

## Summer Internship 2006

To know and appreciate the practical situations of biochemistry-related laboratories in private sector, I joined an internship program during my second-year summer holiday. I worked in a biotechnology company called Hong Kong DNA Chips Limited for almost two months. During these two months, I learned many different things.



In the first month, I mainly worked in the office. I helped them to translate Chinese scientific papers or articles into English. It was a difficult and challenging job since I was not familiar with Chinese scientific terms and not good at translation either. Then, I also helped them to find specific primer sequences to detect some kinds of species. During that time, I needed to



read lots of Chinese and English scientific papers about different topics. The works were quite boring but it really enhanced my ability of reading scientific papers and finding specific DNA sequences.

In the last few weeks of the internship, I was allowed to go into the laboratory and held a project. The laboratory is compartmentalized into different areas which are specified for different usages, such as DNA extraction area, PCR setting area and gel documentation area. All reagents, equipments and samples are put in definite places. The laboratory is quite systematically designed, clean and tidy. Almost everything in the laboratory has a protocol or a schedule to follow. The protocol even specifies which kinds of pen are used to drop down experimental findings.



My project was to find a better DNA extraction method and increase the DNA yield from sauce samples. According to other laboratory technicians' experiences, it is difficult to extract DNA from sauce samples since sauces are always highly processed and most DNA molecules would be destroyed or degraded. In the project, I have learned many different laboratory techniques. Finally, I also found the way to increase the DNA yield.

All laboratory technicians are very nice and willing to teach me. We become friends at the end of the internship.