This past semester I co-oped at Workday, a company that provides Human Resource Management software to other companies. I worked in the Test Engineering Department, the purpose of which was to write automated tests for the software. My time was split half and half between writing the aforementioned tests and doing a separate project, the goal of which was similarly creating an automated process to hopefully remove day-to-day manual labor in a process at Workday. The project involved Java coding and the automated tests are written in a separate (but still object-oriented) language unique to Workday. The course work at Cornell that this co-op most related to was CS-2110, although I believe any major would enjoy the work.

We had an assigned mentor during our time at Workday. We would meet several times per week to review the status of the group project we were assigned and to resolve any other outstanding issues. We also had weekly meetings for the whole Test Engineering department, which I enjoyed because it is nice to know what other team members are doing and what projects they are working on.

Our mentor headed up a team of myself and the other co-ops called Generation Workday Beta, which was recently formed at Workday. It is for younger interns and recent college grads to determine where their interests lie and to explore different areas of the company. This team was beneficial and will continue to be because it enables you to find out about departments other than your own that may be of interest.

One of the most best features of Workday was the culture. There are an abundance of recent college grads at Workday that participate in weekly sports events and other fun outings. Everyone at Workday was friendly and intellectual and they were all incredibly fun people to hang out with. We had two company outings, one a picnic at a local winery, the other was a Urban Spy Adventure in San Francisco. Co-workers were also very eager to help you if you had questions at work. It was great being able to ask the people in the same pod as me for help when needed.

At my time at Workday, I lived at home because I am from Pleasanton. There are a lot of things to do in the Bay Area but it does help if you have a car. However, there are trains to San Francisco and Berkeley which are very convenient.

At the end of the semester, we presented the project we worked on to others, which was gratifying because I felt the work that we did was valuable. In addition, the co-op allowed us to practice professional skills such verbal communication and writing. The interesting work and great people made Workday a very enjoyable experience and I very much look forward to returning in the summer.
This summer I was part of the Generation Workday Beta Team, which is a subset of the Test Engineering group. My projects this summer did not deal with testing or quality assurance, which was touched upon in the first semester of my co-op. Instead, I worked on a project team to develop internal tools for other teams within the company. The goal for all the projects was to automate processes teams would normally have to perform manually. I learned a lot about good application design principles and object oriented programming. I also learned a new programming language (Ruby). Because this project was team-based, our team met every morning to discuss what we did yesterday, what we planned to do the next day, and any obstacles we encountered. These daily meetings were very helpful in order to gather thoughts about the project and stay on track with deadlines. We also had code reviews, which were very helpful to the process. We had an assigned mentor for the project. There are also full time Generation Workday Beta members who are available to answer any questions we might have.

My co-op related to the computer science side of the Operations Research major. In addition to coding, I was able to perform some mobile testing for Workday on the iPhone and iPad. I really enjoyed my co-op because of all the new technologies I learned about and the wealth of skills I gained working in a professional environment. There are also a lot of interns at Workday so it was nice to talk to them about their work to see what area I may potentially want to work in. Probably the best part of Workday is the culture. People here are extremely nice and willing to help. This co-op was a highly positive experience due to the interesting projects we were assigned and the people we worked with in order to complete them.

In terms of housing, most people live in the Stoneridge mall apartments which are right next to Workday. The Stoneridge Bart station is also walk-able from work, so it is easy to commute to Berkeley or San Francisco. The wealth of interns and the beautiful bay area lend to ample social opportunities. Workday also had sports nights every week, which was extremely fun to participate in.

I honestly do not have any negative experiences from my co-op term. If I were to go through the same experience again though, I would have talked to more people throughout my internship here, learning what they do and what projects they are involved in. I know that I personally was unsure what direction to take with my major, so I believe it is invaluable to leverage your social network to find out what areas may interest you for the future. I had a great experience here and am very happy to have gained the work experience that I did.