Gas Networks Ireland – Student Placement Campaign

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Padraig McCarthy (University of Limerick)

What course are you studying?

I am studying Computer Science in the University of Limerick, specifically Mobile Communications and Security (2nd year). This focuses primarily on the cyber security and networks, with a nice bit of programming too.

How did you find out about Gas Networks Ireland's placement programme? How was the application process?

I found that similar companies in Limerick offered student placements, but decided working in Cork would be best as it's closer to home. I sent in a CV and got an interview, simple as that! It was my first time being interviewed by a panel so it was a bit daunting as you can imagine but a great experience all the same.

What has your role been in Gas Networks Ireland?

My job title is OT student, OT meaning Operational Technology. I have been doing a lot of programming, specifically for auditing purposes (nothing production critical thankfully!). Programming is one of my favourite areas in college so I loved every bit of it! I've also done some operating system patching, as well as server upgrades and hardware configuration.

What were you expecting before you started?

I didn't really know what to expect, I had no experience of the industry outside of college. I went in with an open mind and ready to learn as much as I could. In college we're taught how everything ties back to the real world but to be honest, before I started, I had no idea!

What's been your favourite moment?

My favourite moment was when I deployed a program I had been writing and testing for over a month. It was great to have accomplished something that I had worked hard on and will hopefully be used for years to come.

What's been the biggest thing you've got out of your time here?

Over the course of the last three months I've learned more than I thought I could and enjoyed myself while I did. It was brilliant to get a good understanding of what life is like in the industry, and how much it differs to being in university. I also got the opportunity see how a computer network operates and the various components and processes that powers one.

What are you most looking forward to when you return to college?

I'm really looking forward to putting what I've learned to good use, and hopefully build on it when I go back to UL. I'm also interested in building out a mini computer network of sorts at home, where I can play around with a few things and learn from them.

What's your advice for next years' group of students?

I would say savour your time in GNI because it really flies! Come in with an open mind, ask a million and one questions and google the rest. It really is a great opportunity to build your CV so make it count.