



**Name:** Agata Jarzynka, PhD

**Position:** Biotechnology Protein Biochemist

**Affiliation:** Lonza

**Location:** Valais, Switzerland

**Pronouns:** She/Her

Please briefly describe your current role in your position

*I am responsible for leading the project, from planning and executing laboratory work to contacting the customer and other departments.*

What is your terminal and/or current position in academia?

*PhD student*

How did you hear about your current position? Was it a career option that you were aware about during your educational process?

*A friend from my doctoral group recommended these [types of] positions to me.*

How long have you been working at your current affiliation?

*3+ years*

What type of position is your current job?

*Hybrid (in person & remote)*

Is your role more a managerial or individual contributor role?

*Individual contributor*

What are the defined roles of your position?

*Communication with customers, planning and executing lab experiments (protein purification)*

What are your day to day tasks that you perform in your position?

*Planning daily work in the lab, preparation of sampling plan, presentations to the team and customer, communication with other departments.*

What do you like best about your job?

*Developing communication skills.*

What do you dislike about your job?

*Time pressure due to short deadlines.*

If your job is outside of academia, what is similar and what is different about your current job and your terminal position in academia?

*Before leaving academia, I was afraid that working in a company might be boring, but this is absolutely not true. You can continue to grow just as you did in academia, only in a slightly different direction, learning a slightly different thing.*



How did your marine microbiology education prepare you for your current position?

*Knowledge of proteins and their purification [from my PhD projects was] very helpful, but the Pharma world has more aspects to learn, and you can only get that from the company.*

What skills do you wish you learned during your educational process that would better prepare you for your current role (e.g. machine learning, management skills, etc.)?

*More contact outside the academia would [have been] useful.*

Do you have any recommendation and/or tips for early career microbial ecologists looking for jobs similar to yours?

*Take advantage of the opportunity you get for first jobs (even if it doesn't seem ideal) and expand your network of contacts.*