



BioS Reports

Glimpse into the activities of the
Master's course "Biology in Society"

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EXCURSIONS AND OTHER NEWS

Small insights in student's or professor's points of view, field trips, and other stuff we do.

Student Job Stories: An Interview with Anna-Lina

Ezgi Ece Yavuz

Being a BioS student, Anna-Lina found a way to apply her science communication skills in the field by teaching experiments to students of different grades. She works at the Glass Laboratory of the German Hygiene Museum in Dresden and offered exciting insights into her job.

Ece: Anna-Lina, can you tell us something about your current job?

Anna-Lina: I have been working at the Glass Laboratory for almost a year now. Currently I'm involved in three different projects: the 'Water Project' for grades 3-5, the 'Small Lab Day' for grades 9-10 and the 'PCR Project' for grades 11-12.

Ece: What does a typical workday look like for you?

Anna-Lina: For the PCR project, students carry out a fictional paternity test and sample Barr Bodies from their own mucosal cells. Besides managing the experiments themselves, we have to give safety instructions and explain the theoretical basics.

Ece: What do you like most about your job?

Anna-Lina: Definitely working with kids! It's incredibly fulfilling to see them excited and curious about science. Sometimes, older students even ask me for advice on their future education.

Ece: What's the most difficult part of your job?

Anna-Lina: Also working with kids. Staying calm can sometimes be challenging, especially when the class gets very loud or fidgety.

Ece: How do you manage to balance your job with your academic responsibilities?

Anna-Lina: I carefully plan my shifts about two months in advance, depending on how busy I am at university. It might get harder in the future, as the second semester of the BioS program is quite busy.

Ece: Do you have any memorable stories from your job?

Anna-Lina: So many! Once, a child insisted that I write "Dr." before his name, and he was very serious about it!

Ece: How much do you earn, and do you think it's enough for a student to live in Dresden?

Anna-Lina: I earn €17 per hour. Since there are many employees, we usually only get to do about four projects a month, which adds up to around 20 hours. You can't live on this income alone, so you might need extra support from BAföG or other sources.

Ece: Would you recommend your job to other students?

Anna-Lina: Absolutely! If you enjoy this type of work or want to improve your (science) communication skills, it's a great opportunity.



Image Source: Deutsches Hygiene-Museum Dresden

EXCURSIONS AND OTHER NEWS

SciComm Secrets: Advice from Experts

Marit Scheuringer

Scientists are often expected to be skilled communicators because of their expertise. However, understanding complex science is only the first step. Sharing it with a broader audience requires a different set of skills. This is where science communicators can help to bridge the gaps.

In March, I attended a webinar titled "Communicating Science: Simplifying the Complex" hosted by the International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR). As a BioS student, it was inspiring to get a behind-the-scenes look at the work of science communicators in various fields.

The event featured the winners of the ISSCR Annual Meeting 2024 poster competition. Dr. Kaitlin McCreery, and Luis Oliveira shared how their posters sparked conversations with other researchers and inspired them to pursue science communication. They aim to bridge gaps between people and topics, make complex science accessible, and strengthen public trust in science.

Dr. Nicole Quinn and Dr. Sarah Hyder Iqbal spoke about their paths as professional science communicators. "Science communication is like solving a puzzle, it pushes you to keep learning new things", Dr. Quinn stated. She noted that this is specifically true in scientific marketing, where messages must be adapted depending on the audience, whether it's scientists in academia, those in industry, or the public.

Dr. Iqbal, an independent Scientific Engagement Consultant, emphasized that we all play a role in the ecosystem of science. Its progress relies not only on discovery but also on connection, as we need diverse communities to work together on today's challenges.

Overall, the webinar guests agreed: communicating science beyond academia is challenging, but also deeply rewarding.

Communication is happening everywhere: online, offline, in lectures, at conferences, on social media, and beyond. If you're passionate about sharing science, explore how you can get involved and find what inspires you.

EXCURSIONS AND OTHER NEWS

Lab Rotation: Science Communication at Trento University

Susanna Stevenazzi



What is Kennedy Disease? What are SINEUP molecules, and how could they be used to treat autism? Can AI revolutionize biological research? During my lab rotation at Trento University, I tried to explain why these questions are important to the public, by creating a podcast called "CIBIO talks". The main audience for the podcast was students and my goal was to introduce them to several research laboratories within the Cellular, Computational and Integrative Biology Department (CIBIO). In each episode, I engaged in a conversation with a PI and a PhD student, who shared insights into their research projects.

I aimed to portray the laboratory work through the eyes of the PhD students: what fascinated them the most about their research, what experience they gained and what challenges they faced. I managed all aspects of the project, including scripting, recording, and editing each episode. I also created promotional videos and news for the university's Instagram page and the department website. Another project I had was organizing the event 'CIBIO incontra', which focused on rare diseases.

During this occasion three PhD students presented their research projects to a non-expert audience, including patient associations. As part of this, I attended public speaking training sessions led by a TEDx trainer. My time in Trento was highly productive and I had a broad range of tasks that allowed me to develop skills in various aspects of science communication. At CIBIO, I found an encouraging environment, where I was able to share ideas and receive valuable feedback.

Susanna's podcast CIBIO talks is available on Spotify! Check it out [here](#).

