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Daniela Zahn

Career Perspectives

with a PhD in Natural & Life Sciences

Doctorate:

Physics, Fritz Haber Institute, 2022

Current Position:

Group Leader at Fraunhofer EMFT

What does your professional life look like?

In our group, we are working on electrical measurements on microchips and on superconducting qubits. My job is to coordinate the research, present the outcomes, and to acquire new projects.

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

I am using those skills every day. The lab experience and physics insights that I gained during my PhD help me to provide suggestions when there are problems in the lab, to discuss the research results, and to understand concepts and judge what is feasible when planning new projects. Although my current topic is quite different from my PhD topic, I find that I can “recycle” a lot of knowledge.

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

I was really unsure about what to do next. In the end, I just browsed the available job offers and applied for the ones that sounded most interesting.

What do you enjoy most about your current job?

I like the teamwork. I am not doing a lot of work in the lab myself, but I contribute by coordinating, discussing the results, and finding new money for our research. I talk a lot with different people and enjoy it a lot.

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