

Alumni Interview

(A) General information

1. Consent: *We will use this interview (and your photo) in our upcoming DS Newsletter, which will be sent out to all PhD Students at Chalmers. Also, a copy of our newsletter is stored at DS website (<https://www.dokt.chs.chalmers.se/newsletters/>; feel free to checkout). Are you OK with this?*

Answer: yes

2. Brief introduction about you: *Please briefly tell us about your current work/role, institution (3-5 sentences). We will use this as an introduction to your interview.*

Answer: Silvia Tuzi graduated at department of Physics with a PhD in Materials Science in December 2017. After the PhD she joined GE Additive (previously known as ARCAM EBM) as Technical project manager in the Customer Success Engineering team. The company produces 3D printers specialized in the use of metal powders. Her role is focused on helping the customers through their additive journey.

(B) Interview questions:

1. How did you hear about DS when you were at Chalmers? What led you to join the DS board (what was your motivation to work for DS)?

Answer: I learned about DS during the mandatory introduction course for all the PhDs students. After the class I was intrigued about their role and befriended some of the team members. However, I joined the board only a couple of years later when I felt I had gathered enough information to contribute to the different topics being discussed at DS.

2. What do you think has been the most interesting and surprising aspect of being DS Boardie (Or, any nice memories/stories/achievements you would like to share)?

Answer: The sense of community, to find out that you are not alone! I have learnt that every single PhD student has a different story to share and different challenges ahead of him/her. It was a good place where to feel safe and to discuss difficult topics.

3. What do you take back after being a DS Boardie? Do you think your time at DS board helped you to develop your skills? If yes, how?

Answer: I was involved with team events like CHARM. It gave me the opportunity to learn more about organizations and administration and of course to train negotiation skills.

4. How did you find your (first) job after Ph.D.? Did you follow any specific career plan? What would you suggest to Ph.D. Students who are approaching towards end of their studies and looking for jobs?

Answer: First, take a break! After the PhD you need some rest! Plan a trip, go visit your family, do whatever you like but it's important to give the body and the mind the opportunity to relax. You are

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a skilled person, you will find a job, it's only matter of time! Before starting a new job, it's crucial to be at 100%. The new job will come with a lot of new tasks and a lot of learning, it will require a lot of energy. And during this time, you can prepare your resume and think about what you would like to do in the future.

5. How is it like working at industry/non-academic institution/organization? What are the similarities/dissimilarities? Do you enjoy it? Do you miss academia/academic environment?

Answer: My current job is rather different from my academic one. I have tight deadline and fast paced job. Things can change quite fast and my days are always different. Communication is the key to help the customers and to lead my team with their activities.

6. How do you determine or evaluate success? What do you think it takes to be successful in a company/organization like yours?

Answer: Success has different meaning for different people. For me it means to be able to have a good work-life balance. To be able to do my job without losing grasp on my personal life.

7. If you were hiring a (Chalmers) doctorate for any position at your institution/organization, what qualities would you look for?

Answer: To be a good communicator, communication is often an underestimated skill, but it makes the difference. And, self-driven, eager to learn, flexible and open minded.

8. We assume the position you are working is challenging; so, how do you maintain work-life balance?

Answer: I try to keep my working hours to 8 per day, and to fill my agenda with activities non work related, as training, watching movies, travelling. Of course, sometimes you need to overwork, but you can compensate with taking some days off. We are very flexible about the working hours.

9. What is the best advice/feedback you have received you think helped you a lot in your professional career/personal life?

Answer: Definitively to learn to say no and to say this is good enough. Often, PhDs and former PhDs tend to overdue and/or to overachieve, it's important to understand when a task has been performed "good enough". And it's ok to say no, if we feel that the request doesn't add any values to the project.

Thank you very much once again. We wish you all the success and happiness in your life!