Reflection on My Internship

Where possible include picture of your internship illustrating the atmosphere of the internship or the specifics of your role?

My internship at East West Surveyors Pty Ltd. was an invaluable experience that enabled me to apply the theoretical knowledge gained through my Master of Professional Engineering (Civil Engineering) at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) to real engineering projects. As an Engineering Surveyor, I gained practical exposure to the Australian construction industry while developing both my technical and professional skills.

What were your expectations about your internship before you joined?

Before starting my internship, I expected to mainly observe experienced surveyors and assist with basic surveying activities. I thought my responsibilities would be limited to learning how to operate surveying equipment and understanding field procedures. I also anticipated that adapting to Australian surveying standards, workplace culture, and communication practices would be challenging, particularly because I had previously worked in different countries.

What was the reality? How was it different from your expectations?

In reality, my internship was much more engaging and rewarding than I had expected. From the beginning, I became an active member of the surveying team and participated in a variety of field activities. I assisted with construction set-out, topographic surveys, as-built surveys, and survey control establishment using modern surveying equipment such as Total Stations and GNSS systems. I learned how survey data collected in the field supports engineering design and construction activities and how accuracy is critical to project success. I also observed the importance of effective communication and collaboration among surveyors, engineers, contractors, and project managers. The supportive work environment encouraged me to ask questions, learn from experienced professionals, and continuously improve my performance.

What lessons were the most important from your internship. Why were they important?

The most important lesson I learned during my internship was that technical knowledge alone is not sufficient to become a successful engineer. Accuracy, attention to detail, teamwork, communication, and professionalism are equally important. Even small measurement errors can result in significant construction problems, making quality assurance and careful verification essential responsibilities of an engineering surveyor. I also developed a greater appreciation for workplace safety and the importance of following Australian Work Health and Safety (WHS) requirements during field operations.

After your workplace experience, what would you say your value proposition would be to an employer? How can you demonstrate this?

This internship has strengthened my confidence and enhanced my ability to work effectively in multidisciplinary engineering teams. My value proposition to future employers is that I combine more than 11 years of international civil engineering experience with current Australian industry exposure and postgraduate education. I am adaptable, committed to continuous learning, and capable of working in both field and office environments. I can demonstrate this through my practical surveying experience, technical knowledge, strong work ethic, and willingness to take responsibility while maintaining high standards of quality and safety.

How did your internship influence the type of role in which you are interested?

Overall, my internship has significantly influenced my career goals. It confirmed my interest in pursuing a career in engineering surveying and civil infrastructure within Australia. I particularly enjoy the combination of fieldwork, technology, problem-solving, and collaboration that surveying offers. The experience has motivated me to continue developing my technical skills, gain professional registration, and contribute to infrastructure projects that improve communities. This internship has provided a strong foundation for my future career as a professional Civil Engineer and Engineering Surveyor in Australia.