

Royal Society of Biology Bioscience Careers Day

Undertaking a PhD

Middlesex University

26.10.19



How did I get to where I am now?

2012 - 2015 BSc, Biochemistry Queen Mary, UoL

- Final year research project in protein expression and crystallization
 - This made me realize I wanted to conduct research as a career
- Looked for PhD opportunities around December/January of my final year
- Applied to the Midlands Integrative Biosciences Training Partnership
- Partnership between Warwick, Birmingham and Leicester Universities
- Conditional (upper 2nd class) offer

How did I get to where I am now?

2015 - 2019 PhD

University of Warwick

- MIBTP – Four year program of paid study
- Year 1: Training
 - 3 month taught program
 - 3 month mini project at away institution
 - 3 month internship
 - 3 month mini project at home institution
- Years 2-4: Independent research (PhD) - supervised by Dr. Patrick Schäfer
- Research question: can we identify proteins secreted by a beneficial microbe which contribute to mutualism?



What is it like doing a PhD?

2015 - 2019 PhD

University of Warwick

- Every PhD experience is different but generally...
- A PhD is like a job; you get paid to study full time (40h/week)
- Gives you excellent opportunities to:
 - Contribute to global science
 - Participate in international conferences
 - Opens doors in terms of career prospects
- For me personally, it was an opportunity to learn a lot about myself



How did I get to where I am now?

2019 - Postdoc
University of Birmingham

- Started thinking about job prospects around January 2019
- Started my postdoc position September 16th of this year with Dr. Dan Gibbs (who I met during my PhD training year)
- Research question: how do plants sense its environment at the protein level?
- Any questions feel free to ask throughout the day!



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