Catherine Xiong

MSDI

Advisory Consultant Program – Risk Advisor

2020 Summer Intern

Ernst & Young

Highlights:

* Full time experience before joining Bentley
* Wasn’t particularly interested in Big 4 before talk with Bentley alumni at Big 4 event.
* Utilized her network for interview preparation

Prior Experience

My undergraduate degree is in Finance and Economics. I interned at a local credit union in Arizona as their finance/accounting intern. It was an amazing learning experience about the retail banking industry, and I learned that it's not a career I wanted to pursue. Then I interned at a startup company, an energy analytics software company, where I was employed as a full-time before coming to Bentley.

How did you know this internship opportunity?

During the big 4 BBQ event, I met a Bentley alumnus who is currently working at EY in the Technology Advisory Program (TAP) practice. He spoke about what he does at EY very passionately. He got me very interested in doing more research on EY and internship opportunities there. Then I started to attend most of the EY events on campus. At the time, I was debating between the Technology Advisory Program (TAP) and Risk Advisory Program (RAP) because both are very applicable to my degree.

How did you prepare the application and interview?

My network has helped me a lot during the whole process. I reached out to my family, boyfriend, and Bentley alumni who work at EY to review my resume and cover letter. I met with Audra twice to go over my elevator pitch and Superday. I also practiced on the Big Interview (https://biginterview.com/). I really had an amazing support system for this process.

Interview Process

Resume –> video interview –> 3 interviews at the Boston office. (2 behavioral and 1 case study)

Advice to Fellow Students

1. Network, network, and network. You never know what you learn from others' stories and experiences.

2. Try to enjoy this process as much as possible and remind yourself that whether there's an offer, it's a great networking and learning experience.

3. Practice different interview questions.

4. Know your strengths, it really helped me know myself better and shine brighter during interviews.

Summary:

From Catherine’s story, we can see that you never know what is going to be your dream job until you do some in-depth research. And the best way to learn about a job is to talk with people who are working in that company! Catherine’s success was achieved by learning about the opportunity, set a goal and utilize her resources.