



Student name: **McKayla Lee**

Placement at: **Cranfield University**

Project summary: **Artificial Intelligence to Improve Construction Productivity**

I applied for a Research STEM placement because I wanted to get a taste of what work is like beyond the classroom and apply my knowledge to real projects. I've always been interested in problem-solving and wondered exactly how technology is integrated to solve challenges in real life, so this placement allowed me to explore this and contribute to research that could actually help the industry.

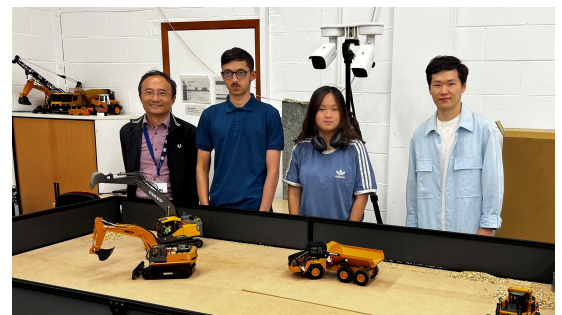
My supervisor was more of a guide rather than someone who walked us through each step. They explained what the project involved, how it helps the construction industry and showed us how to use the machines, then gave us independence to work on the classification algorithms ourselves. But they were always available when we got stuck or needed help.

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The project has definitely helped me confirm what I want to do. I still want to study Mechatronics, but now I understand how AI fits into engineering projects. The placement showed me how AI can be applied to real-world problems with machines, and that's the type of career I'd like – combining physical engineering with technology.

Personal outcome:

I learnt loads of new technical skills like machine learning algorithm development, data processing, and Digital Twin technology. I also improved my time management and independent working, and got better at solving problems with messy real-world data rather than the clean examples we're used to in A-levels.



I'm finishing A-levels this year and planning to apply for Mechatronics at university. After that, I want to work in industry doing something that combines physical engineering with programming, and the AI experience will be really useful since it's becoming so important in engineering.

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