Employ.ed on Campus 2020
Internship Case Study

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3rd year Geography student

What was your internship?

Geographic Data Handler working at EDINA

Description of your role and responsibilities

More generally, my main roles involved data handling and processing the data to create maps using GIS. I was involved in various projects which looked at mapping census and government data for implementation into Digimap. A typical project cycle would involve me looking and evaluating data for mapping purposes. Then, I'd spend the majority of my time cleaning the data using Excel and PostGIS. Finally, I would create and style the map using GIS and extract appropriate map and info tables for the web mapping service. My other main role was to create user guides for each of the map layers I'd created for future reference and for Digimap users.

What interested you in this specific role?

I was briefly introduced to GIS in one of my 2nd year courses and further took a foundation course in 3rd year from which I was able to learn a lot more about this field. I'm interested in the vast relevance and importance GIS plays in many of today's planning functions. I was therefore keen to utilise the skills I'd learnt in previous courses and translate to real-life skills and context.

How have you benefited from this experience?

The benefits I have gained are multifold. I have gained insight into the geospatial industry through back-end operations. Through the experience, I have networked with my colleagues and they have additionally given me lots of useful tips for my future. This internship has also given me the opportunity to develop my technical skillset and softer and more interpersonal skills.

What advice would you give to future interns?

I had applied thinking I had very limited experience of GIS for this particular internship, however, the staff at EDINA were so supportive and accommodating of the skillset students are exposed to in university courses. Therefore, they were keen to push me to

the best of my abilities whilst offering independence for me to develop skills and my ideas in projects. I believe that no matter how little or much experience one has, you should consider applying - drive the process forward with passion and inquisitiveness. Know your worth - you can do it!

Where can we find some of your work?

https://digimap.edina.ac.uk/