Austmine STEM METS Career Pathway Program





Post Program Interview

Tu Lan, Masters in Computing and Innovation, University of Adelaide | 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?

To gain relevant industrial experience was what made me apply for the Austmine STEM program. I can't exactly remember what was going on when I applied for the program but based on what I remembered, I was allocated to a specific company that was not from my side. But the company Komatsu has treated me well and I have learned a lot from them.

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

Yes, I see myself pretty fit in with this sector and I can see myself having a career in the industry. I am optimistic that I would be able to start my career in the METS sector and I still hold the same opinion after the internship.

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

Every time we are hold a retrospective meeting, someone from the development will bring up some genuine and interesting ideas.

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

One of the challenges is because of the current pandemic that did not allow me to travel to the site and working with others in the office. That increases the complexity of communication and limits our network to some degree. Another challenge is the difficulty of the assigned task, which is a reasonable level of difficulty, but I was stuck somewhere during the development. For instance, I have never used the Azure function as a service to host API calls before, which confused me at the beginning when I move to that part. But credit to my team, as they assisted me and taught me how to do it and a certain level of self-learning makes me overcome such a technical difficulty due to my lack of ability before.

Would you recommend the Austmine STEM program to future students?

Yes, with a hundred percent. Without the Austmine STEM program, I will not be able to connect with such a great company such as Komatsu to work with. I highly appreciate all the help and efforts of Wendy Ho who liaises candidates like me with the companies.

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

I highly suggest everyone get into the Austmine STEM program if you are interested in getting a real industrial internship to kick off your career. And this program is pretty friendly with all candidates including international students as who I am.



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