

Travel Report: Internship at Google.

Martin Thuresson martin@ce.chalmers.se

At the end of 2007, I spend 12 weeks as an intern at the platforms team in Google, Mountain View, CA, USA. I was happy to escape the cold weather in Sweden and in early September I set my foot for the first time in North America.

Why internship?

I was introduced to Google and their internship program by a colleague of mine and once I had applied I was soon contacted by a recruiter. After a series of steps we found a location that suited my background and interests. There were several factors that made me apply for an internship. It is a great way to increase my professional network and find out how working in the United States in general, but also at a company with such ambitious goals.

Impressions and practical issues

Since it was my first visit to America, I did not know what to expect. California is very multicultural, and I found people to be very friendly and helpful. I lived in Mountain View, but I tried to visit the neighboring areas when I had the opportunity. Unfortunately not everything is accessible with public transport and since I do not have a drivers license, I had a somewhat smaller selection of things to see and do. The weather around San Francisco is very pleasant, even during the winter months. Most of the times I did not even need a jacket, though nighttime was often cold, sometimes even below zero degrees. Since many houses in California were not built for cold weather, I had to wear lots of clothes to stay warm at night.

Google have lots of experience with hosting interns. We were treated very well and I felt that I could really contribute. It was also nice to spend time with other interns who were in the same situation like me. This way we could help each other with practical issues or social events. I also had the opportunity to present my research and get feedback from an industrial perspective.

Martin Thuresson, martin@ce.chalmers.se