My summer internship took place in the European Headquarters of Google in Dublin where I was part of a 20 people large group of interns from all around Europe (and Lebanon) working through nearly three months of Irish summer. Besides the weather, everything was fantastic.

Google is not your usual workplace and this is true if you are an intern as well. Each one of us had our own projects, working on something new and exciting to help the company and thus the people using its services. This could range from organising a large event to writing code and anything in between.

My project was to create an online form for one of the internal departments which made organising questions and tasks easier. I had to liaise with members of the team from a wide variety of locations. The majority of developers in this team were based in Mountain View, California, USA, while there are smaller groups all around Europe. This led to weekly (or sometimes more frequent) video conferences which worked as regular team meetings. It was great to experience working in such a group as it teaches how to focus on the important matters and work on your own initiative when possible.

From a technical standpoint the project was well suited to me as I have mostly learned programming on my own. It was based on Python on the server side and on HTML and JavaScript code on the client side. I had to learn some of these techniques during my three months but it was well worth it.

The most important aspects which I have realised was to be open to new solutions (unsurprisingly the best ideas don’t always come from the same person so you have to listen to all feedback) and be ready to learn new things even when you are in the middle of a project.

We had all we needed from the company to help us work and then some more. Free food for breakfast and lunch? Check. Table tennis, pool and fussball tables for those short breaks when our concentration seemed to fail for a moment? Check. TGIF (Thank Google It’s Friday) to help towards a great start of each weekend? Check. Great colleagues who are helpful, fun and smart? Check.

Of course when we were working we had to work hard. Having such freedom requires that people can manage themselves and always achieve to their fullest. And working for Google you can be sure to find people like this all around the offices. The environment is great not only because of the efforts of the company but also because the employees try to make it a place where others like to work. I was fortunate enough to take part in the company’s art wall competition which helped to make the floors of the building even more lively.

When we weren’t working we had a great time all around the city and country. There are clubs and parks and when you get bored of the city air you can take a weekend trip to the countryside. Ireland is well known for its beautiful shore line and the tranquil towns and villages all around the island. Weekend trips to some picturesque locations are all that you can wish for after a week in the city busy with work.

If you want to read more about opportunities and experiences you can visit some sites dedicated to students at: facebook.com/GoogleStudents and twitter.com/googlestudents