

Daniel Jackson (Engineering) – Bangalore, Summer 2018

I spent this summer working for wind energy start-up Wind Pioneers, based in Bangalore, India. Founded 2 years ago by a Cambridge Engineering graduate, it has since grown to 5 full time employees plus two summer interns. Wind Pioneers is developing a suite of proprietary tools to locate the most effective sites for potential wind farms.

My task was to develop a turbine wake model to calculate the power losses of turbines in the wake of other turbines compared to unaffected turbines. While the actual wake model is a comparatively simple piece of code, but the hardest part was using all the geographical data of the wind farm site to implement the model correctly.

The Cambridge engineering department does teach a certain amount of coding, the best way to learn is to simply get started on a project and learn by trial and error. That is precisely what this project allowed me to do. I was given complete responsibility over the work and if I did not know how to do something, I had to use google or talk to colleagues to work out how. Before coming to India I was a little nervous about taking a job at a software company, as I had struggled a bit with the Cambridge course, but I now feel much more confident in my abilities.

Having previously worked in a considerably larger company, I much preferred the atmosphere of Wind Pioneers. We would go out for lunch every day as a group and everybody was much more open and approachable than I have found in previous work experience placements. A long term career goal of mine has been to found my own start up, and after this placement I feel like this is the right career path for me.

Following the 8-week internship I spent 3 weeks travelling in the north of India, seeing the incredible forts of the Maharajas of Rajasthan and the Tibetan settlements and the Dalai Lama in Dharamshala. The variety of landscapes and cultures and people across India is astonishing and I only glimpsed a tiny snapshot in my brief time travelling.