

Jason Jones, Bachelor of Mathematics, University of Queensland (UQ) | Intern at Komatsu

What drew you towards applying for the Austmine STEM program? Why did you apply for the specific internship you were placed in?

What drew me towards applying for the Austmine program was the curiosity of what it would be like to work for world-class companies. Additionally, at that point in my studies I only had a general idea of where my talents in mathematics could take me, so getting into a program such as this was very appealing to open-up new doors. Funnily enough – out of all the offerings I saw – I specifically applied for the internship I completed because I felt the most confident enough in my abilities for.

Do you see yourself having a career in this sector? Has your view towards the sector changed since your internship?

After completing the internship with Komatsu, I certainly could see myself having a career in the METS sector. It was an eye-opening experience to see what happens from “pit to port” not only from the physical earth moving operations, but the remarkable technology and behind the scenes manpower that makes it possible. There will always be some prevalent stigma around the mining sector, but overall, my personal views towards it have certainly changed in a positive way.

What key skills have you learnt through your internship that you feel are transferrable for future roles?

Some key skills that I learnt throughout the internship would be expressing timeliness, organisation, and communication across all aspects of work. All three seem relatively simple – and most people would be good at them individually – but being able to blend them into areas you might not consider was the biggest learning curve. Whether it was organising the work emails, communicating with people as high as the CEO, or arriving to meetings on time (even online ones!), it is such a necessary skill to keep on top of your work from day to day.

What task or experience was particularly memorable as part of your internship?

A memorable experience during the internship is having moments where I would meet people who say: “I have heard about you”. Even in big companies, you will quickly find that being able to allocate spending for people like us (interns) is not that easy. Your boss would have to plead their case just to get you on board – so as soon as you start to do well and be seen and heard – people will take notice. I will never forget the way that some people were so interested / excited to meet me and work with me.

What was the biggest challenge you faced during your internship and how did you overcome this?

The biggest challenge would have been making sure any projects I completed could be picked up by someone else to use and/or continue working on. An easy comparison is with university assignments, you would write up a script to generate some sort of output, and either you or someone marking it know exactly what is happening. However, being able to write up scripts that someone with no programming experience could use was a challenge. Even being able to setup scripts to be read by other programmers was a good challenge. The way I overcame this was making a reference guide document, stepping through how to run the script (and even how to download necessary software).

Would you recommend the Austmine STEM program to future students?

Overall, I would certainly recommend the Austmine program to future students – especially if you haven’t considered the mining sector. If you reduce it down to what jobs or tasks you can/might find doable, these companies need people to analyse massive amounts of data, optimise huge processes and create new technological advances in the industry. You have an opportunity to work in companies that are known worldwide – that alone is an excellent experience.

Austmine STEM METS Career Pathway Program

Post Program Interview



Do you have any further comments you would like to make about the Austmine STEM program?

Being a part of these companies and this sector is tough – huge time commitments and responsibilities – but the rewards are worth it. The Austmine program enables students to get a massive head start on their careers by offering an easy way into a range of STEM role that are very sought after. If you are lucky enough to get accepted into a position, you truly will not regret it.



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