my three most important aspects of working in information technology:

The Work – Despite what some may believe, it is possible to actually enjoy what you are doing for a living. After having been through many small projects this summer, I have found the things that I personally lean towards. For example, I enjoy the role of a Scrum Master more than I enjoy the role of a Project Manager. While I am not yet certain where I would like to work or exactly what I would like to be doing once I get my master’s degree, at least now I know the direction that I would like to go in if I had to choose between the two. This is extremely important because I have found that the more I enjoy the work that I am doing, the more likely it is for me to be successful in that position.

The Culture – I didn’t expect this area to be so important to me. However, after seeing the inner workings of business for myself, I have come to realize that the culture of an organization is one of its single most important factors. At Travelers, I take for granted how willing everyone is to help. This company very much so has the sort of culture where if you were to schedule a 1:1 with somebody, they will always accept it – even if you are just an intern. I realize that this may not be the same in other companies so when I ultimately go to work full time, I want to make sure that I find myself in a place where the culture really does matter.

The Location – This aspect may not be as big of a deal when I graduate college, but I have found that for my internship at least, the location has been a very important factor. Living in downtown Hartford is unfortunately very dull as the city is really only designed to be a place where people come to work for the day and leave for the night. As such, it’s practically a ghost town on the weekends. To combat this, I usually just drive home for the weekends, but it is a fairly long trip back to Massachusetts. All of these factors make the location less than desirable. I hope that once I graduate college I find something that really works for me in terms of location.

Once I leave Quinnipiac, I hope to enter the working world prepared and able. Having this internship under my belt is undeniably beneficial to my future career. It has showed me the things I like about my field of study as well as the things I don’t like. When deciding what to do with my future, I will do my best to make a calculated decision as to where I want to work based off of the many factors That I have discovered which are most important to me.