Case Studies: Student Internship Bureau
Summer Vacation 2012

Department of Electronics, University of York:
Circuit Building Project for Schools, 8 week project.

THE PROJECT
The Department of Electronics at York is Number 1 in the Sunday Times 2011 subject league table for Electrical and Electronic Engineering. In the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise the majority of the department’s submission was judged world-leading or internationally excellent and it has been at or near the top in the National Student Surveys for each of the past three years.

The Department of Electronics took on Ben Holmes, a second year Music Technology student, to contribute to an outreach project dedicated to encouraging interest in engineering amongst young people in local schools. The main objective of the internship was to create an electronics project for secondary school pupils to engage with, in order to inform them about electronic engineering and to communicate that the University of York is a fantastic place to study.

WHAT THE STUDENT GAINED FROM THE EXPERIENCE
The activities Ben undertook during his internship included: researching to determine how best to engage secondary school pupils; building and testing product prototypes; evaluating and documenting the designs. Ben said, “spending eight weeks designing electronics projects was an ideal internship for me, as I have always enjoyed product design. Combining product design with electronics meant I could improve my knowledge that I need for my course, whilst at the same time doing something I am quite capable at.”

THE IMPACT OF THE INTERN’S WORK ON THE DEPARTMENT
Peter Turner, Technical Support Services Manager at the Department of Electronics, was very pleased with the impact of Ben’s work. “We have a set of circuit boards and accompanying documentation which we can use in future outreach activities with schools … Ben presented his work regularly throughout the project to academics and technical staff and I was particularly impressed with the professional and confident way in which he did so.”

Students: To view the latest internship opportunities logon to www.york.ac.uk/careers/ics and search for Student Internship Bureau.

Employers: To find out how to engage with the skills of a student intern contact careers-sib@york.ac.uk

One of Ben’s finished prototypes designed and built with his new electronic skills