

# Maria Dolak

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## Education

**The University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom**

**IX 2017 – VII 2021**

**BSc Neuroscience**

Year 1 and year 2 average grade: A

Selected courses: Biomedical Science (A3), Genes and Gene Action (A3), Microorganisms, Infection and Immunity 2 (B), Biological Chemistry (A3), Medical Biology (A3), Introduction to Linear Algebra (A2).

Elective courses: Introduction to Cognitive Science, Calculus and its Applications.

**The University of Texas at Austin, United States**

**VIII 2019 – V 2020**

**Student Exchange**

GPA: 3.93 out of 4.00

Courses: Neurobiology of Diseases (A), Principles of Drug Action (B+), Hormones and Behavior (A), Brain Imaging in Psychology (A), Individual Differences (A), Neural Systems II (A), Computational Biology and Bioinformatics (A), Functional Synaptic Neuroanatomy (A), Elements of Computers/Programming (A).

**III High School in Gdynia, Poland**

**IX 2014 – V 2017**

**International Baccalaureate School No 0704**

Final score: 40 out of 45

## Experience

**Intern in the Dr. Michael Drew's lab, The University of Texas at Austin**

**XI 2019 – V 2020**

- Reanalyse Mice Water Maze data from the study (2006) of hippocampal neurogenesis using a new R package "Rtrack"
- Prepare cages, handle model animals, and perform mice behavioral experiments that use stress-enhanced fear learning (SEFL model) to test changes in neuronal activity in animal models of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
- Techniques I perform: slicing mice brain tissue using cryomicrotome, mounting brain sections, taking pictures from light and fluorescence microscopes using ZEN 2011 software, counting active neural cells using Fiji software

**Intern for the School of Psychology, The University of Edinburgh**

**VI 2019 – VIII 2019**

- Performed research on university lecture recordings usage and its effect on students' performance
- Subsequently assisted with the design of experiments for the upcoming academic year

**Edinburgh University Young Scientific Researchers Association**

**X 2018 – II 2019**

- Participated in a group project exploring the usefulness of *C.elegans* as a model organism for gut microbiota studies and usage of OpenWorm software to visualize its connectome

## Other laboratory skills:

Gel electrophoresis, PCR, bacteria identification using different agar plates, agglutination immunoassays, bacteriophage T4 intragenic recombination, interrupted mating, constructing plasmid maps

## Languages & IT skills

**Polish** (native) | **English** (advanced) | **Spanish** (intermediate)

Microsoft Office, R, Reconstruct (serial section microscopy editor), Python (basic), GitHub, Fiji

## Awards and Interests

- Edinburgh Award for the Summer Internship in the Psychology Department 2019
- SYNAPSE society at the University of Texas
- Online course "Introduction to Neurobiology" on the Polish platform Copernicus College
- Salsa and Bachata Society
- Graduated from music school playing the piano