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2019

SECOND PLACE



Jerry Jiang

An AMAZing~ Experience in Tokyo

"Wherever you go, go with all
your heart." -Confucius

When I was a small boy, I always wanted to see the world described vividly in my books. Unfortunately, not every family has the economic position to be taking such trips and mine was one of them. I didn't want to burden my single mom with the costs. However, by some strange turn of events, I found myself with an experience that I honestly could not have imagined in my wildest dreams and I will carry it with me for the rest of my life.

My name is Jerry Jiang. I'm a 4th year computer science major in BCOE and last summer I interned at Amazon Japan in its Tokyo office. I was hired as a software development intern and was placed on the Amazon Points team, a Japan-exclusive rewards program on amazon.co.jp. I was on an absolutely wonderful team that made me feel welcome living in a country I've never even visited before.

During my 12 weeks, I had to design a solution starting from a customer problem, negotiate business requirements with

stakeholders and create a service that would have to serve the millions of Japanese customers in one of Amazon's largest global marketplaces. I received mentorship from talented engineers on my team who had years of industry experience. I learned a lot about what it means to make software at the scale of a company like Amazon and how to embrace Amazon's idea of working backwards by starting with the customer.

Amazon paid for my flight, housing and gave me my first paychecks during my time there. This let me really experience Japan despite being a poor student. I got to meet a lot of interesting people, went to a lot of different places and really took in the local culture after work. It was really eye opening to leave the United States and meet so many different people with different cultures and ideas.

This experience meant the world to me. I've not only become a better engineer, but also a better person overall from this unique experience. It was also a much-needed experience for my resume in a competitive job market for software engineers, and a major reason why I was able to get my current position at Google.

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