

“Biotech is for people who are creative and passionate”?

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I am a 2011 batch student of Sir M Visvesvaraya Institute of Technology (Sir MVIT). Presently, I am in final year MTech at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur with biotechnology and biochemical engineering as my major. My keen interest in the field of research and medicine inspired me to take up biotechnology. Currently, I am working in the bioseparation laboratory at IIT Kharagpur under Prof. Amit Kumar Das. I am focused on studying the protein-protein interactions involved in the fatty acid metabolism pathway of *M. tuberculosis* through fluorescence spectroscopy. I wish to enrol for PhD after the completion of my post-graduate studies. I am looking forward to do my PhD abroad or in any of the prestigious institutes in India like IITs and IISc in the field of protein research.

My aim is to pursue and carry out quality and challenging research in this creative field. I have been very happy to be associated with biotech since it gives me a sense of satisfaction and joy. In the course of my studies, I have learnt that, this field requires enormous patience and perseverance and of course passion. These three "Ps" are very essential if one decides to pursue a career in life sciences.

To get a job in biotechnology is a herculean task, but if one has the right skill and uses the opportunity well, one can grab a job easily in this niche sector (mostly in the areas such as biochemical engineering and industrial engineering). For most of the other fields, a higher degree like PhD is mandatory.

Biotechnology looks to be very glamorous and lucrative to the people. Most people blindly choose biotechnology without any purpose. One should understand that research breakthroughs won't happen overnight, it needs years of hard work.

This field is for the people who are creative and passionate. If one is passionate about teaching life sciences, they can plan for pursuing higher degrees in this field. Things I have learnt from my past are that in this field, higher the degree you have, higher the value with which you will be valued. I await the research career that lay ahead for me in future to take up challenges in this exciting field.