

Case Study: Nuffield Research Placements at Siemens, Ulverston - August 2014



Student Profiles

James Allison and Jacob Allen completed Nuffield Research Placements and CREST Gold Awards at Siemens Subsea Excellence Centre during August 2014. The Nuffield Research Placements were four week summer placements organized and managed by STEM Cumbria Ltd. Both students have recently presented their work at the Barrow District and Association of Engineers forum (Thursday 20th November) and the Furness BigBang Science Fair (Tuesday 25th November). James' project focused on the Design of a Protective Cap for Foetron Fibre Optic Receptacle Connectors. Jacobs' project focused on Compatibility Studies of Oils and Elastomers for Fibre Optic Connectors. Both students are currently in year 13 studying A-Levels at Ulverston Victoria High School and have submitted applications to present their projects at the Big Bang Science Fair National Finals.

Quotes from students

James Allison - "This placement has been a real eye opener to what the real world of engineering is about; there are lots of things I will take away from my time here at Siemens. The skills I have improved on in my time at Siemens are: commitment, work ethic, general computing skills, organisation, planning, time management, self-reliance and how to think about problems from different angles".

Jacob Allen - "I have learnt a huge amount through the duration of this project. This has been made evident in the conclusion section of my report where I have used my knowledge to draw conclusions about a subject which I knew very little about at the start of the project. This information will help with my A-levels, particularly Chemistry and Physics".

Quotes from Siemens

Michael Jeschke (STEM Ambassador) – "These projects are a fantastic advertisement for the business as they have been delivered by two very capable students who have gained a number of unique experiences since embarking on their projects during the summer. Siemens appreciate their drive, commitment and enthusiasm and will look forward support their development in the future when opportunities arise".

John Rogers (STEM Ambassador) – “This was my first involvement with the Nuffield Research Placements scheme within Siemens which gave me a great insight into how important such a scheme is for students seeking guidance and experience in their future careers choices. I feel proud to work for a company that supports the development of local talent in conjunction with the scheme and look forward to monitoring the progress of the guys in years to come, as I feel they will become great assets to any company”.

Quotes from School

Alaric Thompson – “The Nuffield Research Placements scheme has been invaluable for our students who have gained experience that they couldn't possibly have found otherwise. It has been a great boost to their CVs as well as helping them to decide on possible career paths. The team at Siemens have been fantastic and the school's long running relationship with this world class company has been of great benefit to staff as well as students. We hope to be able to work with Siemens on Nuffield Research Projects for many years to come”.

Outcomes

James Allison was awarded a bursary from the Barrow District of Engineers and both students have applied to a number of universities and are awaiting offers. Both students also await to hear the outcome of their application to compete at the Big Bang Science Fair National Finals scheduled to be held at the NEC, Birmingham in March 2015.