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Andreas Fulterer

Career Perspectives

with a PhD in Natural & Life Sciences

Doctorate:

Neurogenetics, Biology, Freie Universität Berlin, 2017

Current Position:

Advanced Workflow Specialist Life Science Research, Confocal Division (AWS), Leica Microsystems

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

My first job after finishing my doctorate was at the FU imaging facility, 'BioSupraMol', which was obviously a smooth transition. The transition to an industry job was a bigger change. I had to learn how to structure my workday and schedule, and adapt to communicating 'from the other side'.

What does your current professional life look like?

I don't have a typical day. It's something different almost every week. My main tasks are showing our microscopes to interested scientists, training them on the new systems they have bought and, of course, helping our customers with any problems they have or questions about how to use the microscopes. Being part of the Leica team means being involved in the big decisions about your territories, as well as having your say on how we can improve our systems or develop new ones.

How did you find out about your current job?

As I worked with Leica microscopes for most of my doctorate, and trained my lab mates and later users of the imaging facility on the FU systems, I was in close contact with Leica sales representatives throughout my time at FU. It was a Leica sales representative who approached me and asked if I was interested...

... I was!

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

Technical understanding and interest in microscopy are obviously essential, as is an understanding of how scientists work. In order to properly demonstrate a system or suggest the right approach to imaging, you need to understand the scientific challenges and current pain points.

What skills do you need now that you did not learn during your PhD studies?

Ironing my shirts...

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