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Press note

Dartmouth High School and Bishop Connolly students completed summer internship at the Institute of Advanced Sciences

Dartmouth High School Student, Mr. Fardeen Rashid, and Bishop Connolly High School student, Mr. Zachary Young, spent several weeks of their summer time at the Institute of Advanced Sciences in Dartmouth learning real world science and technology.

These students learned to work with antibodies which they purified from blood serum, and also produced recombinant proteins from bacterial cultures, getting exposure to biotechnology. Both the students also worked on computer modelling of drug molecules against infectious diseases.

The experience was useful and exciting to the students. "It had been an honor working as an intern at the Institute, under some great supervision from Dr Raj and Paul. We learned a vast amount of information that we have never learned at our schools," said Fardeen Rashid about his experience of the summer internship.

"These are very promising students who can excel in science if provided opportunity", said Dr. Raj Kumar, an Assistant Professor at the Institute, who supervised these students for the internship, along with Paul Lindo, Director of Operations.

Students were able to conduct experiments with chromatography, electrophoresis, protein estimation, and immunochemistry. They also learned how to design drugs computationally. Both the students worked as a team, learned how to plan and execute coordinated experimental plans.

Dr. Bal Ram Singh, President of the Institute, was very positive on student performance and the value of the experience.

"This is our second year of offering internship to Southcoast high school students. Their enthusiasm and performance have been impressive. I am sure these experiences will be helpful in their career,"

This was echoed by both the students. "My internship with the Institute of Advanced Sciences allowed me to gain experience in working in a lab setting and learn about something new...will help me as I pursue a career in Biomedical Engineering," said Zachary Young

"..this was an excellent opportunity for me to gain some experience on hand, which will be extremely beneficial for my future and my resume for colleges", said Rashid.

These students were also able to present their research findings at an annual international symposium organized by the Institute in August 2015.

While such internships are commonly available in Boston area, it is not generally possible for Southcoast area high school students to secure paid internship in sciences locally. The institute is trying to break that barrier, according to Professor Singh.

Candidates for the internship program are selected competitively, as the institute has only limited positionsevery year. It is expected to be offered again in 2016.



Fardeen Rashid (right), Zachary Young (middle) discuss their experiments with Professor Raj Kumar (left).