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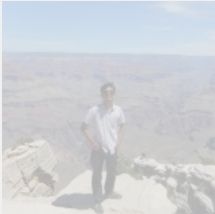
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Q1: In which course are you presently enrolled? Please tell us something about yourself – your interests and areas of specialization.



7

7

0

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I  
am  
Siddha  
Ganju  
currently  
pursuing  
Master  
of  
Computational  
Data  
Science  
at  
Carnegie  
Mellon  
University,  
USA.

I  
hail  
from  
Shimla,  
a  
hilly  
city  
in  
India.

I  
recently  
completed  
my  
Bachelors  
in  
Computer  
Science  
from  
National  
Institute  
in  
Technology,  
Hamirpur  
India.

I

enjoy  
my  
work,  
like  
travelling  
and  
love  
listening  
to  
music.

**Q2: Which  
internship  
did  
you  
opt  
for?  
Give  
us  
a  
few  
details-  
stipend,  
duration  
and  
location.**

This  
summer  
I  
was  
humbled  
to  
have  
been  
chosen  
as  
an  
intern  
at  
the  
European

Council  
for  
Nuclear  
Research,  
CERN  
Canton  
of  
Geneva,  
Switzerland.  
I  
was  
selected  
among  
1500  
applicants  
all  
over  
the  
world  
for  
'CERN  
Openlab  
Summer  
Student  
Programme'.  
My  
internship  
was  
for  
8  
weeks.  
CERN  
organized  
the  
accommodation  
at  
Geneva,  
Switzerland,  
and  
paid  
a

stipend  
of  
90CHF  
per  
day  
which  
easily  
covered  
the  
stay  
and  
living  
expenses.  
Also  
the  
travel  
expenses  
were  
reimbursed  
at  
the  
end  
of  
the  
internship.  
Besides,  
we  
got  
to  
listen  
to  
special  
series  
of  
lectures  
by  
distinguished  
researchers.  
Visits  
to  
tech

giant  
organizations  
like  
Google,  
and  
Open  
Systems  
were  
enriching.  
Indeed  
work  
and  
fun  
at  
a  
world  
class  
organization  
was  
a  
lifetime  
experience.

**Q3: How  
did  
you  
come  
to  
know  
about  
the  
internship?  
Which  
channels  
of  
information  
(Internet/  
Personal/Corpo  
contacts  
etc)  
did  
you**

utilize?

Being  
a  
pioneer  
in  
scientific  
research,  
CERN  
needs  
no  
introduction.

After  
hearing  
so  
much  
about  
the  
organization  
from  
my  
faculty  
and  
peers,  
curiosity  
got  
the  
better  
of  
me  
and  
I  
decided  
to  
look  
it  
up  
for  
myself.  
An  
extensive  
search



over  
the  
internet  
introduced  
me  
to  
a  
world  
of  
noteworthy  
scientific  
research  
being  
done  
at  
the  
organization  
and  
the  
opportunities  
offered  
to  
students.

.  
So  
I  
started  
preparing  
for  
the  
internship  
and  
applied  
online.  
I  
also  
kept  
myself  
abreast  
with  
other

places  
where  
internships  
could  
be  
done.

**Q4: Briefly  
describe the  
procedure  
for  
application.  
What  
are  
the  
eligibility  
criteria  
for  
this  
internship?**

The  
application  
process  
starts  
early  
on  
the  
official  
CERN  
website.  
It  
is  
an  
online  
user  
friendly  
interface  
with  
focus  
on  
research

and  
scientific  
aptitude  
of  
a  
person.  
After  
creating  
an  
account,  
the  
important  
documents  
to  
be  
uploaded  
include  
CV,  
transcripts,  
motivation  
letter  
and  
the  
projects  
done.  
Most  
importantly  
one  
has  
to  
state  
why  
one  
wants  
to  
take  
up  
this  
internship,  
why  
one

should  
be  
selected  
and  
how  
will  
it  
affect  
your  
future.  
Two  
recommendation  
letters  
are  
required  
to  
be  
sent  
online  
from  
your  
professors.  
The  
application  
process  
should  
be  
submitted  
online  
before  
the  
deadline.

**Q5: Let's  
talk  
about  
how  
competitive  
the  
selection  
process  
is.**

What  
qualities  
of  
yours  
do  
you  
think  
helped  
you  
to  
have  
an  
edge in the  
selection  
process?

What  
key  
attributes  
were  
the  
selectors  
looking  
for?

Well,  
CERN  
is  
a  
world  
class  
organization  
where  
students  
all  
over  
the  
world  
apply  
for  
internship.  
Out  
of

1500  
applicants  
only  
40  
got  
selected.  
As  
far  
as  
I  
know  
I  
am  
the  
only  
intern  
to  
have  
been  
selected  
for  
this  
prestigious  
internship  
from  
my  
institute.  
So  
the  
selection  
process  
is  
quite  
rigorous.  
Apart  
from  
a  
strong  
academic  
record,  
in

depth  
work  
on  
innovative  
projects  
are  
important.  
A  
good  
skill  
set  
adds  
weight  
to  
the  
application.  
After  
being  
selected  
for  
the  
internship,  
I  
learnt  
about  
the  
selection  
procedure.  
The  
researchers  
who  
have  
proposed  
the  
projects  
actually  
go  
through  
your  
applications,  
so

it  
is  
necessary  
that  
your  
profile  
appeals  
to  
them.  
I  
feel  
participation  
in  
other  
related  
activities  
is  
also  
important.  
CERN  
looks  
for  
interns  
who  
are  
dedicated  
and  
passionate  
about  
their  
work.  
I  
think  
they  
might  
be  
looking  
for  
relevant  
projects  
and



experience  
related  
to  
the  
technical  
requirements  
on  
which  
you  
might  
be  
needed  
to  
work  
on,  
during  
the  
internship.

**Q6: According  
to  
you,  
what  
are some  
common  
mistakes  
that  
you  
feel  
applicants  
should  
avoid  
in  
the  
internship  
application  
process?**

The  
application  
form  
is

to  
be  
filled  
online  
and  
is  
quite  
easy.  
I  
suppose  
that  
the  
answers  
in  
the  
application  
forms  
should  
be  
written  
according  
to  
what  
you  
feel  
about  
them.  
They  
should  
portray  
you  
and  
not  
what  
an  
'ideal  
statement  
of  
purpose'  
should  
look

like.  
Work  
on  
your  
CV,  
check  
your  
answers  
and  
upload  
all  
the  
documents  
required.  
Request  
your  
professor  
to  
send  
the  
recommendation  
letter  
in  
time.  
Apart  
from  
this,  
one  
needs  
to  
understand  
that  
the  
people  
who  
made  
the  
form  
put  
a  
lot

of  
effort  
into  
it,  
so  
you  
probably  
could  
put  
as  
much  
effort  
and  
fill  
it  
accurately  
and  
good  
luck  
to  
all!

**Q7:**  
**What**  
**kind**  
**of**  
**groundwork**  
**did**  
**you**  
**do**  
**post-**  
**selection**  
**and**  
**before**  
**beginning**  
**the**  
**internship?**

After  
selection  
was

announced,  
I  
once  
again,  
researched  
the  
official  
website.  
All  
the  
official  
mails  
were  
self  
explanatory  
with  
regards  
to  
stay,  
work,  
weather  
and  
transport.  
The  
invitation  
letter  
from  
CERN  
expedited  
the  
VISA  
process  
and  
all  
the  
things  
went  
smoothly.  
Any  
queries  
I

had,  
were  
answered  
right  
away,  
thanks  
to  
Kristina.

We  
were  
told  
about  
our  
projects.  
I  
was  
going  
to  
work  
on  
Apache  
Spark,  
that  
was  
a  
software  
which  
I  
had  
not  
really  
used  
before.  
There  
was  
an  
EDx  
course  
which  
was  
teaching

Apache  
Spark  
and  
I  
enrolled  
myself  
for  
it.  
So  
henceforth  
started  
my  
Apache  
Spark  
experience!

**Q8:**  
**Please**  
**give**  
**us**  
**an**  
**overview**  
**of the**  
**work/research**  
**project**  
**you**  
**carried**  
**out**  
**during**  
**the**  
**internship**  
**period,**  
**including**  
**its**  
**future**  
**prospects,**  
**and**  
**your**  
**role**  
**and**  
**responsibilities.**

I  
was  
in  
the  
Information  
technology  
–  
Databases,  
which  
is  
usually  
called  
IT-  
DB.  
My  
project  
was  
to  
evaluate  
Apache  
Spark  
as  
an  
analytics  
framework  
for  
CERN's  
Big  
Data  
Analytics  
infrastructure.  
Apache  
Spark  
is  
a  
framework  
designed  
to  
enable  
parallel  
and



fast  
distributed  
data  
processing.  
It  
offers  
a  
simple  
programming  
abstraction  
that  
provides  
powerful  
cache  
and  
persistence  
capabilities.  
With  
such  
features  
Apache  
Spark  
framework  
is  
nowadays  
more  
and  
more  
successfully  
applied  
to  
pure  
data  
analytics  
problems.  
Spark  
Streaming  
and  
MLlib  
(Spark  
native

machine  
learning  
library)  
are  
making  
that  
move  
possible.  
My  
job  
was  
to  
evaluate  
Apache  
Spark  
to  
streamline  
the  
different  
predictive  
prototypes  
which  
are  
capable  
to  
gather  
information  
from  
CMS  
data-  
services,  
run  
predictive  
models  
and  
suggest  
which  
datasets  
will  
become  
popular

over  
time.  
The  
evaluation  
covered  
implementation  
on  
Apache  
Spark  
framework  
to  
evaluate  
quality  
of  
individual  
models,  
perform  
component  
analysis  
and  
choose  
best  
predictive  
model(s)  
for  
new  
set  
of  
data.

I  
had  
not  
done  
'atom  
smashing'  
with  
machine  
learning  
before.  
But  
I

must  
say,  
I  
enjoyed  
it  
thoroughly  
and  
learnt  
a  
lot.

CERN  
has  
unimaginable  
amounts  
of  
data  
which  
is  
generated  
when  
its  
four  
experiments,  
CMS,  
ATLAS,  
LHC,  
and  
LHCb  
are  
in  
their  
running  
phase.  
All  
that  
data  
has  
its  
own  
requirements  
for

computation.

My  
Mentors,  
Tony  
Wildish,  
Valentin  
Kuznetsov,  
Manuel  
Martin  
Marquez  
and  
Antonio  
Romero  
Marin  
were  
extremely  
helpful.  
They  
explained  
in  
great  
detail  
every  
single  
part  
of  
the  
project.  
We  
used  
to  
have  
continued  
discussions  
about  
the  
methodology,  
which  
algorithm  
to  
use

and  
why,  
and  
this  
contributed  
to  
my  
learning  
experience..

**Q9:**  
**Was**  
**this**  
**your**  
**first**  
**internship**  
**/**  
**training?**  
**If**  
**not,**  
**what**  
**do**  
**you**  
**think**  
**was**  
**unique**  
**about**  
**this**  
**internship?**

Yes,  
a  
new  
software,  
working  
with  
streamlined  
data,  
physics,  
new  
location,

research,  
atom  
smashing  
with  
machine  
learning  
and  
so  
much  
energy  
(pun-  
intended)  
made  
this  
an  
absolutely  
enthraling  
experience.

**Q10:**  
**What**  
**was**  
**the**  
**best**  
**feature**  
**of**  
**the**  
**work**  
**ethic**  
**of**  
**the**  
**organization**  
**and**  
**the**  
**internship?**  
**What**  
**was**  
**it**  
**that**  
**you**  
**liked**  
**about**

**your  
workplace?**

Talking  
about  
the  
workplace,  
the  
location  
is  
amazing!  
CERN  
overlooks  
the  
Swiss  
Alps  
after  
all.  
That  
said,  
CERN  
has  
an  
open  
culture,  
if  
you  
face  
any  
problem,  
you  
can  
ask  
absolutely  
anyone,  
be  
it  
your  
mentor  
or  
the



head  
of  
IT-  
DB.

The  
internship  
experience  
is  
unparalleled;  
there  
is  
no  
other  
place  
where  
you  
can  
do  
such  
amazing  
'atom  
smashing'  
using  
machine  
learning!  
I  
absolutely  
loved  
it!

**Q11:**  
**Let's**  
**now**  
**talk**  
**about**  
**some**  
**negatives.**  
**What were**  
**the**  
**glitches**  
**and**

problems  
that  
came  
your  
way,  
which  
you  
think  
your  
juniors  
should  
be  
careful  
to  
avoid?

The  
people  
at  
CERN  
are  
extremely  
helpful  
and  
to  
top  
it,  
all  
the  
communication  
officers  
are  
always  
there  
by  
your  
side.  
Thank  
you,  
Alberto,  
Kristina,

Melissa,  
Petya  
and  
Konstantinos  
for  
your  
guidance  
and  
support.  
I  
don't  
think  
there  
was  
ever  
an  
occasion  
for  
a  
problem  
because  
of  
their  
support  
and  
efficient  
management.

**Q12:**  
**Were**  
**there**  
**any**  
**special**  
**events**  
**during**  
**the**  
**internships?**  
**(events**  
**can**  
**be**  
**academics**  
**related**

like  
field  
trips, conferences,  
hackathons,  
meets etc  
and  
also  
non-  
academic,  
relating  
to  
your  
hostel  
life  
and  
the  
like).  
What  
did  
you  
do  
off  
work?



There  
was  
a  
summer  
student  
Webfest  
(<https://webfest.org/>)  
and  
I  
participated  
in  
a  
team  
and  
we  
won

the  
Best  
Innovative  
Outreach  
Award!  
You  
can  
read  
about  
our  
experiences  
here:  
[http://openlab.v  
openlab-  
summer-  
students-  
create-  
distributed-  
network-  
cosmic-  
ray-  
detectors-  
during-  
cern-  
summer.](http://openlab.vopenlab-summer-students-create-distributed-network-cosmic-ray-detectors-during-cern-summer)

It  
was  
one  
of  
the  
most  
energy  
packed  
24-  
hours  
that  
I  
have  
ever  
spent  
at

CERN.  
This  
was  
on  
Geneva  
day,  
though  
we  
wanted  
to  
go  
see  
the  
Geneva  
day  
fireworks  
but  
instead  
we  
stayed  
back,  
enjoyed  
the  
fireworks  
from  
conference  
rooms  
in  
building  
500.  
We  
could  
see  
all  
the  
fireworks  
that  
were  
happening  
at  
several

different  
places.  
After  
the  
fireworks,  
we  
stayed  
up  
all  
night,  
and  
finally  
completed  
all  
the  
tasks  
we  
had  
planned.

We  
had  
several  
trips  
that  
CERN  
graciously  
organized  
for  
us.

We  
visited  
the  
Google  
office  
at  
Zurich,  
(got  
to  
explore  
the  
city

as  
well),  
ETH  
(Swiss  
Federal  
Institute  
of  
Technology)  
at  
Zurich  
and  
the  
Open  
Systems  
Office  
– I  
loved  
their  
mission  
control  
panel,  
EPFL  
(École  
polytechnique  
fédérale  
de  
Lausanne.  
Apart  
from  
that  
we  
went  
to  
Paris,  
Bern  
–  
the  
capital  
Canton  
of  
Switzerland,



Annecy  
–  
which  
overlooks  
the  
beautiful  
French  
riviera,  
Mount  
Chamonix,  
Mount  
Saleve  
and  
even  
more  
beautiful  
French  
and  
Swiss  
cities!



A  
typical  
workday  
would  
be  
from  
9:30  
AM  
to  
5-  
5:30  
PM  
and  
most  
of  
the  
interns  
were  
staying  
in

the  
same  
hotel.  
So,  
40  
interns  
from  
around  
25  
countries,  
at  
the  
same  
place,  
so  
there  
is  
bound  
to  
be  
some  
travel,  
fun  
and  
lots  
of  
food  
and  
more  
fun!

People  
from  
Malta,  
Turkey,  
Algeria,  
Italy,  
Germany,  
Pakistan,  
Macedonia,  
Finland,  
Belgium,

Britain,  
Spain,  
Catalan,  
Nigeria,  
Romania,  
and  
so  
many  
more  
countries  
were  
there.  
I  
learnt  
about  
so  
many  
cultures  
and  
picked  
up  
tit-  
bits  
of  
so  
many  
new  
languages!



After  
work,  
some  
days  
we  
used  
to  
play  
RPG  
games,  
(Role

Playing Games).  
This was absolutely enthralling. I owe it to Enrico and Megan for introducing me to RPG.

Other days, we used to hang around, roam the campus of CERN, attend the summer students' parties, or try to locate the fabled

CERN  
summer  
student  
temple.

We'd  
also  
cook!  
Amazing  
Swiss  
Fondue,  
thanks  
to  
Christina  
and  
Marija,  
pasta  
Italian  
style  
–  
courtesy  
chef  
Enrico,  
Black  
Octopus  
pasta  
by  
Gaby,  
home  
grown  
strawberries  
–  
thanks  
to  
Maria  
and  
endless  
more  
dishes!

I  
almost

forgot  
the  
movies!  
CERN  
has  
movie  
screenings  
and  
apart  
from  
that  
we  
also  
watched  
several  
movies  
from  
many  
different  
countries  
in  
English!

**Q13:**  
**How**  
**much**  
**difference**  
**has**  
**this**  
**internship**  
**period**  
**made**  
**in**  
**your**  
**intellectual**  
**capabilities**  
**and**  
**mindset.**  
**In**  
**broad**  
**terms**  
**what**

are  
your  
gains  
and  
takeaways?

I  
learnt  
a  
LOT!  
That's  
definite.  
I  
made  
many,  
many  
friends  
from  
people  
of  
different  
countries,  
learnt  
about  
their  
cultures  
and  
languages.  
This  
internship  
has  
instilled  
confidence  
and  
honed  
my  
skills.  
I  
was  
able  
to  
understand

the  
different  
perspectives  
of  
research,  
development  
and  
innovation.  
After  
all  
internship  
at  
CERN  
is  
Unique!

**Q14:**  
**What  
are  
your  
future  
plans  
and  
how  
much  
of  
an  
impact  
do  
you  
think  
this  
internship  
will  
have  
on  
it?**

I  
learnt  
so  
much



at  
CERN.  
In  
fact,  
I  
never  
knew  
so  
much  
about  
physics!  
I  
learnt  
about  
how  
the  
collider  
works,  
how  
exactly  
the  
atoms  
decay  
into  
alpha  
and  
beta  
particles.  
The  
CERN  
lectures  
are  
amazing.  
I  
learnt  
how  
machine  
learning  
can  
be  
used

in  
security.

**Q15:**  
**Any**  
**advice**  
**for**  
**juniors**  
**that**  
**can**  
**help**  
**them**  
**in**  
**getting**  
**internships**  
**in**  
**future**  
**and**  
**for**  
**deriving**  
**the**  
**best**  
**learning**  
**experience**  
**out**  
**of**  
**it?**

Every  
opportunity  
that  
presents  
itself  
is  
a  
learning  
one,  
so  
try  
to  
make

most  
of  
it.

**Q16:**  
**Any**  
**views**  
**about**  
**this**  
**initiative**  
**of**  
**InternFeel,**  
**and**  
**how**  
**beneficial**  
**it**  
**would**  
**be?**  
**Any**  
**suggestions/fee**  
**improvement?**

Internfeel  
is  
great!  
I  
know  
about  
so  
many  
people  
who  
got  
inspired  
from  
a  
blog  
post  
on  
Internfeel  
and

applied  
and  
they  
got  
the  
internship  
they  
wanted!  
Congratulations  
to  
Internfeel  
for  
starting  
such  
a  
unique  
initiative  
and  
thanks  
to  
[Arihant](#)  
for  
giving  
me  
this  
opportunity.



*Also  
Read*

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