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Career Perspectives

with a PhD in Natural & Life Sciences

Doctorate:

Biology, University of Bielefeld, 2012

Current Position:

Venture Manager at Life Science Valley

What plans and ideas did you have during your doctorate?

During my doctoral studies, my primary focus was to contribute to the advancement of knowledge in science as a researcher. I had aspirations to bridge the gap between scientific research and real-world applications, fostering innovation in the life sciences.

What does your current professional life look like?

As a venture manager, my role involves identifying and supporting promising early-stage life science startups. I work closely with entrepreneurs, providing mentorship, networking opportunities, and access to resources to help them navigate the challenges of starting and growing their companies.

What role do skills gained in your PhD studies play in your current job?

Critical thinking, problem-solving, and the ability to conduct in-depth research are essential elements proven to be very useful in my current job. Additionally, I could enhance my project management and collaboration skills, which are crucial in the startup ecosystem.

What was the biggest challenge in starting a new job after your PhD studies?

One of the biggest challenges was adapting to the fast-paced and dynamic nature of the startup environment. Unlike the structured and focused research environment during my PhD, navigating the uncertainties and multifaceted responsibilities of a startup demanded a shift in mindset and the development of entrepreneurial skills.

What do you enjoy most about your current job?

I enjoy being at the forefront of innovation in the life sciences. Working with early-stage startups allows me to contribute to the translation of cutting-edge scientific discoveries into tangible products and solutions. Facilitating the growth and success of these startups, witnessing their transformative journey, and being part of a vibrant ecosystem that fosters innovation are immensely rewarding aspects of my current position.