



Spreading  
your wings after  
your studies?

Check out the careers  
of biologists!

# MSc Biology



**WAGENINGEN**  
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH

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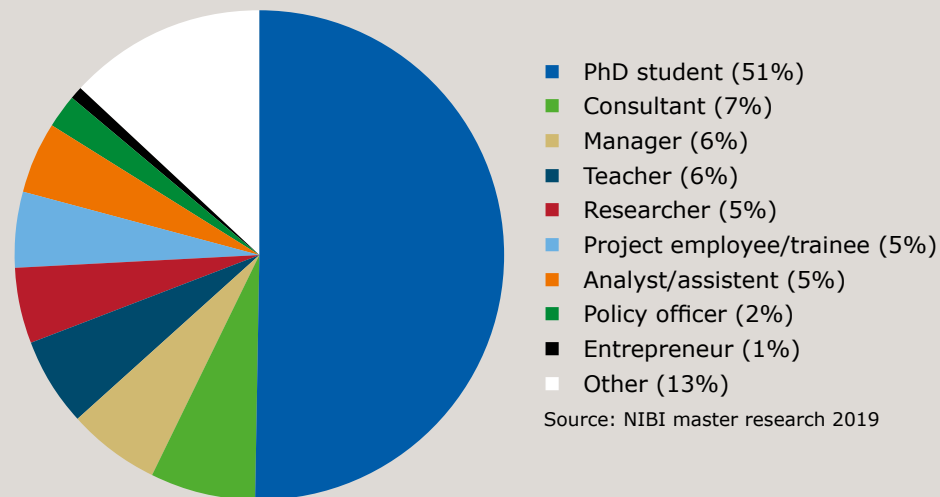
## General information

What jobs do alumni of the master Biology have 5, 10 or even 25 years after graduation? In this booklet, you might see your future!

In the figure below, you can see what jobs graduates from Biology and related degrees have started within 3 years after graduation. Of these graduates, 20% finds a job abroad and 80% finds a job in the Netherlands. Of the alumni who start their career abroad, the majority works as a PhD student (85%).

Alumni of Biology and related degrees start in their first job within 3 to 4 months after graduation, according to research by the Netherlands Institute of Biology. Research by Elsevier shows that graduates find a job with a substantial salary and a substantial number of hours after 10,5 months.



In the rest of this booklet, many different alumni of the master Biology at Wageningen University will tell you about their current jobs. If you have any further questions, you can contact a study advisor via [master Biology](#) or [bachelor Biology](#).



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## Steffi van de Wouw

 2021  Biology teacher in training at Over Betuwe College | Bemmelen, NL



As a biology teacher, my job is to talk about my passion for biology all day! My friends from university used to say that they know when I enjoy the course I follow, because I would give them a mini lecture myself afterwards. At that time, I didn't know yet that I would pursue a career based on speaking about my passion.

I love biology and I am intrigued by research, but doing research is not for me. However, as a teacher I reap the benefits of the work other biologists do. I can use the findings to enthuse and inspire my students. When I realised that research was not my cup of tea, I enrolled for the education minor at WUR. There I realised I was born for teaching, and I obtained a degree to teach in middle schools. Currently, I am studying to obtain a degree for high school as well.

All the things I have learned during my biology studies help me a lot in my work. I can borrow examples from my thesis or from courses I followed to give students more background information when we are discussing a certain topic. Students appreciate teachers who can tell them more about a topic that interests them, and a lot of students find biology interesting! I really enjoy working with teenagers, too. It is a true challenge to get them engaged and to bond with them, but when that happens, it is the best compliment you can ever receive. I get a lot of fulfilment when I can help my students to discover the amazing world of biology, as I did myself when I was their age.

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## Anton Bekendam

 2018  Junior Researcher at Koppert Biological Systems  
| Berkel en Rodenrijs, NL

In 2018, I finished my MSc Biology at Wageningen University & Research. Currently, I am employed as a Junior Researcher at Koppert Biological Systems in Berkel en Rodenrijs (The Netherlands). During my master, I was fascinated by the world of insects and I discovered this was the field of biology I was most passionate about. I took a lot of courses at the Entomology chair group, where I also did my MSc thesis. After my master, I wanted to make a living from my passion and this is why I ended up at Koppert. Koppert is a company that, among others, produces insects and mites for biological pest control. We offer the grower a sustainable alternative, so the need for chemical products is less.





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What I like most about my job is the huge amount of variety of my tasks. Each day is different. I am working on both the theoretical and the practical part of research: designing trials, preparing the research, performing the experiment in the lab or in the greenhouse, analysing the data and eventually writing the report. At Koppert, we mostly do research on the performance of our products, so that we can correctly inform and advise growers which product to use. My daily schedule is also very variable. In the morning I could be in a greenhouse at a grower, and in the afternoon I could be in the lab for another project. At Koppert, we regularly have meetings to discuss the results of our research with colleagues, which often results in future research ideas. This work dynamic gives me a lot of energy, which makes me motivated to go to work every day!

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## Jaëla Arian

 2021  Policy Advisor at Gemeente Amsterdam | Amsterdam, NL

In January 2021 I graduated from WUR with the Master Biology and the specialisation Conservation and Systems Ecology. I also followed the bachelor Biology at WUR and left my hometown Amsterdam behind for Wageningen. During my master, I specialized with courses, my thesis and internship in plant ecology and urban green. My thesis was focused on growing moss on walls for greening cities. During the COVID-pandemic, I did an internship at the municipality of Amsterdam: a research project on food forests in urban surroundings like Amsterdam. After this internship I got a job as a policy advisor at the municipality and I moved back to my hometown. My job is in the same team as where I did my internship, which is the team Green and Healthy Cities, and I work in the department Sustainability. Current projects I am working on are mainly related to animal welfare and food policy. What I enjoy most in my job, is that I am able to contribute to the challenge of greening our cities and to develop a vivid and resilient urban environment.

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## Kasper ter Horst

 2018  Education Facilitator at Wageningen University & Research | Wageningen, NL

During my studies I discovered my passion for education. Multiple student assistant positions and being a member of the study programme committee triggered my interest in the “other side” of education. My curiosity towards the complexity of everyday systems (like life itself) is why I studied Biology, and it is also the reason why this job is perfect for me. Teachers of WUR need to arrange more and more logistic and administrative tasks. Simultaneously, there is a central education department that tries to help teachers with their education quality, while also implementing new IT-systems, procedures and policy. For the Plant Sciences group I created an *eduhub*. With the *eduhub*, my team and I are bridging the gap between teachers and the central education department: we provide tailor-made support to courses and connect teachers to share information and good practices. The biology programme helped me think in systems, while my work for committees and boards developed my networking and social skills. When I am helping and connecting teachers, I am doing my part in keeping up the high quality of the WUR education I enjoyed myself a couple of years ago!

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## Kyra Hoevenaars

 2007  Freelance Aquaculture Consultant | Idrija, Slovenia

I am working as a freelance aquaculture consultant for projects all over the world. I started my career in the Philippines where I co-founded and managed an NGO working on conservation, education and livelihood projects. One of the main projects was a fish hatchery, which got me into aquaculture. I see aquaculture, if done sustainably, as an opportunity to reduce overfishing and thus help to preserve stocks of wild aquatic species. After I left the Philippines, I spent a couple of months doing consultancy work in Myanmar, providing training on good aquaculture practices to fish, shrimp and crab farmers. Five years ago I moved back to Europe to start working for an aquaculture company in Malta where I managed many

projects in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Caribbean. Since the beginning of 2021 I am working as a freelancer.



My biology studies were very broad. This has enabled me to have a flexible career path. Even though I enjoy working in aquaculture, my passion is still with conservation work, which is why I am also still involved with our NGO. In my work as an aquaculture consultant, I focus on improving the sustainability of the sector. The advantage of being a freelancer is that you can pick the projects you want to work on, and you have the flexibility to work when and where you like. My work is very variable; working on different types of projects such as desk reviews, writing articles and training materials, designing fish farms, visiting conferences and workshops, and travelling to project sites. This variety makes me enjoy my job even more.





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## Luisa Gomez

 2018  Research Assistant & International Student Advisor at Wageningen University & Research | Huizen, NL

I am a biologist from Colombia that decided to start her master's at Wageningen University after spending some years working in the field in my country and Panama. I am mainly interested in animal social behavior and conservation, and my biggest passion has been working with bats. For my internship at WUR, I had the opportunity to work at the Museum für Naturkunde in Berlin where I studied the roosting ecology and social behavior of the common noctule bat.

After graduating in November 2018, I worked at the entomology department of Wageningen University as a research assistant in a project about transmission dynamics of tick-borne encephalitis virus and ecology of host-tick pathogen interactions. I have always loved research, so being at WUR inspired me and convinced me to follow this path. However, I have to admit that it is not an easy road. Finding PhD grants is quite challenging and time-consuming. At the moment, I have just finished writing and submitting a PhD proposal to the DFG, German Research Foundation. As part of this, I was able to conduct a pilot field season in



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Panama at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute last year, which was essential to determine the feasibility of my project.

Next to setting up my PhD, I have some other things I am working on as well. Firstly, I work as an international student advisor at the recruitment team of Wageningen University. It is my task to guide students that want to come to study in the Netherlands during their application process, as well as to participate in webinars, open days, blogs and all events related to orientation. Lastly, I am working together with a group of enthusiastic researchers from Latin America and Africa on developing a network for early-career students, scientists and conservationists that share a vision for bat conservation. We hope to release our Global South Bats website soon.

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## Jordi Timmermans

 2020  Policy Advisor Biodiversity at Provincie Gelderland | Arnhem, NL

In 2013 I started the Bachelor Biology in Wageningen, because of my interest in ecology. During my studies, I developed an interest in the position of ecology in our society and the way we can use ecological knowledge in making nature policy. I therefore decided to not only follow a Master's in Biology (specialisation Ecology), but to study Forest and Nature Conservation as well. I graduated in 2020 after I completed both studies with an internship at the Nature department of the province of Gelderland in Arnhem. This internship turned out to be a very good fit and after the internship they offered me a job as Policy Advisor on Biodiversity, which I gratefully accepted.

Since then I contribute to the policy-making process and participate in several projects aimed to increase biodiversity in urban areas. What I really like in my job is the possibility to make real impact on society; I contribute to a more biodiverse living environment and bring nature and people closer together. In addition, I enjoy working in a political-sensitive environment, where it is necessary to consider all different interests at stake and to do as much as possible, within the political limitations, to increase biodiversity.

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## Marissa Giesen



2008



Manager Fishery Policy at the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality | The Hague, NL

After finishing my master in 2008, I started working at the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality. During my studies, I realized that research was not my cup of tea and that my interest was raised by thinking about social-cultural issues. Therefore, I followed multiple courses on policy and economy in my master.

I started at the Ministry as a Rijkstraineer, which is a good position to start working at the government when you do not have any policy or political experience. Via several positions, I started as a manager of the team that is focussed on fisheries in autumn 2021. This is a very interesting work field, where I am involved in issues that often ask for a trade-off between financial interests and nature and environment. For example: What is the Dutch position in international negotiations about fishing quota? How do we ensure a future for the fishery sector, while nature reserves and wind farms also take up space at sea? Which measures are required for a sustainable eel population? I get a lot of energy from working with my team, consisting of policy advisors with a substantive background and general policy advisors, on moving forward every day and advising the minister in the best possible way. To do this, we are closely linked to the sector, stakeholders, science and other governments among which the European Commission. Although I am working from my (home) office most of the time, I also get to go on work visits to the sector, attend parliamentary debates, and meet and discuss with colleagues from other Member States. This makes my work very dynamic and different every day!

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## Simone van der Leur



2017



Inspector CITES Enforcement at the Dutch Food and Consumer Product Safety | Utrecht, NL

I have always been committed to nature conservation worldwide. So when I graduated in 2017, I was determined to find a job in that specific field. During my studies, I took a special interest in big cat species and did a research on human-tiger conflict on Sumatra, Indonesia. I realized quite quickly how very complicated it is to protect flora and fauna. Also, I became aware of the major problem of illegal wildlife trade. It is the fourth largest illegal global trade.

In my current position, I work as Inspector CITES Enforcement for the Dutch Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (or NVWA in Dutch). CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) is an international intergovernmental agreement to protect roughly 5.900 animal species and 32.000 plant species. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species. While working, I monitor the import and export of protected species, and tackle illegal wildlife trade through law enforcement. No two days are the same with this job. I come across many different species and products, including turtles, bears, timber and ivory. I travel throughout the country and can also be found at Schiphol Airport regularly. Last year, for example, we caught a smuggler that had a suitcase filled with live (145!) reptiles and amphibians from Mexico. Another smuggler was caught with birds from Surinam in a suitcase. Sadly, my co-workers and I quite often see that animals are taken out of the wild to be sold (with a high profit) on the European market. To fight this crime, and because my work goes far beyond the Dutch borders, I work closely together with Interpol, Customs and the Police. With this job I'm able to feed my passion for animals and nature, and actively protect animal and plant species.

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## Maarten Frank van der Schee



2021



Production Manager at Florensis | Oromia, Ethiopia

Currently I am employed as a Production Manager at Florensis in Ethiopia. Florensis is a Dutch family business which produces starting materials for plant growers all over the world. A lot of this material is produced at locations abroad, among which Ethiopia. The company produces and exports for example cuttings from Geraniums, Christmas roses and Chrysanthemums, which our customers use to produce finished products you can find in garden centres or supermarkets. My wife graduated half a year earlier than me and was offered a job in Ethiopia. I started looking for a job there as well, and also found one via a recruiter in the agricultural sector.

Given my broad interest in all living things, it was an easy choice for me to study Biology. Between 2012 and 2021 I followed both the bachelor and master programme at Wageningen University. I used my time to develop myself on several levels. Although following courses and the knowledge obtained by them was the backbone of my studies, I also spent a lot of time on teaching, both as a teacher on a secondary school (with the minor education I did in my bachelor), as well as a student/teaching assistant at the university.

The interpersonal and communication skills I developed during my study period greatly help me in my current job. In my position, I indirectly manage 300-700 workers, depending on the season. On the one hand I spend a lot of time planning the greenhouse space and making sure that our deliveries to customers go smoothly. I am the link between our head office in the Netherlands, our own production location and our customers, and this part of my job mainly takes place behind a computer. On the other hand my job has a clear practical side as well. In the greenhouses I keep an eye on whether the build-up of the mother plants goes according to plan and whether the quality of our cuttings is sufficient. Throughout my tasks, I am always looking for improvements on organisation and cultivation level. The combination of organising and managing, hands-on activities in the greenhouse, and living and working in Africa is challenging, but also very rewarding to me.

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## Sofie Terwel



2015



Project Coordinator Multi-Stakeholder Coalition at EBMT  
| Leiden, NL

After my graduation in 2015, I started working at the European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation, a non-profit organisation promoting research, education and patient care. Initially I started as a data manager, but shortly thereafter I became a clinical trial coordinator. I got involved in the set-up of post-authorisation safety studies for advanced cellular therapies for patients with hematological cancers. This field of novel therapies is very interesting to me, because it presents unique challenges that require different stakeholders to collaborate.

In my current position as the project coordinator of a multi-stakeholder coalition, I bring together health care professionals, patients, pharmaceutical companies and where needed and possible also payers and health authorities. The aim of the coalition is to connect the 'silos' in which people work and promote collaboration, sharing of data and knowledge, and harmonization of data collection, standards of care, education and policy. In turn, this contributes to improving patient access to novel cellular therapies, and patient health and well-being. It's not always easy to bring together people, organisations and companies that have different interests and ways of working, but as the African proverb says: "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."



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## Floor Hofman



2014



Owner of De Gieterij | Wageningen, NL

After graduating in 2014, I worked in an organic supermarket in Bennekom for a few years. That is where the plans grew to, together with my colleague Linde (MSc Organic Agriculture), start up our own supermarket, with as much local products and as little plastic packaging materials as possible. Since October 2020, we run De Gieterij at the Junusstraat in Wageningen. Our clients can fill up their own jars, bags and bottles, which lowers the amount of materials used for packaging greatly.



Starting our own company was an exciting step, because retail was a new world for both of us. We did a marketing research with the help of a group of students following the Academic Consultancy Training. We knew a lot of the local farmers and producers already, thanks to excursions during our studies. Knowledge on agriculture, nutrition, climate and ethics were all very useful in composing our product range. We want to make this range as wide as possible, but per product we often have only one local choice. We search for the most sustainable option, which also requires a lot of research. There is a long search behind every product, every product has its own story. To learn a lot about this and to share this knowledge with our clients is what I love most about my job.





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## Wouter van Overmeire

 2018  Advisor Ecology at Arcadis Nederland BV | Maastricht, NL

In 2018 I received my master's degree in biology. Soon after, I started as an ecological consultant at Arcadis Nederland BV in Maastricht. I found the vacancy by accident, as I had never heard of Arcadis or similar consultancy bureaus. Now I am very happy that I did stumble upon it, as I am very happy with my job. My tasks and work vary a lot. This is because of the different clients and projects I am working on. My clients could be governmental agencies, but also project developers and housing associations. In my position, I mainly provide advice about the nature protection law. For this I conduct research on protected flora and fauna. This could be both literature and field studies. In the period between February and September, I spent most of my time in the field. This is what I love doing and where I can truly feed my passion for nature. During the other months, I am busy writing reports and applying exemptions at the office. The rising awareness and need for sustainable solutions to various problems lead to new questions on how to stimulate the





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biodiversity in our projects. I believe this is a nice prospect for the coming years! My time at Wageningen University helped me to develop a critical and curious attitude. I think it is very important to keep asking questions to everybody and believe in your own opinion and view. This mindset has resulted in appreciation from my colleagues and clients as well. And, most important of all, my job gives me the feeling that I contribute to the protection of the Dutch nature, something that I am very passionate about.

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## Myrte Huijskes



 2016  Lecturer in Anatomy, Physiology and Biology at University of Utrecht | Utrecht, NL

After my graduation, I decided to continue studying and gain a teacher's degree. I spent many years as a student-assistant at courses at WUR, where I realized I had an interest in education. After teaching biology at a secondary school for a year, I ended up as a lecturer anatomy and physiology at the faculty of Veterinary Science in Utrecht. This was challenging in the beginning since the species-specific approach in veterinary medicine is quite different from the more conceptual approach in biology. I do believe my background in biology helped me to pick up these differences easily enough, though. This was also the case with specializing in species like birds, reptiles, amphibians and wildlife, which are quite rare within my veterinary department. Besides teaching, I have also been involved in other educational projects at UU, like innovation in teaching, and the development of different courses like herpetology and innovation in laboratory animal science.

Currently, I am looking for a new challenge in either teaching or educational development. I'm grateful for my time at the WUR, as it did not only allow me to hone my skills in biology, but it gave me a lot of opportunities to develop other skills as well. For example, I gained some teaching experience as a student-assistant, and I learned organizing and developing education with other extracurricular activities, too. This did not only give me useful experience, but also helped me to find my interests other than biology and helped shape my current career path.

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## Marije aan den Toorn



 2009  Senior Policy Advisor Natural Sciences at KNAW  
| Amsterdam, NL

I graduated WUR in 2009, with a specialisation in cell biology. At the moment, I am employed as a Senior Policy Advisor at the Royal Dutch Academy for Science (KNAW) in the beautiful Trippenhuis in Amsterdam. KNAW has three functions: it advises the Dutch government on scientific matters, it serves as a management body for several research institutes, and it serves as a learned society that represents all scientific and scholarly disciplines. As a Senior Policy Advisor I support all functions. For example, I assist in drafting advice for the government or drawing up policies for a research institute. In this position, I am very closely involved with scientific policy and everything that is affected by it, such as issues with animal testing, or how science can be financed.

I have not started in scientific policy directly after graduation, though. After finishing my master, I was convinced that I wanted to pursue doing research and therefore I started doing a PhD. During these four years, I found out that I love science, but that doing the research myself is not a great fit. On that account, I started looking for a job where I was still involved with research and science, but did not have to spend days in the lab myself. I worked as a consultant for four years, where I supported scientists with finding funds for their research, through writing subsidy applications or business plans. In this position, I found that I love to work with and for scientist. So when I got the opportunity came to do this at KNAW, for science as a whole, I immediately accepted. And to this day, I still have no regrets!

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## Leroy Versteeg

 2013  Research Associate at the Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Houston, USA

During my Masters with a specialisation in Animal and Human Health Biology, I ended up in Houston, Texas for an internship at the Texas Children's Hospital Center

for Vaccine Development, part of Baylor College of Medicine. Since the vaccine center was impressed with my practical laboratory skills, I was offered a job after graduating in 2013. I am certain that the high degree of laboratory work during the courses at Wageningen University were responsible for earning this opportunity.

The vaccine center is specialized in developing vaccines for neglected tropical diseases. These diseases included worm-diseases (Hookworm, Ascariasis), protozoa (Chagas disease), and also viruses (Zika, SARS, COVID-19). We identify parasitic proteins that have ideal properties to serve as vaccine targets, and we use these to develop subunit or mRNA vaccines. These vaccine candidates are then tested in animal models for their efficacy. I am currently employed as a research associate and I am a part of the preclinical team. My work starts when the animal studies come to an end; I examine which antibodies and cytokines are present in the blood after vaccination, and I evaluate the properties of immune cells like T and B cells to understand what immunological response the vaccine elicited.

I find this work very interesting and fun. I work on multiple vaccine projects, which means the research questions are always different. Knowledge from courses I followed at Wageningen University on immunology, parasitology and host-parasite interactions have prepared me well for my work. To this date, I use this knowledge every day.



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## Gerjon Ikinck



2010



Scientific Advisor & Policy Officer at the European Commission  
| Brussels, Belgium

The main reason why I studied in Wageningen is the university's focus on solving important societal challenges, together with its international and multicultural character. Following my own drive for positive impact after graduating in 2010, I volunteered at a medical and social development NGO in Egypt via AIESEC Wageningen, and then started my PhD research at the Netherlands Cancer Institute (NKI). I wanted to do more than just research, though, and got involved in the Young Health Council of the Netherlands (jongGR), assisting in providing scientific advice to policymakers in public health, healthcare and health research.

I found this type of work so interesting that I continued working on the interface between science and policy after my PhD: briefly at the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, but mainly in the European Commission. Many do not know this, but the European Commission actually employs many scientists, including biologists like me, and even has its own scientific research centre (the JRC)! As the European Commission deals with highly technical issues – such as environmental protection, climate action, agriculture, health and food safety – it needs to have this expertise in-house.

I started in the Scientific Advice Mechanism of the European Commission, working for the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors. Here, we give advice to and answer questions from the European Commission's President, Vice-Presidents and Commissioners. The main part of our work is 'translating' very diverse, complex and technical scientific knowledge from various sources into something concise, understandable and applicable for a policymaker. The input for this comes from reading research papers and reviewing evidence, meeting with many researchers, policymakers and other experts, and participating in conferences and workshops.

The topics I worked on are very diverse: from providing information on new gene editing techniques to advising on how to make the food system more sustainable or how to start adapting to climate change in public health and healthcare. During the COVID-19 pandemic, I moved from providing scientific advice in pandemic preparedness to applying it myself in the EU's health emergency response.

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I think that, besides the technical expertise from my MSc Biology in Wageningen, the awareness of societal impact and the international mind-set of the WUR have laid strong foundations for the work I do now. Having experience in working in multicultural and interdisciplinary teams and settings, as well as the intercultural communication and academic consultancy training in my MSc, have been extremely useful. Finally, as a biologist you learn how to zoom in and out between details (genes) and the big picture (ecosystems) a lot, which I experienced to be an essential skill in the world of policy as well!

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## Wilke Heijs



2013





Development Manager at Ceradis Crop Protection  
| Wageningen, NL

During my master, I found out that an academic career was not a good fit for me. I specialized in Bio-interactions and I did my internship at the Dutch company Koppert, where I investigated how natural enemies can be used in the greenhouses for biological pest control. After my internship, I decided I wanted to work in the field of applied research. My first job was at CABI in Switzerland as a research assistant. At CABI, we investigated which insect could be used to target specifically non-native invasive weeds, without damaging the local flora and agricultural crops.

The combination of these two experiences led me to my current position. I am the Development Manager at Ceradis Crop protection in Wageningen. Ceradis is a spin-off company from Wageningen University & Research. At Ceradis, we develop green alternatives for farmers to replace chemical products used for pest control nowadays. I'm passionate about my job, as I am doing my part in pushing the industry towards more sustainable products. An added bonus of the job is being able to travel to other countries to visit field trials and potential customers. All this makes my job very fun and challenging.

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## Anne Schumacher

 2019  Editor/Reporter at Omroep Gelderland | Arnhem, NL

I work at BuitenGewoon, a television show of the Dutch broadcasting company Omroep Gelderland, as an editor/reporter. Half of the time I work at the office in Arnhem and the other half I work from home. This is a dream job for me, because I work in the field of nature, education and communication. It is all about making people enthusiastic about nature! In this work I can use my knowledge about nature to teach others and inspire them to protect nature as well.



My current tasks consist of editing videos, selecting the most beautiful nature photographs, teaching our followers about nature and organizing live excursions. Once, we organized a wolf weekend, for example. During that weekend, we posted photos and videos about wolves and selected speakers for TV and online interviews.

During my studies I did the minor Nature and Environmental Education, which was a good preparation for my current job. I learned how to make nature and sustainability attractive to the public. Studying biology at WUR has taught me a lot about nature at all levels of organization, knowledge that is very valuable in my job. I also did some committee work and was a board member during my studies. After graduation in 2019, I designed an educational project at Ouwehands Dierenpark, where I also did my internship. Since then I worked as a freelancer in education, next to volunteering as a nature guide. Then I got a big chance: I was selected for a traineeship at a television show about nature at a major broadcasting company in the Netherlands. During my traineeship I discovered BuitenGewoon, where I got my current position a year later.

In the future I want to stay in the field of nature, education and media. Maybe one day I would like to make a nature documentary. If I can combine nature and creativity in my work, I am happy.

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## Kelly van der Geest – Aspers

 2006  Senior Advisor Medical Technology at Erasmus Medical Center Rotterdam | Rotterdam, NL

The Medical Technology Department of Erasmus MC is responsible for the medical devices used in the entire hospital. This includes the purchase, introduction, management, maintenance and disposal. In addition, Medical Technology is the central place where the policy on legislation and regulations for medical devices is secured, where the substantive experts are located and from which innovation is supported.

I myself am part of the management team and from there I am widely deployable. Initially I was involved in implementing the new European legislation and regulations in the field of Medical Devices and In-vitro diagnostics; these laws have a major impact, especially for the devices and laboratory tests that we develop ourselves. Now I mainly support the development of new products and innovations.

In a large university hospital such as Erasmus MC, but also at our partners such as TU Delft, a huge number of new, innovative and smart products are being developed; this varies from a small clip to prevent tangling of wires to devices that are used in the OR, but also many apps, software and AI. I support and guide the development of these products from the perspective of Medical technology; I ensure that they comply with the correct legislation and regulations, connect them with experts, help to prepare clinical research and ultimately implement the products in healthcare.

Coming into contact with great innovations, enthusiastic researchers and developers, but especially seeing how we can help patients, makes this work incredibly fun and interesting.



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# Daphne Suijker



2013





Program coordinator LiveScience at Naturalis Biodiversity Center  
| Leiden, NL

For my BSc thesis I did a data analysis about jaws of herbivores from the collection of Naturalis. So after my studies in Wageningen I knew that Naturalis was more than just a museum. Therefore, when I started at Naturalis as an attendant in the museum, I believed there were more opportunities in the organization for a recently graduated biologist. At Naturalis I learned that I love to make visitors enthusiastic about the nature around us. After a few years of working in the museum as an educational supervisor, floor manager and manager, I wanted to team up with colleagues from other parts of the organization more frequently. That ambition fits perfectly with my current position as the program coordinator of the LiveScience hall. LiveScience is a free accessible gallery, where you can meet researchers and collection managers. There are always some people that love to tell you about their work and who are willing to answer all your questions. As a coordinator, I make sure we have a program with a high variety of activities. These activities can range from live preparations of specimens to presentations from researchers, as well as live streams with researchers in the field. This is planned, for example, with the dinosaur team for the excavation in Wyoming, United States this upcoming summer. Besides that, I also ensure that special pieces of collection on display change over time, and that restoration on collection takes place on site. Furthermore, I work together with other museums and nature organizations on new activities. In short, a very versatile job that suits me well.



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## Kerstin Bouma

 2020  PhD candidate at the Netherlands Institute of Ecology (NIOO-KNAW) | Wageningen, NL



In 2014 I decided to begin studying Biology at the Wageningen University, because of my broad interests this study fitted perfectly. Moreover, the broad outline of the bachelor gave me time to make up my mind about the direction I wanted to go in my master. Finally, I chose Ecology and performed multiple research projects, all on very different subjects: Dog behaviour, evolutionary concepts and the ecology of the European bison.

In the summer of 2020 I graduated and could call myself an Ecologist. I was eager to also perform a PhD after my studies, because I enjoyed doing my thesis projects. In the end, my first job interview (after many job applications) also resulted in my very first real job: a PhD position at the Netherlands Institute of Ecology (NIOO-KNAW) in Wageningen to research food web relations in an aquatic system in the Netherlands: the Oostvaardersplassen. I was so excited that I could start on this subject and keep my broad interest. I look into the entire foodweb, from small insects and nutrients to geese and red deer. My experience with thinking about ecological processes, doing statistical analysis and my enthusiasm finally resulted in this job, even though I never followed an aquatic course during my studies. Luckily I was able to catch up in the past year.

In the future I hope to obtain my PhD degree and to travel for a few months. Until then, I fortunately still have enough time to determine if I want to stay in science or follow another path, as there are still a lot of options after doing a PhD!

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## Hector Hernandez

 2018  PhD Quantitative and Systems Microbiology at NCCR AntiResist | Basel, Switzerland

I finished by master Biology in 2018, with a specialization in Evolutionary Biology and a minor in Mathematical Modelling. After my MSc thesis on *E. coli* antibiotic resistance in the Wageningen Laboratory of Genetics, I did a 6 months internship on bacterial evolution at ETH Zurich. Due to personal circumstances, however, I had to go back to Mexico for some time, which complicated my PhD application process. The road was not easy, but after one year and a great amount of effort, I was able to find the right PhD project for me.

I started my currently ongoing PhD in Microbiology in 2020, as part of the Swiss National Center of Competence in Research (NCCR) AntiResist at Biozentrum, University of Basel. The main project of my PhD project consists of analysing *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* single cell metabolic responses to antibiotics in microfluidic devices. To do so, I modify *P. aeruginosa* genetically, perform microscopy experiments, and analyse microscopy data using state-of-the-art artificial intelligence algorithms. I have to say that this project fulfills my passion not only for microbiology but also for computational analysis. Moreover, it gives me the opportunity to contribute to research that, hopefully, one day can help to improve people's quality of life.

I strongly believe that my education in Wageningen provided me with the theoretical and experimental background required to work on bacterial antibiotic resistance, and prepared me well for my current position. In addition, being a member of the Master's Committee of B.V.W. Biologica during my studies promoted my professional growth and helped me to build a solid network with fellow MSc students. Studying in Wageningen was a key step in my career, since I am still applying what I learnt during my MSc to this day.

In the future, after I finished my PhD, I would like to continue pursuing my passion for microbiology as a Postdoc. Maybe I'll come back to Wageningen for it, who knows...



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[www.wur.eu/mbi](http://www.wur.eu/mbi)  
[mbi.msc@wur.nl](mailto:mbi.msc@wur.nl)

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