



# Dr. Barbora Balónová



Written by Jacob Campbell, M.Sc. Trainee

## **Bio:**

Dr. Barbora Balónová started her chemistry education at the Slovak University of Technology (STU) in Bratislava Slovakia where she completed a Bachelor's degree (Honors) in Chemistry, medicinal chemistry and chemical materials in 2013. Dr. Balónová stayed at STU to complete her Master's degree in Technical Chemistry, during which she was afforded the opportunity to work as an intern at Saneca Pharma synthesizing active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs). After her Master's, Dr. Balónová was interested in obtaining some international experience and moved to the University of Kent in the United Kingdom for the first two years of her PhD under the supervision of Dr. Barry Blight. After two years Dr. Balónová's supervisor moved to the University of New Brunswick so she moved to Canada to finish her degree in 2019.

## **Career:**

In 2020 Dr. Balónová started working for the Research and Productivity Council (RPC) in Fredericton, New Brunswick as a research scientist. The RPC provides a variety of services including analytical services, inspections, and even R&D expertise. Dr. Balónová and her research team focus on the latter. Her typical week is very involved and fast paced, performing multiple tasks at once such as developing new service lines, working directly with clients, writing deliverables and running experiments. When questioned on what she was enjoying most about her career, she highlighted that unlike



her experiences in graduate school, she was able to have a much better work-life balance.

**Q: What particular skills or talents are most essential to be effective in your job?**

A: Dr. Balónová highlighted that being driven, trainable, with good time management are essential. Moreover, being able to bridge the gap between science and business effectively are essential. Always tune your writing to the intended audience!

**Q: What would say to a graduate student suffering from imposture syndrome?**

A: You are not alone! This is a completely normal feeling. Look back at what you have achieved and look forward to what you can achieve. Many young scientists on social media are sharing very similar experiences! Celebrate the little victories!