Mauritz's Story

LEVEL 9 **45 WEEKS** **MASTER OF SOFTWARE ENGINEERING**

Yoobee College Student Success Story

1. Can you introduce yourself?

Alright, my name is Mauritz Koekemoer, and I'm originally from Cape Town, South Africa. I came to New Zealand as an international student to pursue my Master of Software Engineering at Yoobee Colleges. I started in March last year, and now I'm finishing up my final semester, including my internship. It's been quite a journey!

2. What was your capstone project about?

My capstone project involved data analysis for a software development company in Auckland. It was focused on taking historical data, visualising it, and then using that data to create machine learning models so the company could make better predictions. I didn't actually choose the project myself—it was assigned by my industry supervisors. But it turned out to be a great learning experience.

3. How did you find your internship?

I found it by myself! I sent out a few CVs to different companies, and at first, I didn't hear back. But eventually, I got a response, went for a short interview, and they explained what they'd like me to do. I introduced the idea to my Yoobee supervisors, and we structured my capstone project around it as well.

If you're looking for an internship, my advice is—don't be discouraged if you don't hear back straight away. I sent about five applications before I got a positive response. Just keep at it!

Student Profile

NAME
Mauritz Koekemoer

NATIONALITY
South Africa

COURSE
Master of Software Engineering (Level 9)

INTAKE
March 2024

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"I am finishing up my final semester, including my internship. It's been quite a journey!"

Industry-based capstone research project

TRIMESTER 1 → **TRIMESTER 2** → **TRIMESTER 3**

4. What was the biggest challenge during your internship?

When you start working at a new company, they introduce you to new technologies you might not be familiar with. It can be a bit overwhelming at first, but you've just got to do your own research and put in the effort to learn. Yoobee prepared me well—probably covered about three-quarters of what I needed to know. But of course, every company has its own proprietary technologies, so you need to take some time to get up to speed. It only takes a couple of weeks, and then you just go from there.

5. What was the most important thing you learned during your internship?

Definitely working in a team environment. I was part of a team of about 15 developers, and we had daily stand-up meetings where we shared what we were working on. It was great to be in that collaborative space where you're bouncing ideas off each other. If I ever got stuck, I could just message or call a teammate, and they were always happy to help. That teamwork aspect was really valuable.

6. How do you feel your technical skills have developed?

I've got a lot more skills now than when I started. Initially, I wasn't comfortable with some of the technologies used in my internship, but after a few months, I feel way more confident. For example, I primarily worked with Python and C++ before, but during my internship, I got hands-on experience with Node.js and React. Now, I can comfortably use those technologies in future roles.

7. How supportive were your tutors and supervisors at Yoobee?

They were extremely supportive. If I ever needed help, I could just reach out, and they'd guide me through the process. Whether it was coursework or figuring things out for my internship, they were always there to provide advice and direction.

8. What opportunities did you get through Yoobee outside of the classroom?

Yoobee actually invited me and two of my classmates to a research symposium to present a project we worked on. It was a pretty big deal—we got to present in front of industry leaders, including people from different universities, even from Australia. The project was related to Auckland Transport, and at the end of the day, we got a big congratulations. It's something I can put on my CV, which is awesome.

9. What are your next steps after graduation?

First, I need to apply for a post-study work visa. I'll also be updating my CV with everything I've done at Yoobee, including my capstone project and the research symposium. Then, it's about finding the right job.

10. What advice would you give to future students?

Don't be stressed or discouraged in the beginning! It might feel a bit overwhelming, but once you start making friends and getting to know your tutors, things become a lot easier.

"The key is to put in the time, effort, and energy—you'll definitely see results."

MAURITZ IS SHAPING HIS FUTURE.
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