

Richard Jones

PhD Environmental Sciences

Operational Weather Forecaster Support Intern at Weatherquest



“We were able to offer Rich an employment opportunity upon completion of his PhD. This is a great result for both parties involved - all of the training we were able to give Rich can be put to work straight away when he is able to begin his role.” – Chris



Richard shadowing a BBC forecasting shift

“Overall the internship was a very enjoyable experience of what it is like to work in an operational weather forecasting company, something which I hope to pursue as a career, therefore I hope this will help to make my CV stand out from the crowd.” - Richard

Richard Jones, Intern at *Weatherquest*

I chose to undertake an internship at Weatherquest to learn about operational meteorology and forecasting. I learnt about the variety of weather models used to produce the forecasts which are sent to customers every morning; how to interpret the model data and convey uncertainty in the forecast to the client. I had the opportunity to write newspaper forecasts for the Times group and the Eastern Daily Press. It is a tricky to concisely convey the weather forecast for the next few days in just a few sentences! I also had the opportunity to shadow a BBC forecasting shift at the Forum in Norwich. I sat in the studio and observed as Chris Bell delivered forecasts for BBC local radio and television. This was a fantastic experience and I have a lot of respect for the TV forecasters and how they ad-lib up to 3 minutes of weather forecast every day without a pause or a fumbled word.

Along with developing my weather forecasting skills I also had the opportunity to develop a web page for Weatherquest, verifying their forecasts of wave height which are sent to offshore wind farms each day. Having never designed a webpage before I quickly developed skills in web design using PHP and Javascript which I hope will be invaluable when it comes to applying for jobs in the near future.

Chris Bell, Weatherquest

Weatherquest decided to take on Richard Jones, a UEA PhD student because of our need for support work for our operational weather forecasters and the unique opportunity to have Rich carry out a special project for us along with his support role.

Rich was able to create a verification scheme looking at wave forecasts from a computer model compared to observations from a wave buoy in the southern North Sea. This would also serve as a template to verify other observations as well.

Rich was a pleasure to work with. He was engaging with all members of the staff and really wanted to be involved with all of the work going on within the company. Often offering his ideas on how we could solve specific problems. Rich was able to contribute both on the operational forecast side of the work as well as aiding on the IT side of things as well.

I feel Rich was able to gain a unique insight into the workings of an operational, commercial weather forecasting company.



“Rich was a pleasure to work with. He was engaging with all members of the staff and really wanted to be involved with all of the work going on within the company.”

- Chris



CAREERCENTRAL The Street, University of East Anglia, Norwich Research Park, NR4 7TJ

w www.uea.ac.uk/Careers

e internship@uea.ac.uk

f [UEACareerCentral](#)

t 01603 593917

@ [UEACareers](#)