

Mathijs Clement (undergraduate student)  
about his 2020 summer internship with DBBE

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As an undergraduate student (2nd bachelor), it was a very enriching experience to work at the [Database of Byzantine Book Epigrams](#), albeit only for one month.

At first, I did not really know what to expect. Of course I assumed Byzantine book epigrams would play an important role in my summer employment, but I had no idea what this would mean on a daily basis. Now that the internship has come to an end, I realize how much I have learned and how much I have enjoyed the past month. Most of the time, [Nina Vanhoutte](#) and I worked on clean-ups: checking catalogues, updating [bibliography](#), splitting books in volumes, linking [historical persons](#) to external sources etc. Since we collaborated on a variety of different tasks, I never felt bored.

The experience was particularly interesting because I had no idea whatsoever of what I would like to do after my master. But at least now I am certain that an academic environment is not only an intellectually stimulating place, but it can be a cordial family too. I immensely appreciated the benign kindness and benevolent helpfulness with which I – just a sophomore – was helped.

The internship was an incredibly enriching experience. I got acquainted with the way a database works and thanks to the advice of this talented team, I learned a lot about Byzantine literature and I was able to enhance skills such as problem-solving or communicating. The team did a marvellous job in creating a warm environment, even in bizarre Corona-circumstances. I know for sure that it will prove to be an everlasting memory.