



MARIAM EL AKAL CHAJI

Biologist specialized in computational biology

As a bachelor graduate in Biology, my latest goal is to become a researcher in the exciting area of molecular biology, specifically in the field of health sciences.

During my Degree at Universitat de Barcelona, I succeeded in developing a strong basis on different subjects such as neurobiology, biochemistry, cancer biology, and bioinformatics. Furthermore, I extended my knowledge during my internship at the Hospital San Joan de Déu, in the Neurogenetics and Molecular Medicine Department, where I worked on my Degree Thesis project entitled “Characterization of mu-opioid receptor in different brain structures such as the striatum, hippocampus, and midbrain by using different techniques such as Western blot and qPCR. Combined with my analytical and multitasking skills, each of my given tasks and projects seemed interesting to me, which further lit my interest in neurobiology.

This research experience highlighted to me how important is the bioinformatics field in science, since most of the activities cannot be done without an additional analysis which requires either basic statistical or computational biology analysis. This is one of the reasons why I decided to enrol into the Computational Biology Master’s degree at the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, where I succeeded in learning AI and Data science models, techniques and tools. I also improved my understanding of applying analytical capacities to solve problems in many biological fields. In addition, I also acquired competencies related to project management, soft skills and research and innovation funding opportunities.

Nowadays, I am a student trainee in Dr. Wabnik laboratory, where I am performing synthetic biology approaches and also learning the application of microfluidics protocol to depict cell size control mechanisms in budding yeasts, and design a model based on the experimental results I am generating.

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