

Susanna French
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Final year Biology student, with extensive lab skills, the ability to analyse and present data and a thorough understanding of sequencing methods, now seeking a role as an Associate Scientist.

Education

BSc (Hons) Biology (First Class), University of Portsmouth, 2019 – 2022

A life science degree, accredited by the Society of Biology, providing at first a broad range of scientific knowledge, which then through choice of units specialized in relevant areas such as: genetics, genetic engineering and recombinant DNA techniques. Achieved 70% in both genetic engineering and recombinant DNA techniques and 75% in genetics.

Laboratory Skills

- Carried out PCR using bacterial plasmid for DNA amplification
- Extracted and analysed plasmids from bacterial cultures
- Confident with reagent making and pipetting and DNA isolation techniques
- Set up and ran gel electrophoresis as well as SDS-Page, Western Blotting and Coomassie blue stain and protein purification
- Understand quality management and control, able to follow and adhere to laboratory health and safety protocols
- Developed the ability to use analytical techniques including homogenisation, centrifugation and spectroscopy analysis

IT Skills

- Experienced user of specific software including SPSS, Seaview, FigTree for data organisation and analysis
- Used Chromas, Bioedit and Network to carry out statistical analysis of complex data in relation to genetics and DNA
- Competent user of Microsoft Office

Final Year Research Project: *Can a Single Dog Hair Solve a Crime? A study to investigate if a canine can be identified through the isolation of mtDNA from hair for forensic investigation.*

Successful isolation of mtDNA from canine hair and amplification, tested on agarose gel assays using PCR cycling and sequenced to provide successful chromatograms that were analysed for SNPs to distinguish between individual dogs and establish family relationships. Worked methodically and by paying close attention to detail was able to achieve accurate results.

Relevant Experience

June 2021 – July 2021 Research Lab, Summer Placement University of Portsmouth

Completed an independent lab project examining cell signalling and neurogenesis using chick embryo cell culture and FGF/MAPK inhibitors. Experience obtained includes chicken whole embryo culture, PCR and in-situ hybridisation. Main procedures/protocols carried out:

- Preparing and pipetting various solutions needed for In Situ Hybridisation
- Handling RNA probes and harvesting chicken embryos requiring attention to detail and precision
- Imaging chicken embryos via photo microscopy
- Micromanipulation and microdissection of chicken embryos
- Disposing of waste adhering to laboratory protocols
- Gained valuable experience in new techniques such as restriction fragment polymorphisms treatment

Other Qualifications

- A levels in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Psychology and General Studies
- 10 GCSEs including Maths, English and Double Award Science

Other work experience

June 2021- September 2021 NHS Test and Trace Operative

- Demonstrated strong interpersonal skills - providing clear and concise instructions to patients regarding the test procedure
- Supported customers through registration, providing guidance on the testing process and regular cleaning of the site
- Dealt with customer queries, and supports customers with accessibility requirements as appropriate
- Ensured a safe working environment at all times by following strict infection and control measures and managing social distancing through orderly queuing

2019-2020 Sales Assistant, Next Retail Ltd.

- Provided good customer service skills when assisting customers on the shop floor
- Used strong organisation skills when working in the store order pick up area
- Worked flexibly as was often required to change task quickly to support other members of the team

2018-2019 Volunteer at the British Heart Foundation Shop

- Duties included working on the till, customer interaction and sorting through stock for display on shop floor

Achievements

2020-2021 Biology Course Representative, University of Portsmouth

- Liaising between staff and students to address issues and make improvements to the course
- Role allowed me to develop my skills of negotiation and persuasion as lobbied staff to amend assessment hand-in dates

2018

- Achieved the National Citizen Service award

Interests

- Enjoy many outdoor pursuits, including running, cycling and hiking, also love practicing yoga
- Recently joined the university rowing club, keen to race in the near future, so am dedicating myself to a training regime
- Passionate about travelling and have visited many countries since leaving school, thoroughly enjoy the variety of culture I have experienced

References available upon request