SAIOA MANZANO

Biochemistry graduate, currently undergoing a MSc in Computational Biology, with a passion for comparative genomics and evolutionary biology.

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

I graduated in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU), where I got awarded the IkasIker Collaboration Scholarship by the Basque Government for my internship as a student collaborator in a research group in the Immunology, Microbiology and Parasitology Department. This internship, which later became my Bachelor's Thesis, started my interest in microbiology as a field of study. However, I soon discovered computational biology offered a new perspective and a very interesting toolkit to deal with the increasing number of prokaryotic sequences that are being published. This led me to choose the MSc in Computational Biology in the Technical University of Madrid (UPM) as the next step in my scientific career. In this MSc I am acquiring the coding skills in several programming languages (like Python and R) and the familiarity with Artificial Intelligence and Data Science methods, techniques and tools, and the pipelines needed for bioinformatic analyses.

I am currently participating in an internship at the Center for Plant Biotechnology and Genomics (CBGP, UPM-INIA) which will lead to my Master's thesis. The project I am working in deals with pangenomics, a field of comparative genomics I am particularly interested in. I believe these high-throughput, computational approaches to genomic and evolutionary studies will allow us to understand the metabolic and functional diversity of organisms (and, particularly, microorganisms) at a scale that was previously impossible to decipher. In this sense, I believe Computational Biology has a lot to offer to the field of Microbiology, given that the vast majority of microorganisms are unculturable in laboratory settings and therefore need alternative approaches to be studied.

I am fluent in English (C2 – Certificate of Proficiency in English), and have knowledge of German and Japanese (Noken N5)

CONTACT

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