

Austmine STEM METS Career Pathway Program

Post Program Interview



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What drew you towards applying for the Austmine STEM Program? In particular, why did you apply for your current internship position?

I applied for this program mainly because it is STEM based. STEM has been my interest since primary school. Initially, I was purely interested in numbers. As time progressed, writing software programs has been my interest as well, so I thought Austmine STEM Program is a great opportunity for me to demonstrate my abilities and make positive contributions both to the company and the industry.

My role at Intov8 was junior software engineer, this role attracted me because it required me to work closely with data. I was very interested to see how Intov8 uses technology to simplify the processing of data and how data can help us make decisions. It turned out that they are doing something wonderful to help the industry cope with large amount of data, which indeed increases the productivity and efficiency. Aside for the technical aspects, I was also very keen to improve my customer service skills.

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

Yes. I have always wanted to work in the METS sector. Australia has been the global market leader in METS, with the most advanced technology platforms. I believe working in this sector would offer me the greatest opportunities to apply my STEM knowledge and challenge me to gain a deeper knowledge about the technology systems. My view towards the METS sector is that there are a lot of unknown possibilities and challenges and you have to keep learning to keep up with the industry. Overall, my view towards the sector did not change.

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

Attention to detail; Critical thinking; Analytical and problem-solving skills; Troubleshoot and debug; Team work; Communicate effectively with the person in charge.

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

The most memorable experience in this internship would be working with the people at Intov8. Before the internship started, I thought working in a professional environment might be stressful and people just work independently. After I started the internship, what I thought was definitely not true. My co-workers are very hard-working people, they do their best for the company. They support each other to solve problems and concerns. I got a lot of support from them as well, which helped me learn and grow faster. They have good sense of humour and they encourage people to be themselves. I think this is why the working environment is relaxed and people are more innovative as well.

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

The biggest challenge would be that I had to get familiar with the products/systems in a short period of time. When I started this internship, although I did some preparation in advance, I was a bit overwhelmed about the amount of knowledge I have to take in. However, my co-workers were very happy to do training and small knowledge transfer catch ups to help me learn a lot quicker, which I was very grateful for. I think it's also important to take notes (even small points) of what they say and always recap on the stuff they taught. The final step would be to practice a lot to get familiar with the process.

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Would you recommend the Austmine STEM program to future students?

I would recommend the Austmine STEM program to future students for sure. This program offered us great opportunities to apply our knowledge to real-world situations, to interact with the professionals in the STEM fields and to help us transition smoothly into the workforce. Since it was my first internship, the ongoing support provided by Austmine definitely helped me relieve the stress and fear and gave me motivation to step out of my comfort zone and challenge myself to do all sorts of new things.

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

Overall, Austmine STEM Program is a well-organised program for helping students gain more real-world experiences. I am absolutely grateful for having this opportunity to participate in the Austmine STEM program and work for Intov8.



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