

Science is more than Research

-An internship story of a BIOT student working in an award-winning Bio-Tech start-up

Tell us about your internship!

Sanomics is a Hong Kong-based cancer screening start-up in HKSTP. As a Business Development Assistant, I supported the team on conducting market research and analysis on competitors. I was also a “creator” – from designing various marketing materials to brainstorming and pitching ideas for new business opportunities.

How was your first day of internship?

There were only 5 people including myself in the office when I first came to work. Despite of the heavy workload, I could feel the vibe of this energetic and flexible working environment. We were encouraged to try and not be afraid of failure. Today we have already scaled up to small enterprise with more than 40 amazing coworkers and divisions in Thailand and Vietnam.

An “Aha” moment during the internship!

My boss once told me: “If you think you can do it, you can”. I was impressed by the trust and freedom given by him. Last July, I went to Bangkok to assist in the setup of Thailand office. I had to negotiate with different parties such as the lawyers, consultants and land lord, and study the local biotechnology regulations in order to meet the industrial standards. I learnt how to plan well and get along with different stakeholders.

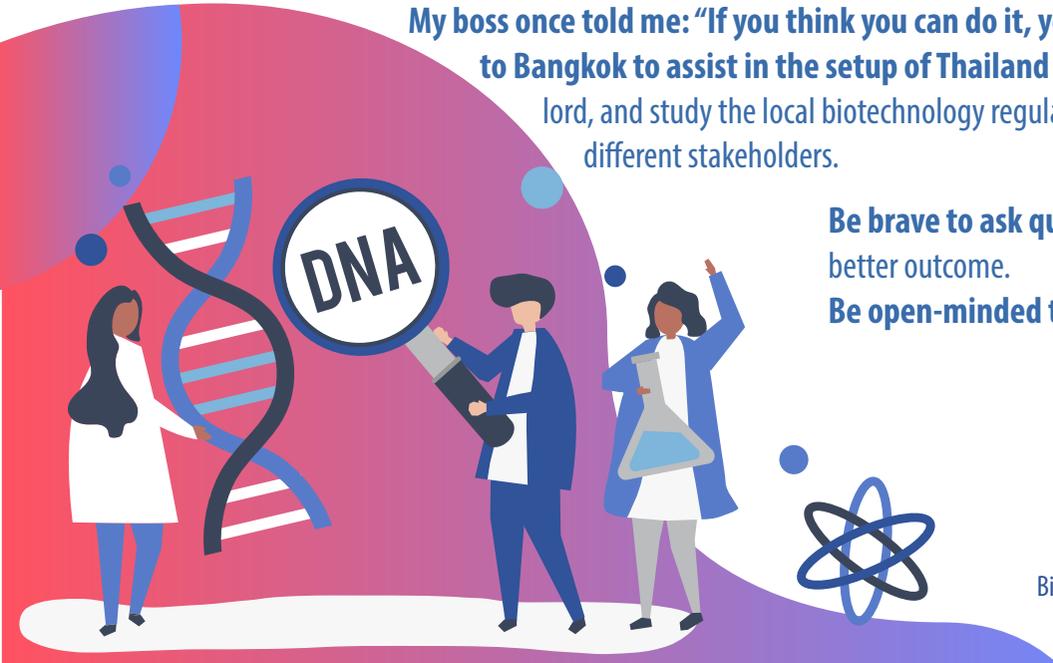
Your internship survival advice

Be brave to ask questions! You can set a better expectation with your supervisor, which always brings you a better outcome.

Be open-minded to try the things you don't like. You can learn more than you have ever expected!

Bianca Wong, BIOT, Year 3
Sanomics
Business Development Assistant

Bianca had a great time with other interns and staff at Sanomics.



From Science Lover to Policy Maker!

-An internship story of a BIOT student stepping into public administration sector

Tell us about your internship!

I interned at the **Transport and Housing Bureau**, reporting to my mentor, an Administrative Officer (AO) under the Transport Branch, to assist in the formulation of policies and coordination of programs. My main duties include **drafting replies for complaints and suggestions from the public and legislative councilors, conducting research on Road Construction Work Safety Legislation** in other countries and **preparing documents for Legislative Council Meetings**.

How was your first day of internship?

I met a few **ASSIP interns and exchanged contact numbers**. Although we were assigned to different departments or bureaus, we managed to get along well with one another to share our insights and experiences. **These buddies became my best friends who supported me to overcome challenges and adapt to the new environment.**

An "Aha" moment during the internship!

As AO summer interns, we had the opportunity to **visit various government bodies** such as ICAC office, **exchange ideas with different stakeholders** like diplomats and legislative councilors and **witness the live Government press conference**. Such experience sheds light on how different parties strive to make Hong Kong a better place.

Your internship survival advice

BE PROACTIVE! Often my mentor was quite busy and forgot to assign tasks for me. **I would take the initiative to offer my assistance as every single task could be a great learning experience for newbie.** The same goes for networking events and outings. There were 50 students but only a few officials for each event. **You got to be confident to reach out and mingle with them so as to get the most of it!**

Brisson Lam, BIOT, Year 3
AO Summer Internship

Brisson visited the Kwai Tsing District Office and talked to government officials with other AO summer interns.



Knowledge Goes Beyond Border!

-An overseas research internship story of a PHYS student at Bristol

Tell us about your internship!

I was responsible to **build a neural network quantum state on the computer with a group of talented PhD students to simulate the many-body system in the quantum world.** This topic matches perfectly with my research interest which **prepares me for pursuing further studies in the future.**

How was your first day of internship?

The first week at Bristol was really tough as I was exposed to a brand-new living environment – **cultural shock taught me not to take things for granted!** For instance, you couldn't find any canteen or even kiosk on campus that I had to prepare my own meals. **I could only chat with my friends and family members in the early morning due to the time difference.** Homesickness was hard to fight!

An "Aha" moment during the internship!

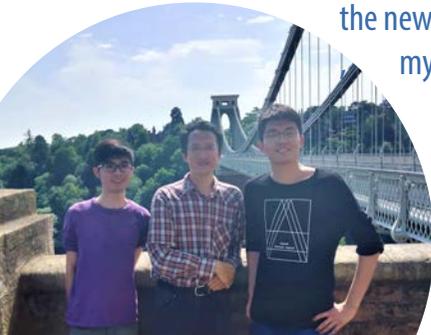
The working pace really surprised me. **The working hour and pattern here were so much different from that of Hong Kong.** PhD students might come to the laboratory only 1 to 3 times per week. But don't get me wrong! **They are still very professional, passionate and productive.**

Your internship survival advice

Forming a good social network is definitely a must-do item on your checklist. Your co-workers are usually more than happy to walk you through the ups and downs. Michael was one of the PhD students here who helped me to adapt to the new environment and kick start the research project. From social norms to academic theories my project might be "Mission Impossible" without his genuine help!

**Chris Chan, PHYS, Year 3
University of Bristol
Summer Research Internship**

Chris (L) and Yujie (R), another MATH student joining the same program, visited the Clifton Suspension Bridge at Bristol with Yujie's project supervisor.



Finding your fit in Hong Kong!

-An internship story of a non-local student stepping into local financial sector

Tell us about your internship!

I was fortunate enough to receive a **one-year placement offer from the Fintech Career Accelerator Scheme** organized by the **Hong Kong Monetary Authority**. Assigned to the HSBC Data Center at Tseung Kwan O, a hub which handles IT-related services for the bank, I got a chance to practice my SQL and Excel VBA skills by writing programs to speed up the process of generating monthly reports. I also attended the internal trainings and managed the databases of several accounts (e.g. Fax, Calling Lines and Device Info).

How was your first day of internship?

My first day was kind of messy, but I managed to get myself familiar with the workplace by **reading the instructions written by previous interns and taking online courses provided by the bank**. Everyone at HSBC was friendly enough to show me around and invite me for lunch, which definitely made my day easier.

An "Aha" moment during the internship!

My manager advised me that **I should speak out if the tasks assigned didn't fit me well**. It was so much different to the working culture in the mainland China, which surprised me a lot! **Showing respect to your teammates doesn't mean that you have to hold yourself back. Get your ideas heard and let the best one win!**

Your internship survival advice

Always keep your teammates posted on your work progress and ideas. For example, I wrote a weekly email to update my manager on my current tasks during the first month to prove that I was always ready to take up any new challenges.

Learn and Re-Learn; From people around you and by yourself. Always reflect on your own weaknesses and find ways to improve so!

Chen Minghui, MATH-SF, Year 3
HSBC Operations,
Services and Technology, Industrial Trainee

Minghui was having lunch gathering with other HSBC Interns

