

“My Better Futures internship has given me invaluable experience for my future career.”

Medad Newman

Intern with [Pelation Ltd.](#)

Design engineering student Medad wanted an internship that would push him out of his comfort zone and help him develop new skills. Once he'd joined the team at Pelation Ltd., Medad was thrown into working on the latest iteration of their ground-breaking technology. Here he tells us how exciting and rewarding the placement was and how it's shaped his future career plans.

Hi Medad, how did you discover the Better Futures Internship Programme?

I came across the Better Futures Internship Programme in April 2020, right at the start of the coronavirus pandemic. I describe it as a miracle that I was able to get a job at Pelation because it was a difficult time, and this role was particularly suited to me. I had to work remotely, so I didn't even meet the people I was working with in person for an interview. I had to adapt quickly.

Can you tell us about the work that Pelation do?

Pelation design products to maximise safety for cyclists and increase awareness of drivers. When I joined them, they were working on the latest iteration of their bike camera device, Rebo. It's a smart bike light and dashcam that helps to reduce near misses and record incidents, and the target market is delivery cyclists. It was a great project to join them on.

What sort of work did you do at Pelation?

My main responsibility was to develop the Rebo camera device and make it work live. We had to build the software, the hardware and do the electronics. It was a genuine team effort, and I did everything under the sun as part of it! We released our first prototype in August 2020. It was quite radical because we were all developing the product from home and had to find a way to make that - and the camera - work.

What were the highlights of your time with them?

The day before the product launch and release was a massive highlight for me. It was the consolidation of months of hard work, and it was massively exciting, not least because not everything worked well at the time. I learned a lot during that nerve-wracking time, and it was great when we achieved our goal.

What advice would you have for people looking to join the Better Futures Internship Programme in the future?

What's great about Better Futures is that the companies are all small to medium businesses, which means the intern often has a lot of responsibility and a good variety of work. For me, it wasn't just doing engineering tasks but also building hardware, meeting customers and

much more. You need to add value to the company, and the Better Futures companies tend to offer quite varied roles that require you to take the initiative. That's an excellent experience for people at this stage in their career development. If you are lucky enough to get an internship, be ready to present ideas, offer solutions and be proactive. The company you work for will really value that.

What did you take away from the experience?

I have become a much better engineer. I was inspired by Pelation's founders, particularly Crispian Poon, from whom I learned a lot. I'd say that Crispian was exceptionally important to my development as an engineer, and I'm very grateful to him. I also learned how to work with a team on a commercial project, which is something I'd never done before.

The businesses that are part of the Better Futures Internship Programme are all working to provide sustainable solutions for the world. Was that important to you?

I don't like waste, and I don't like to pollute the world, so it was great to work with a company doing their bit to keep the environment clean. By developing these bike-related products, Pelation is encouraging more people to swap their car for a bicycle, which will help drive down pollution.

How has the Better Futures internship impacted your career plans?

The internship has been invaluable for my future career. Having worked with Pelation, I now know this is what I want to do. I'd like to work in a similar field as a design engineer, and I see this as a great stepping stone.