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# Summer Internship Experiences

Sridhar Rajagopal

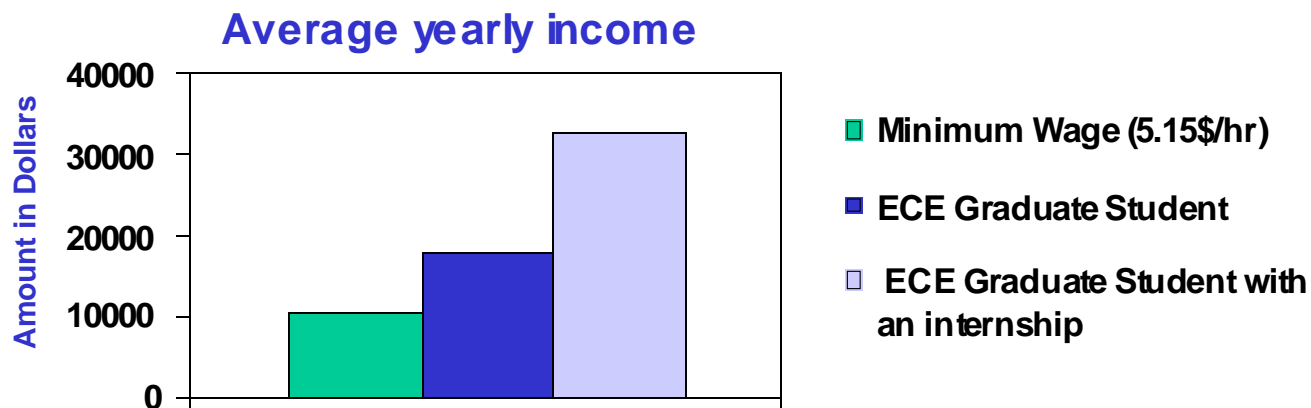
Rice University

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering



# Why do interns need companies?

- Prospective employers
- Industry-academia dilemma
- Insight into practical problems
- New ideas for research
- Financial benefits



# Why do companies need interns?

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- Good source for potential employees
  - ⇒ Evaluate before hire
- Help on projects with deadlines
- Disseminate knowledge about the company
  - ⇒ "This is a great place to work!"
- Temporary employees when the economy is down
  - ⇒ No commitments

# Graduate student work style

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- Up to you, what you want to do, how much you want to work
- Work when you feel like, relax when you feel like
- Long vacations
  - ⇒ and get paid more than min. wage!!
- Free to learn, explore and understand
- **Concerns:**
  - ⇒ Too relaxed - May never graduate
  - ⇒ Work may have no practical use

# Industry intern work style

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- Work on a specific practical project
  - ⇒ which your supervisor decides
- Fixed work hours (somewhat flexible)
- Focused research
- Lot of expertise and help available
- Concerns:
  - ⇒ Work may not contribute to thesis
    - not-related, unable to publish
  - ⇒ May delay graduation

# What I learnt (Non-technical)

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## ➤ Importance of Patents!

⇒ IBM : Billion dollars/year via patents

⇒ Companies refrain from using certain technology due to patents from other companies

⇒ If they have to use the technology: counter-patents

## ➤ High levels of secrecy/security

⇒ to survive in this competitive world

## ➤ Importance of making industrial contacts

⇒ For jobs - if work in industry after a Ph.D.

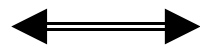
⇒ For funding - if work in academia after a Ph.D.

# Conclusions

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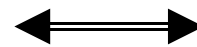
- Every graduate student should at least go once for an internship
- Internship : in the area of your research
- Strive to get patents/publications
- An exciting, productive, rewarding summer with a great impact on your future!

UNIVERSITY



Interns

CONNECTING PEOPLE



INDUSTRY

