

Gema Castillo-García

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I am particularly interested in the genetic modification of plants to obtain desired traits, as it shortens the time it takes to introduce new crop varieties for food production and broaden the range of available vegetables in the market.

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Currently, I am a geneticist from the San Pablo CEU University, and I work as a Research Fellow doing my Master's Thesis in the Department of Plant Molecular Genetics at the National Centre for Biotechnology (CNB-CSIC) of Spain. Previously, I have been a Collaborator student in the Area of Histology at the USP-CEU for three years, which has allowed me to work on two private projects on fish genetics, be a co-author of a scientific article and two preprints, and to participate in two scientific congresses. During this lab experience, I learnt how the scientific world works.

In parallel to that research, I have always strived to maintain a high academic record since high school, which has allowed me to get numerous awards and very competitive grants (1st place in the National Ranking of SEDEA, JAE-Intro of CSIC, CEU Merit 100, CAM Excellence Scholarships, 2nd Prize for Young Researchers at the Complutense University of Madrid (UCM), among others). At the same time, I have actively participated in numerous extracurricular activities to complement my academic training (Own Degree in Values and Leadership, volunteering, languages, training courses, etc.), so I have developed many interpersonal skills such as team working, leadership, and empathy.

All of this, combined with my great perseverance and my insatiable desire to continue learning, makes me a very hard-working and ambitious person, who does not give up easily. Thus, I enrolled in the Master's Degree in Computational Biology at the Technical University of Madrid (UPM) because I consider that Bioinformatics is an essential tool for any research activity and that it will provide me with the knowledge and skills required for my future research activities during the Ph.D. that I would like to initiate shortly.

