

My Internship with TechFest

by Baranika Sureshkumar

Through the Career Ready programme, I have spent 4 weeks of my Summer as an intern at TechFest. While working there, TechFest gave me tasks to do such as report writing, the opportunity to go to meetings, involvement in helping organise events and more. These experiences helped me develop as a person and as a worker, as they taught me the importance of taking my own initiative while working. Unlike in school, where you get a set timetable that dictates what you have to do and when, it is your responsibility to get what is needed done in time, and to make up your own schedule while fitting around the team's plans.

Writing a report for them opened my eyes to how important communication and teamwork is, because for each section of the report there was a member of TechFest I could go to if I needed to ask questions or get further information on a topic. I usually did this through the form of emails and calls.

Open communication with the team was necessary, as it helped me understand the task at hand, and gave me the resources to write the report to the best of my ability. There were even moments where I could do the same for them and help with their tasks, so it went full circle which showed me that it wasn't just me who needed help at times, and that was a sign of a good work ethic between all co-workers.

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I am not much of a STEM person, but I realised that you don't have to be as you can bring the skills you have and help promote STEM that way

- Baranika Sureshkumar



Me!



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My first ever photo with one of my mentees!

Being able to attend meetings showed me how businesses run, the discussion that goes along with it and how much is being done by different members of staff all at the same time to achieve objectives that they've set. It also has further pushed the importance of communication, because joining together to talk through it all helps TechFest move forward and operate to the highest standard they can.



Assisting in running events illustrated to me more of what TechFest was about, as well as an insight on the amount of preparation that goes into these events. I got to go to the Wild About Aden event where we ran the STEM in the Park workshop for the public. I got first-hand experience on what it's like to run an event, and I would also say it assisted in improving my customer service skills through how I, and the others I was working with, presented the workshops to the public.



Presenting STEM workshops at Duthie park.

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At first I was worried about having my internship at TechFest as I don't have much of a background in STEM and am more arts routed. However, I was shown that you don't have to be knowledgeable on all the ins and outs of what the company is based on to be able to work to a high standard. Like how even though I was writing my report on the Festival TechFest ran to promote STEM, without having attended it, I was still able to produce a high-quality piece of work through communicating with the rest of the staff to get the information I needed.

I was even able to bring in my graphic design knowledge from school to format the report in a pleasing way. This taught me that working with what you have to the best of your ability is the best way to go about doing anything.

Having a mentor while doing this internship was the most reassuring part of the whole experience for me, as it was someone I had already gotten to know through the Career Ready programme. My mentor became someone that I could rely on at any time and helped me adjust to the new working environment, co-workers and all situations that I may have worried about otherwise.

Overall, my internship at TechFest has been a great experience and I've learned so many new skills in such a short amount of time. I really felt like I was a part of the team, which may have been one of the best parts of it all, and it has definitely contributed to further improving my work ethic.



Me overviewing my internship!



Me and my mentors Kirsty & Gabi.

The End.