



INTERNSHIP REVIEW – INTERN PERSPECTIVE 2010

FeMET and StEEL Scholars who just completed an internship during the Summer of 2010 were asked the following questions. Replies were received from eight out of the twelve interns. Their responses are provided below with any reference to the company name excluded.

1. **Were the projects assigned to you interesting/challenging?**
2. **Was the rate of pay adequate?**
3. **Was housing provided?**
4. **What did you expect from an internship?**
5. **In general, was the internship a valuable experience?**
6. **Did the internship persuade you to consider a future in the steel industry following graduation?**
7. **What are your future plans?**

1. **Were the projects assigned to you interesting/challenging?**

- The projects assigned were interesting. At times it was slow as I was being acclimated and trained but once that occurred I kept busy and enjoyed seeing the projects progress and finish and have results to report on by the end of the summer.
- The projects that were assigned to me were very interesting and most of them had something to do with my major. The projects that I was assigned to do really helped me to grasp how steel casing and line pipe is made at COMPANY's plant and at the same time helped the plant with some of its issues. Also, the projects that did not completely relate to my major were also good experience for me because I had to do some problem solving, testing, and trial and error to see what solution worked best for that particular problem. Also, I got to do some purchasing for the company while I was there so that was good experience with getting quotes, dealing with outside companies and then requesting a purchase order. Overall I was happy with the projects that were assigned to me and I thought they were challenging and at the same time interesting.
- I was excited about the projects I worked on each day. At the end of the summer, I was completing more difficult projects. It was rewarding to see the progress I had made.
- The projects that I was assigned were mixed in nature. I received many that challenged my fundamental understanding of materials engineering, and some that were primarily clerical in nature. I was challenged logistically, however, I was not challenged from a technical standpoint.
- Challenging, yes.
- Mapping changes in mechanical properties of rolled products from time of rolling up to four weeks after rolling; identifying causes of variations for cut lengths for the mill shear that cuts all the bar products to the size specified by the purchase order
- When I was given projects, they were both interesting and challenging. That said, there was a lot of down time when I had little to do and lots of time in which to do it.
- Yes, I worked alongside maintenance mechanics and learned a lot about the equipment as well as the processes used to make steel.

2. **Was the rate of pay adequate?**

- The rate of pay was adequate and I felt fairly compensated for my time.
- Yes, I thought the pay rate was a fair wage for me.
- Yes.
- The rate of compensation was more than fair for a student with no experience in the field.

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- Yes.
- Yes.
- Considering that we were provided with an awesome scholarship, the rate of pay was fine. To give you some idea, when I interned with COMPANY two years ago, I made the same amount with no experience. Last year at COMPANY, I made about 25% more per hour. All in all, I think most people would take that discount when considering that it comes with what is essentially a \$10,000 signing bonus.
- Yes.

3. Was housing provided?

- Housing was provided at a local college with interns from other companies. It was a great setup.
- Yes, housing was provided and made the summer financially possible for me and helped me to be able to save some money.
- Yes.
- Housing was not provided.
- Yes.
- No, but I was given a monthly housing allowance check to help with rent.
- No, but it was not needed.
- No, I live near the plant.

4. What did you expect from an internship?

- I expected to receive technical training and experience as well as manufacturing experience.
- I expected a learning experience and a glimpse into how a large company operates.
- I expected to be a productive member of a team and to learn something new everyday.
- I expected to gain valuable operations experience, be challenged both technically and logistically and in general to gain an understanding of the steel industry.
- I expected to solve problems and learn, but I basically was used as a glorified lab tech for the summer.
- To learn more about the steel industry and to gain experience that university classes can't provide.
- I expected a lot more work. Although my responsibilities were legitimate and important for the success of the business, there were plenty of times when I felt that I was being paid to do very little.
- To gain a better understanding of what goes on in the everyday process of producing steel. Because I am interested in having a supervisory role one day, I also wanted to see how the maintenance supervisors handled their day to day operations.

5. In general, was the internship a valuable experience?

- The internship was a very valuable experience as I gained an understanding of working in a manufacturing environment and saw firsthand the process of steelmaking. Without this experience I wouldn't understand what types of jobs exist for a metallurgist in manufacturing.
- Yes, the internship was a valuable experience for me and I would do it again.
- This internship gave me confidence in myself. As I applied the concepts covered in school, I realized that I have learned more than I give myself credit for.
- Overall, yes. There was ample opportunity to get field experience as well as off-site and on-site based training. I was also allowed to travel off-site for more field experience. Despite this, the nature of my projects were always support-based and it was rare that I ever followed anything through to completion. Likewise, I was often given tasks of little priority.
- Not really. I learned little to nothing and didn't feel that I was appreciated for my work.
- Yes.
- Yes. I think for future reference, the people in the company are great to work with, but they need to know that whoever will work for them is probably expecting to be busy from 8-5 because they will be capable of handling it.

- Yes, I believe that working at COMPANY was a great learning experience and the internship furthered my relationship with the company.

6. Did the internship persuade you to consider a future in the steel industry following graduation?

- The internship definitely persuaded me to consider a future in the steel industry. I worked for great people in a great company and I am grateful for the opportunity.
- Yes, the internship has made me consider a future into the steel industry. It is definitely an industry that I will look into when applying for full time employment.
- After this experience, I feel that a career in the steel industry would be very rewarding.
- Yes and no. I learned that there are interesting challenges available in the steel industry and that it's a wide field with MUCH to offer. But, unfortunately my internship did not expose me to all the things I wished to experience.
- I still will consider the steel industry, but probably somewhere else.
- Yes.
- I wouldn't say that it convinced me any further to pursue a future in the steel industry. This was my third internship in that arena, so I had a pretty good idea of what to expect coming into it.
- Yes, I have been long considering a future in the steel industry and the internship helped me get a better grasp of what that future may be like.

7. What are your future plans?

- At this point I am applying to different companies as well as several graduate programs. As I hear back from both companies and programs I plan to decide but at this point I'm leaning more toward industry than graduate school.
- My future plans are to go and start applying for jobs at the end of this semester and hopefully have a job lined up before I have school finished. COMPANY said that they would like to interview me this spring before I graduate and I plan on talking with them about possible full-time employment. So, I am very happy to have had this internship and I can't thank AIST enough for the opportunity and for selecting me to be a scholarship recipient. Also, I have to thank COMPANY for having me come out and work for them this summer and for giving me a great opportunity at advancing education and work experience.
- I definitely want to attend graduate school. However, I do not want to stay in STATE. My plan is to obtain a job in another state and work for a few years. Then, I will attend graduate school upon becoming a permanent resident of that state so that I will be eligible for in-state tuition rates. I currently do not have a job lined up, and I will be submitting my resume to be posted on the AIST Student Resume Board.
- I am planning on working following graduation. I do not currently have a job lined up, but I will be sure to send my resume for the AIST Student Resume Board.
- Right now I will be focusing on finishing school. I have another year to go after this one, so I am still undecided on grad school. If I do choose grad school, I will try to go a different school for that so I can get a different experience. As far as a job, I would prefer an overseas job if I can get one, solely for the experience of work in a new place with different thinking people.
- After graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in December 2011, will continue at WSU for Master of Science degree in materials science and engineering. Plan to return to steel industry after graduation.
- Not certain of future plans but will keep you posted.