

Positive feedback from SFS course/workshop participants and co-organizers

Interviews by Daniela Cropp, 2021

- “ The CV check and counseling taught me the good general structure of the CV and helped me to realize how I can still improve. The roundtable that I organized helped me to reach people from the company with a different approach. It really helped me to realize that you need to get out of your comfort zone to build a good network and develop your career, as well as how you can show your added value to a company. I really like that I can bring something to help people who are in the same position I once was so that they can find their path.

SFS helped me find the missing points that I needed to develop for the next step of my career and made me realize that I needed to get out of my comfort zone in order to pursue something valuable.

Alessia Baldo, former PhD student at UNIL, Business development manager at SEED Biosciences

- “ The consultations with Slavica helped me on the one hand to improve my job interview communication skills but on the other hand I got many tips which will help me through-out my future career.

SFS is a resource that we all need no matter what our current position is or what our next challenge might be. It provides tools to shape us as scientists but also promotes our personal growth in life by improving our transferable skills.

Amrita Manchala, former Master student at UNIL, PhD student at Roche

- “ Being the moderator of the round table for careers in academia helped me to improve my communication and listening skills but also to feel comfortable in front of an audience and being the one initiating the discussions. Also, I found the introductory course for Adobe Illustrator very good and I could already imagine myself using it for my next publication since it covered all the basic tools needed very well.

SFS events are helping to get closer to people in the same department since you meet people who have things in common. You stay in touch after the events and discuss more often. SFS cares about the career development of scientists at UNIL and CHUV.

Cheryl Chiang, Research scientist at CHUV

- “ Being part of the committee for a behavioral interview was interesting as I got to know the decision process for a tenure track position, which will help me to prepare for such an interview in my future career. Also, I was very happy with the project management workshop because it taught me how to organize my research and set short term and long term goals by providing me the tools and simple tricks. Furthermore, it helped me to organize managing my students differently and helped me to pursue my research. To have a French course on site organized by SFS made it possible for me to improve French next to my work schedule.

Your PI does not necessarily have the capacity to support your professional and personal journey as a PhD student and Post-Doc, and therefore SFS provides with their portfolio the skills you need to develop your career.

Lotte Spel, Postdoctoral fellow at UNIL

“ The roundtable event was very informative and improved my networking. The LinkedIn and CV workshops helped me to get an interview for the job that I am interested in.

SFS is a very nice team that organizes very nice events and helps us to develop our career.

Mélanie Op, former PhD student at UNIL

“ By co-organizing a workshop on science communication with RADAR*, I learned to handle a project from A-Z, as well as project management, applying for grants and event evaluation. The CV course was specific for Switzerland and gave me a real idea of the job market here with targeted and precise examples, which was very useful. I am happy about the connection to Slavica (dekanat), networking through her and her personalized help and contact with RADAR. In addition, SFS has connections/network and knowledge of fundraising, applications for grants, CV writing.

SFS is all about personal care and helping you to take your first steps into your professional future. They are people you can ask for help.

Tiia Snäka, former PhD student of Biochemistry at UNIL

*RADAR RP: Promoting scientific research and the missions of healthcare and scientists

“ I learned how to create a LinkedIn profile, how to improve and maintain it and the importance of networking. Jobs are often not advertised and so you have more chances through a network. I found the communication workshop really useful as it is important to communicate to a non-specialized audience even if you stay in academia and also if you want to explain what you do to your family. Covid was a good example of how important it is to communicate science better to society and this is necessary for a lot of positions. The CV check helped me to understand the criteria for a CV for industry positions, especially about the automated processes used to filter the load of incoming CVs. Altogether, the courses helped me to prepare for a big industry position.

SFS gave me the tools, training and information to prepare for the following step in my career.

Sisley Austin, Research scientist and project manager in the Department of Biochemistry at UNIL

“ Slavica specifically pointed out how I can improve my cover letter, CV and LinkedIn profile, depending on the positions I applied for. With these improvements I was able to get the position I wanted.

Thanks to SFS I was able to have a CV and LinkedIn profile targeted towards the job market I was trying to reach and it gave me great success.

Sandro Schibli, former Master student at UNIL, Sales development representative at Benchling