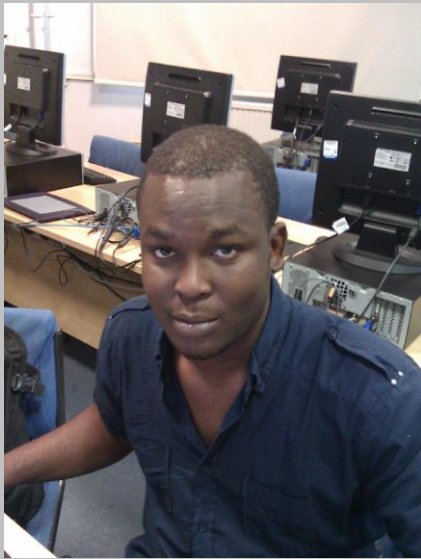


# CASE STUDY

KnowledgeEast Graduate Internship Scheme

Knowledge  
**East**



Jude Uchegbu  
MSc. Mechatronics Engineering

## About me

My name is Jude Uchegbu and I graduated in 2009 from London South Bank University with a MSc. in Mechatronics Engineering. I elected to study this degree as it built on my previous academic qualification (B.Eng. Mechanical Engineering) and focused on my passion and interest in robotics.

## My KnowledgeEst Internship experience

I carried out my internship with a company who specialise in electronic design. As a Researcher I was responsible for working on a bespoke electro-mechanical project where I was involved in the product concept, proof-of-concept design and suitability. This experience built on the skills and knowledge I gained in my degree and enabled me to see in practice how an engineering design project worked in the business world. The internship gave me useful experience working closely with team members and universities to achieve results. Throughout my internship the company was very helpful and supportive.

In addition my internship gave me an opportunity to build on my transferrable skills, including

improving my team working, developing my communication skills and the importance of working to project deadlines.

I found that the Employability training that was offered as part of the KnowledgeEast Graduate Internship Scheme was extremely valuable, particularly the focus on my CV and how to give examples and evidence my experience on my CV to help me secure more job interviews.

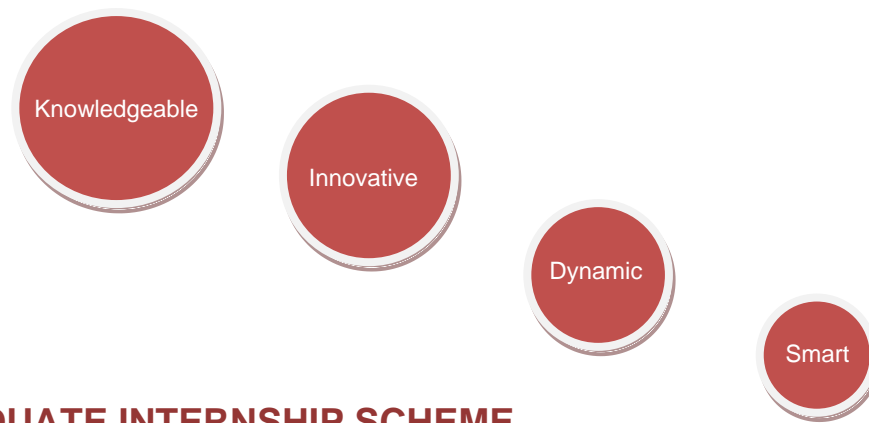
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## My future

The internship was largely a success as I have been made an offer as a Research Design and Development Engineer. In future I can use my work experience and my updated CV to apply for design engineering roles and my internship has given me a current reference from within my specialist field.

# Placing smart, dynamic graduates into forward thinking businesses...



## ABOUT KNOWLEDGEEAST GRADUATE INTERNSHIP SCHEME

In December 2009, a UEL-led collaborative bid on behalf of the KnowledgeEast HEI partnership was awarded funding to provide internship opportunities for unemployed graduates. Over the next 9 months, 500 paid internship opportunities will be created for recent graduates in local SMEs or larger businesses. This will be a valuable first step into the workplace for graduates who are entering the workplace in a challenging economic climate.

Recent graduates from the partner HEIs will be contacted about the project and invited to apply through a competitive process. The graduates showing most potential will be invited to attend a one day Preparation for Employment Event, followed by a one day Assessment Centre. The purpose of the two events is to ensure that the graduates are 'employer-ready' and that they are assigned to an internship where they have a high chance of success. The project will be very employer-focused to increase the possibility of the internship being converted into a full time post.

Through the KnowledgeEast partnership, the project will draw on the expertise of a range of colleagues in both the Careers/Employability and Enterprise teams of the partner HEIs. This project will complement and build on existing activity, including the work of the Knowledge East Enterprise Network (KEEN), our existing collaborative ECIF programme and the TGLP Internship Pilot delivered in 2008/9.

Femi Bola, UEL's Director of Employability said "The KnowledgeEast Graduate Internship Scheme presents a great opportunity for UEL to lead a scheme to help tackle one of the pressing issues of the moment, graduate unemployment, whilst continuing to build our understanding and expertise in the area of graduate level employability skills."