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 2\textsuperscript{nd} 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!