

## ALICIA PORTELA ESTÉVEZ



Biologist, Physical Anthropologist & Bioinformatician

Graduated in Biology, with a Master's Degree in Physical Anthropology and experience in Computational Biology area, interested in Molecular Anthropology



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### PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

I have a Bachelor's Degree in Biology from the Autonomous University of Madrid (UAM). I have been always interested in Genetics, so I specialized in this area since then. My internship and Bachelor's Thesis were performed at the *Instituto de Genética Médica y Molecular* (INGEMM, *Hospital Universitario La Paz*) working on detecting genetic variants related to congenital hyperinsulinism, using both laboratory experimental and computational approaches.

After finishing my Bachelor's Degree, my interest in Molecular Anthropology increased. I was awarded with an Erasmus + fellowship to do an internship at University College London (UCL). My work there consisted in applying statistical models based on R to genetic data analyses from admixed Latin Americans to infer past intermixing events among Native American groups. Then, I enrolled the interuniversity Master's Degree in Physical Anthropology at UAM, which laid the foundations of this area knowledge, gave me the opportunity to study at *Universidade de Coimbra* (UC) thanks to an Erasmus + fellowship and approached me to the Department of Biodiversity, Ecology and Evolution of the Complutense University of Madrid (UCM), where I did my Master's Thesis.

The research experience that I had at Bachelor and Master level shows me that computational skills were essential to deal with genomic data analysis. This explains why I am currently enrolled in the Master's Degree in Computational Biology at Technical University of Madrid (UPM). The Master is giving me the opportunity to acquire computational abilities to deal with Python, Ruby, Bash and R. I am applying this knowledge for the internship and Master's Thesis that I am doing at the previously mentioned Department of Biodiversity, Ecology and Evolution at UCM, as well as for developing some informal research in collaboration with Department researchers.

In the near future, I would like to continue applying these computational advance knowledge and expertise to start a research career doing a PhD on Genetic Anthropology.