

Dr Maitane Fernandez Chento

Programme Manager, OxICFM CDT, Oxford



Education

- > MSci & PhD with Prof. Jose Luis Vicario University of the Basque Country
- > Postdoc. with Prof. Paul Knöchel LMU Munich
- > Postdoc. with Prof. Michael Willis University of Oxford





Current job

Coordination and management of the OxICFM centre for doctoral training. This involves interacting with all the different stakeholders of the programme, acting as a central point of contact. I check on the students' necessities and wellbeing regularly, I assist the academic directors on a day-to-day basis, and I help to coordinate the academic team and the industrial partners to ensure a smooth delivery of the taught course.



Questions

- > I chose to study chemistry because everyone kept telling me that I should study medicine, but I did not see myself as a doctor. Ironically, I ended up becoming one anyways!
- > I chose this career path because it is the perfect combination of working outside the lab, while still staying very connected to academia and research.
- > The most rewarding thing about my work is witnessing how students grow as researchers during their time in the programme, and being able to follow their careers once they graduate.
- > The main piece of advice I would give someone looking to work outside of academia/industry is do not let anyone tell you that you have wasted your time that skills-set you now possess did not come out of nowhere!
- > My science hero is Marie Skłodowska Curie, who else could it be!
- > I'm waiting for the day when someone will discover teleportation! I know, I know... but wouldn't it be amazing?
- > I wish I made more time for studying languages. I learnt a bit of French at school, and then a bit of German while living in Munich. I now remember very little of both and I wish I had the time to learn them properly.