



Zahara Medina Calzada

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Professional Profile

I am a biologist with a PhD in Molecular Biology who has expertise in both experimental techniques and bioinformatics. I am seeking to continue my career in research with a position involved in the study of gene expression and regulation.

I first studied Biology specializing in Genetics at *Universidad Complutense de Madrid*, taking one course Erasmus internship at *Masarykova Univerzita* (Czech Republic). After that, I completed a Master's degree in Molecular Genetics at the *University of Leicester* (UK).

During those years I participated in several research projects: my Biology's degree final project consisted in the study of genes of resistance to drought in rye; at *Masarykova Univerzita* I collaborated in mapping genes of resistance to powdery mildew in barley; my Master's final project aimed to characterize the transcription of a chromosomally integrated human herpesvirus.

Back in Madrid, I joined a group engaged in the study of RNA silencing in plant-virus interactions at the *Centre for Biological Research* (CIB-CSIC) for a year, after which I moved to Norwich (UK) to take a PhD at the *University of East Anglia*.

My PhD project consisted in studying different aspects of an intron-split Solanales miRNA. My work included setting up and optimising experiments but also designing them and interpreting the results obtained. During this time, I also supervised other students, assisted in the teaching of Bachelor's subjects and collaborated in other research projects.

Through my experience as PhD student I became aware of the growing importance of Bioinformatics to research in Molecular Biology and Genetics. After completing my PhD I decided to enrol in the Master in Computational Biology at *Universidad Politécnica de Madrid* with the aim of expanding my knowledge in this field to a professional level.

In this Master, I have learned to apply the latest bioinformatic tools to a wide range of purposes, from the analysis of genomic data to the study of evolutionary biology. In my final Master project at CBGP (UPM-INIA), I am trying to identify possible subgenomic dominance between genes involved in adaptation to high temperatures in *Brassica napus* through the in-silico analysis of RNA-Seq data.

From all my past experiences I have gained the adaptability to work with different people and in different environments, being able to share my knowledge as well as learning from others. I am likewise certain that my background has equipped me with the skills necessary to carry out a research project with high independency, from finding the resources or learning any techniques or knowledge required to being able to apply critical thinking, creativity or resilience to the development of a project when necessary.

I am looking forward to the opportunity of applying all these skills and my expertise in both experimental and computational biology in a professional position within a team studying gene expression and regulation, hoping to make a fruitful contribution to research in this field.