

A Quest to the Best

The career quest last week was an informative and impressive experience to me. As GW is located in DC, as I know by far, there is not very strong connection to tech companies, nor a large Engineer base among alumni. Since FLAG are my dream companies (Facebook, LinkedIn, Amazon, Google), I was excited when I heard the site-visit and networking program in Seattle. So, I signed up.

I enjoyed visits to companies including Starbucks, Microsoft, Amazon and Facebook. They are places that truly care about their people, by building fabulous workspaces and providing great perks. Facebook invests in employees in every aspect. Employees in various divisions can take free training courses if they are going to change the position to work on what they're really interested in. For example, a software engineer can learn to be a manager, but can also return to engineering if management is not a perfect fit. I was also able to talk with alumni and build connections in LinkedIn. I learnt from the data SME in Amazon about skill set of a qualified data analyst. I felt incredibly lucky of the advice from professional.

As an international student, this is a trip to explore both companies and the city. Seattle is a beautiful and prosperous harbor with new blood coming in. People surf, ski and keep fit. Most employees we met in this trip mentioned great work-life-balance they have. The culture is also free and inclusive. There are creative gift stores owned by local artists as well as one of the oldest public farmers' markets in the US. I didn't know this amazing city well before I visited it in person.

Overall, I gained valuable information in this career quest. I'm motivated to follow clearer guidelines to achieve my career goal. I also got to know the culture of a city. If I was admitted to a position in Seattle, I would be happy to move.



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