

Interview with **Danial NAGHIB** *PhD student at the University of Calabria* Italy



“I am from Iran and my hometown is Tehran, which is Iran’s biggest city and capital. I studied Chemical Engineering as a Bachelor degree in University of Tehran. I got my Master’s degree in Chemical Engineering in Malaysia. I worked on a biopolymer for wastewater treatment and on DNA sensors at the University of Technology of Malaysia.

After earning my Master’s degree, I intended to continue my education and I realized that because of the lack of appropriate academic facilities and sufficient scientific opportunities in Asia, I really needed to continue my higher educations in a European country. That’s how I applied for a PhD in the BIOART project.”



Welcome in the BIOART project Danial. What is your PhD project about? What objectives do you have to reach?

My focus is on applying advanced modelling and control techniques used in the chemical industry to highly innovative membrane bioreactor systems used as bioartificial liver. The ambitious objective is to devise a method that ensures higher bioreactor performances by prolonging cell viability and functionality. This requires improving the culturing environment and supplying tightly controlled feed/effluent conditions.

A close collaboration with the Institute on Membrane Technology in Italy –one of BIOART’s project partner- is planned. I’m going to spend a month there in a few weeks. I will work on the modeling of a simple membrane bioreactor. I’m very much excited about it!

What is the best thing in undertaking a PhD? How challenging is it?

I like doing a PhD because I have time to think, read, write and create something new. I think doing a PhD is great to improve my abilities to understand and solve problems, increase my confidence, become a better communicator and gain skills that may lead to a better job.

It is very challenging to work to develop the new state-of-the-art research.

Training is an everyday activity and is a balance between what you find in the literature and what you do in the lab. In addition, adaptation to a new culture, a new lifestyle and a new language makes me grow as a person.

You participated in BIOART's meeting and training sessions in January 2014. What did you learn there?

It was a good meeting: the lectures were very useful, the meeting very organized and the atmosphere great. It was the first BIOART meeting for me and it was nice to meet the other bioartists and spend time with people who are working in same network.

What is appealing to you in being a researcher?

I like solving problems! I'd like to be an effective researcher whose new ideas bring brilliant solutions to different problems.

Do you have any plans after completing the PhD?

My preference goes to joining industry, so I will try to find a job position in the R&D section of a company or I will search for a postdoc position, but I believe that "tomorrow the sun will rise. Who knows what the tide will bring?"

Thanks for answering my questions Danial, and all the best for your PhD!

BIOART in brief

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