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A. Co-op Work Assignment:
My work assignment was to investigate the technical viability of a transfer process for thin films. I obtained films transferred using the technique that we were investigating and then conducted a variety of measurements on these films to determine their quality.

During my work term, I conducted various electrical measurements on thin films, namely the Hall Effect technique, the Van Der Pauw technique, and the Pseudo-MOSFET technique. These methods help determine the electrical quality of the thin films, giving us an idea if the methods used can be used in creating thin films on which circuits can then be developed.

I also conducted various physical and optical measurements on the thin films to determine their crystallinity. These included X-Ray Diffraction (XRD) and Spectroscopic Ellipsometry (SE). I was also in charge of having dozens of samples annealed in industrial ovens.

For these tasks, I was trained by the engineers who specialized in conducting them. However, I was quickly made to be independent and used all of these machines on my own (except for the industrial oven) with a keen understanding of how they worked and what their results meant. The engineers who trained me gave me both hands-on training and theoretical background on the operation of the machines used. This was very useful as I felt that I was not only learning how to use equipment, but learning theory that I had not learned at Cornell.

I had an assigned mentor, Gweltaz Gaudin. We spoke on a regular basis (several times a week). However, I asked many people for help and guidance. Asking questions was never something I was scared to do during my work term.

B. Assessment of Learning and Development
The assignment that I worked on was directly in my field of interest that had developed at Cornell (namely in MSE 2620 with Professor Thompson). I felt that without this course, I would have been a bit lost. This experience and my coursework at Cornell are motivating factors in my desire to pursue work in the microelectronics industry.

I had a very different experience in terms of work culture than most of my peers. Work in a French company, even an engineering company, is much more laid back than work or school in the United States. I appreciated this relaxing atmosphere.

Having worked in France for nearly six months gives me the confidence to know that if I choose to work abroad in the future, I know that I will be able to adjust to the culture and people. It has also given me the confidence to travel on my own without knowing
precisely what to expect. My experience in Europe has made me think about continuing work in Asia, where the microelectronics industry is even larger.

If I were to go back to Soitec and repeat my experience, I would live in student housing instead of living in a conventional apartment building. This would give me more to do on weeknights and would have helped to expand my friend group.

C. Life Outside Co-op
   I would recommend university housing in Grenoble because living alone is not a lot of fun. Transportation is primarily provided by bus (the Express-1). There are many opportunities for social activities and nightlife in Grenoble, however, I spent most of my weekends traveling throughout the rest of Europe. Soitec offered opportunities for athletics, and many employees organized their own athletic events.

D. Evaluation
   The best features of this job included:
   - Relaxed working environment
   - Working on an important project and making meaningful contributions
   - Becoming independent with various equipments
   - Being in a beautiful area in the Alps
   - Easy transportation to all of Europe.

   The worst features of this job included:
   - Low pay
   - Living alone (my fault)