

CATALINA

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Plant-Computational Biotechnologist

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ABOUT ME

Driven by my desire to pursue a career in the field of molecular biology and in computational biology, I have been developing skills in both fields during these past few years. My strong personal drive has led me to pursue a career in the investigation filed combining new biocomputational technologies and experimental techniques. As a plant biotechnologist, food security in relation to growing population has always been first in my list of interests. Thus, I am a strong believer that science can change lives in the best way possible.

Graduated in **Biotechnology** at Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, I am currently a student of the **Computational Biology Master** (CBMs) at the same institution. CBMs has helped me develop my programming skills and extend my understanding of the computational biotechnology world. During my Bachelor Thesis I enrolled in the undergraduate internship program at Centro de Biotecnología y Genómica de Plantas (CBGP) working in the **plant-pest interaction** group led by Isabel Díaz Rodriguez, where I was able to familiarize with the basic tools and experimental protocols (PCR, RT-qPCR, DNA/RNA extraction, genotype and phenotype studies, feeding assays in plant species...). My experience during this years' internship allowed me to grow more interested of the investigation field and was the precedent to enroll in a second internship at CBGP to develop my Master Thesis within the **FruitFlow Euranet Project**, supervised by Mariano Perales and María Garrido.

During these past years I have pushed myself to achieve high and challenging goals, a prime example being the prestigious UPM Bachelor I chose. Throughout my hard work in the biotechnological area, I have managed to achieve strong molecular biology knowledge, genetical engineering abilities and most importantly, the capability to multitask and to efficiently work under pressure. My commitment to personal excellence has made me a resilient and resourceful young woman. Thus why, I am planning to enrol in a **PhD degree** in the field of plant-computational biotechnology in order to continue the investigation path I am currently in.

During my language and social exchange with **Rotary Youth International** in the year 2016, I took part on several cultural activities as well as other diplomacy events which helped me develop my German and adaptation skills. My early education at the **British Council School of Madrid** helped me gain outstanding English competences which have aided me and will continue to do so in the following years. At a more personal level, these experiences have allowed me to develop myself as a motivated and practical person always capable of attending to the rising problems.