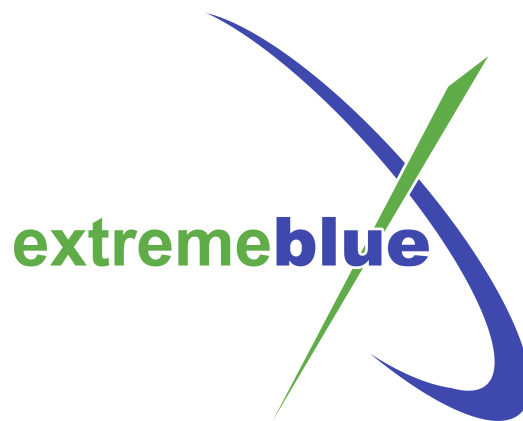Could you have the next big idea?
Could you change the world in 12 weeks?
Could you be one of the few?

Are you ready to build a smarter planet?

extremeblue

The Extreme Blue Scheme is IBM's 12 weeks premiere summer internship program for top business and technical students.

The scheme is founded on three key elements: world-class talent, technology and business innovation.

The team culture on Extreme Blue is all about: intensity, passion, innovation, fun and no boundaries.

What will you do?

Extreme Blue at IBM isn't your average summer placement. It's 12 weeks of intense creative thinking starting from May 2014.

Ever fancied running your own business? Well, working in a small team of students, you'll tackle a real business problem. Your task? Develop an idea to solve it – one that no one else has thought of – and then, turn that idea into a real product. When the 12 weeks are up, you'll showcase it to our executives, business partners and clients. Expectations will be high and the results will be scrutinized closely. So, it's not an easy ride – but we guarantee it'll be an incredible experience.

After all, where else could you do all this?

- Develop a technology and business plan to bring a new offering to life in just 12 weeks.
- Have something you developed potentially used by millions of people around the world (and even be front page news).
- Gain a wealth of experience, including dealing with clients, presenting your ideas and talking confidently in front of large groups
- Meeting and building relationships with influential people.
- Learn from and work with some of the most creative technical and business minds in the world.
- Have access to technology and thinking that's beyond cutting-edge.
- Pick up a huge range of skills and get unique, real world experience on your CV.
- Make great friends – and work with them in some really cool surroundings

What roles do we offer?

You'll work in a team with 3 other students - one business student and three technical students. In these teams your challenge will be to develop the technology and business plan that will bring a new product to life for IBM.

Business roles

You'll be the one managing the project, keeping the team on schedule and meeting targets and objectives. That'll involve dealing directly with clients, determining the features your solution will need and putting together a watertight business case. You'll also be responsible for creating the white paper for your project

Business roles are for:

People studying a business type degree.

Natural born leaders and expert planners.

Technology roles

You'll be part of the team that designs, architects, develops and tests an innovative new product for your client. You'll work with some true technological geniuses here, too – which will give you the chance to expand your own skills.

Technology roles are for:

People studying a technical/scientific/numerical degree, with an aptitude for programming.

True problem solvers – those who can analyze tricky issues and work in teams to solve them.

What kind of projects will you work on?

It really could be anything. Here is a great example:

Smart Cursor

Smart Cursor looked at finding alternative ways for users with limited movement or dexterity to control a computer. Traditional solutions such as the mouse are not suitable for some, and bespoke solutions for a particular condition are often expensive and specific: if a mouse can move the cursor and eyeball tracking can move the cursor, why not decouple the method from the task and create something that learns how you want to use your computer?

This was the task tackled by the Smart Cursor team - they collected data from a movement sensor that could be attached to any part of the body, and used SPSS to learn gestures. In this way, the user could teach the computer what they wanted to do when they performed a given gesture – furthermore, if their condition changed, they could stick with the same software and hardware, but re-teach it to respond to new gestures. The end goal of the project is a system that can work with input data from any type of sensor to recognize "gestures" (or "things that the user does to control the computer"), including light, temperature or noise sensors for example.

The project has a patent filed with the European patent office, and discussions are ongoing with two of the UK's largest companies; one is a large department store and the other is a shopping center landowner.

Your benefits

- A 3-months internship contract with IBM Italia
- The opportunity to spend 3 months in one If the larger SW Development Laboratory in Europe
- The potential to have a patent submission on your CV (pretty impressive).
- Oh, and how about an all expenses paid trip to showcase your ideas in Europe?

Support and training

Learn by exploring

Freedom – that's one of the things that makes Extreme Blue different from any other placement out there. We're not going to tell you what you need to do every day. Instead, we want you to explore ideas, be creative and push yourself and your team to come up with something mind-shatteringly brilliant.

Support from the brightest and best

You'll be working at our cutting-edge Software Development Lab in Rome – alongside some of the world's leading developers and innovators. They'll be there to offer guidance and support throughout the 12 weeks. To be more specific, you'll have:

- A mentor from IBM to set you your task and guide you through your placement.
- Access to a dedicated Senior Inventor to help shape your solution.

Look forward to a bright future

The benefits of Extreme Blue will last well into your future career. And, if you're looking to return to IBM as a graduate, although we can't guarantee a place, you'll have the best possible chance.

Let's get social

Over 500 students join IBM every year on the various different programs we offer, which means you'll have a ready-made social life. For instance:

- While Extreme Blue is a pretty intense 12 weeks, you'll still have time to socialize with other students and, most importantly, have fun!