

My Journey from Mechanical Engineering Passion to a Dream Internship

By Simarpreet Singh

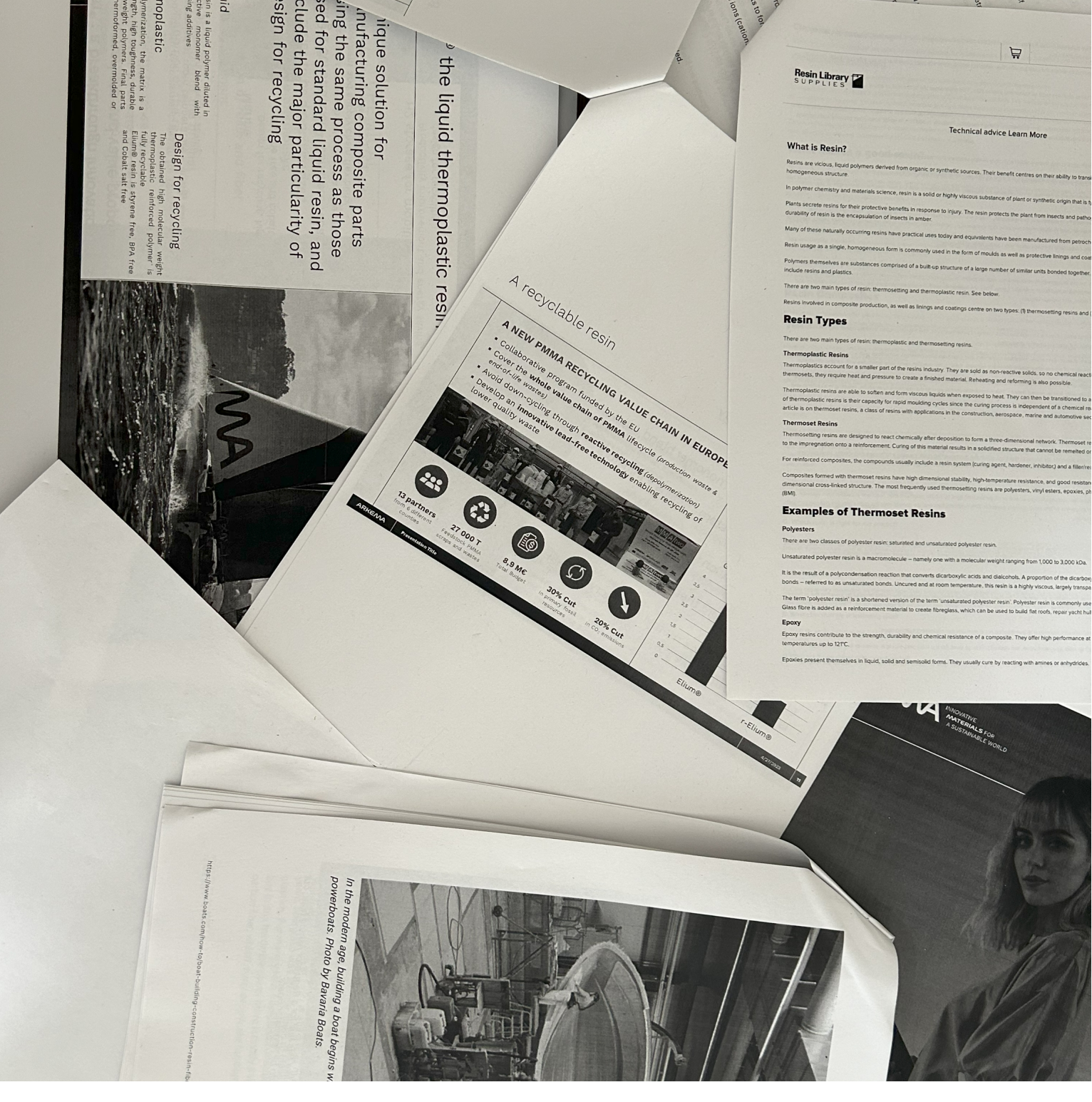
Simarpreet Singh is a mechanical engineering enthusiast and a student at St. Clair College. With a background in his family's textile machinery business, Simarpreet is passionate about applying his knowledge and skills in real-world settings. He is currently exploring new opportunities and challenges in the field of mechanical engineering.



Forklift which I made

Growing up in a family deeply rooted in mechanical engineering, I was immersed in the world of textile machinery from a young age. My family's business revolved around designing and producing these intricate machines, and I spent countless hours working alongside my father, nurturing my love for mechanical engineering. This early exposure laid a solid foundation for my passion, and it was no surprise that I found myself gravitating toward mechanical books and solving thermodynamics problems in my spare time.

Pursuing Mechanical Engineering at St. Clair College



My journey in Canada began with my enrollment in the electromechanical engineering technician program at St. Clair College. Initially, I was in a two-year program, but my fascination with robotics and the electrical components we were learning in college spurred me to extend my studies to a three-year program. This decision also opened up the opportunity for a co-op, which was essential for bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical experience.

For me, it was about doing what I loved and honing my skills.

As I approached the end of my fourth semester, I started applying for internships, keen to find a position that aligned with my passion for mechanical engineering. I wasn't just looking for any job; I wanted to work in my field, even if it meant lower pay. For me, it was about doing what I loved and honing my skills.

Finding the Perfect Opportunity

I began my job search by visiting the Career Centre at St. Clair College, where I discovered several intriguing opportunities. One position that stood out was an internship through the Research and Innovation department, which involved traveling to Montreal. The prospect of working in a different province and immersing myself in a new environment was exciting. I applied, albeit with little expectation, given the competitive job market.

To my delight, I received an email from Mr. John Lopez (Program Manager at SCC R&I), inviting me for an interview. This unexpected opportunity filled me with excitement. I promptly responded, eager to make time for the interview. The process moved swiftly, and soon I found myself in an online meeting with John Lopez, Johanne Senacal (Administrative Manager), and Yvev Mathieu (Project Manager).



Montreal Exhibition

The Interview Experience

During the interview, they asked me about my knowledge of tensile forces, mechanical design, and my experience with CNC machines. I felt confident, especially with my hands-on experience in operating manual machines and understanding the basics of CNC coding. However, I knew that every machine was different, and this position involved working with a five-axis Mazak CNC, which I had never programmed before.

Despite the challenges, the interview went well. John mentioned they were considering another candidate for the CNC position, but fortunately, I was selected. The confirmation process took about two weeks, and I was officially hired. This moment was one of the best of my life, a testament to my hard work and perseverance.

The Montreal Experience

Relocating to Montreal was a significant step in my journey. It was an opportunity to grow, both professionally and personally. Montreal's unique cultural and linguistic landscape presented its own set of challenges, but I was ready to embrace them. Working at CDCQ allowed me to apply my mechanical engineering skills in a real-world setting, and the experience was invaluable.



Networking and Building Connections

One key event that contributed to my success was a networking event at the University of Windsor. Although I was nervous and felt out of place among the older attendees, this event proved crucial. The director of research at the university introduced me to Sonja, a pivotal connection who helped me navigate the research opportunities at St. Clair College.

Reflections and Future Aspirations

Looking back, my journey has been one of persistence and passion. From working in my family's business in India to securing an internship in Montreal, each step has reinforced my love for mechanical engineering. The challenges I've faced have only strengthened my resolve to continue growing and learning in this field.

I hope to share more about my experiences and insights through this blog, offering guidance to fellow students and aspiring engineers. The path may be daunting, but with determination and a love for what you do, anything is possible.