

General Electric
April 2014 to December 2014

Company name: Digital Energy
Job title: Grid Automation Communication Support

Student's name: Rebecca

As an intern for General Electric, I worked within their subsidiary company, Digital Energy. My main focus of work was within a division of Digital Energy called Grid Automation.

This internship was an 8-month position paid at a competitive rate, which I took during my third year in the Business & Society program. It was an excellent experience, since many parts of my Business and Society degree helped me think critically and stay organized in the workplace. My main task was to write an internal newsletter about the business's accomplishments. I also helped in the following areas:

- Development of external media
- Drafting, editing and circulate press releases.
- Researching and developing a customer-specific case study which was very similar to writing a research essay.
- Collating publisher contact information to coordinate press releases with large events. This task was very similar to writing and researching. I connected with publishers to collect their contact information so when a large event or new product was launched, we could collaborate with their team to publish the news.
- Assisting in the coordination and planning for a global sales event. I was very fortunate to be invited to assess the hotel and meeting space for the event. For a worldwide event, I was assigned the task of ensuring all guests had their VISA letters in order. To assist in organizing this event, many skills from York helped me accomplish my tasks. Staying organized, communicating to team members and thinking carefully about my task helped me complete my goals in a timely manner.

My internship experience was also great practice to meet and work with other interns. I met many engineers and finance students who shared a lot of insight with me on how to integrate from school into the workplace. I learned that not all the material from school can be directly applied to the tasks you are assigned in the workplace. However, the skills you learn from your university education, e.g. managing multiple projects and meeting deadlines, are very important in the workplace. Meeting and connecting with interns from different programs helps you learn that many skills are transferable from task to task.

During my internship, I was mentored by my supervisor. Communicating and asking questions was very important so I could learn the dynamics of the business. It was extremely helpful for me to meet with my supervisor at least once a week to discuss my projects and ongoing tasks. In addition, York provided an Internship Coordinator to monitor my progress and to help ensure I fit into the workplace and successfully achieved my tasks. Seeking support from my supervisor and York's Internship Coordinator was immensely helpful when I had questions or concerns. I would recommend to students in an internship to ask lots of questions when starting their internship so they can understand their role and the business.

Overall, working in an internship setting has widened my perspective of the business world. In the work setting, students need to apply critical thinking, work independently, meet deadlines, communicate in team meetings and be able to work within different cultures. These skills are similar to projects and essays we take on in the Business and Society program. School tasks such as group projects are very similar to working with teams in the workplace and coordinating and allocating tasks within the group.