

Application for Work Experience at RAL

*Required

In which areas are you most interested?

Rank in order of preference. (Please select at least two – mark as 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice)

Computing	Third Choice
Engineering	First Choice
Science – theoretical	Second Choice
Science - practical	

I have a specific interest in.....*

I am fascinated by space science, regarding its exploration and study, especially projects like the Mars probe, and the landing on the Rosetta comet. This is due to sheer brilliance of the constructive engineering involved, and the also the analysis work involved, solving and answering big questions about our universe. I also find the search for sub atomic particles particularly interesting, and extremely exciting, after an inspirational lecture about the Hadron super collider at UCL.

and I would particularly like to do.....*

I would prefer to be placed in space science, astronomy or particle physics, due to my love of physics as a subject.

Why do you want to do work experience at RAL, and what do you hope to gain from your placement? * Please write at least 50 words.

The facilities and technology available at the laboratories of the STFC, particularly at RAL are incredible, and seem to match my interests and passions perfectly; for example the central laser facility and the RAL space program to name just two. Being able to work in this kind of environment alongside the engineers and scientists at the laboratory, would undoubtedly be a dream come true, to put it bluntly. But mainly from my work experience, I hope to gain a slightly more whittled down idea of what I would like to spend my life doing. Currently, I have numerous interests, finding many different areas of engineering and science fascinating, and I would use this opportunity to identify areas I'm not so interested in, but far more importantly, to search for something I am. I cannot think of a better way to do this than seeing, and working alongside, professionals in their day to day jobs.

I have my heart set on completing an engineering degree, however am unsure as to which field I would like to specialise in. Without real world experience, I feel I cannot make a well balanced decision, and will not presume to have interest in a topic I have only read about. It is this reason I believe finding a work experience placement with the STFC would be immeasurably helpful, giving to the hands on information I crave. The one factor regarding my career, which I will not budge on, is that it must help people. In my opinion, there is nothing more worthwhile than this, and think entering the engineering field, is a very good way to do so.

Do you have any computer knowledge or skills that might be of use? Which software packages are you familiar with? Do you have you any programming experience?*

Due to my resistant materials GCSE, I am proficient in the use of modelling and design programs, such as 2D design, Adobe photoshop, and windows packages, including excel. I have never had the opportunity to learn programming before, however I am a fast and motivated learner, and am confident if given instruction, I will be able to perform the tasks required of me.

What are your interests (both in and out of school)?*

Within school, I am keenly interested in physics and maths, and am part of my sixth forms maths team, which qualified for the regional finals of a nation maths competition. Furthermore, I elected to create a product for my EPQ (extended project qualification), so am researching and building my own rocket, due to my interest in space sciences. Naturally, with the resources available, I am not expecting to create anything that can reach escape velocity, but am determined to reach as higher height as possible within my working parameters. Aside from my academic interests, within school I am a member of the Arts and Culture committee, as I adore art, and use it to balance my scientific and mathematical lessons. Furthermore, in order to keep up my English skills, I assist the teaching of year sevens in the lower school, helping them with their writing and comprehension skills. Outside of school I am a keen fencer, and have been doing the sport for four years now. Previous to my A levels, I entered many competitions, and was the under 18s surrey fencing champion, and county novice champion, qualifying in 2013 in the London region, for the young British fencing championships. I find this a brilliant way to unwind, and has taught me many lessons in perseverance when faced with failure, and a quick problem solving ability. As previously mentioned, I am exceedingly enthusiastic about art, and spend much of my spare time painting and sketching, using both traditional and digital methods. I value originality and imagination as essentially important skills, in any career, and art allows me to engage with the creative side of my brain in a way science and maths cannot.