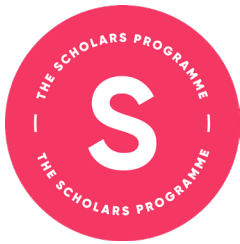


# The Brilliant Club Case Study



**Tutor Name:**  
**Beatriz Moreno Garcia**

**PhD Research Area:**  
**Plant Sciences - metabolic engineering for the increase of crop productivity**

**PhD University:**  
**University of Oxford**

**Brilliant Club Programme:**  
**The Scholars Programme**



## When did you apply to become a Scholars Programme Tutor?

I applied about a year ago, in May 2019. I'd seen some emails from the DTP and from the University of Oxford in general about the opportunity, but I decided to apply when The Brilliant Club presented at an information event at my college. I'd was invited to the formal assessment centre, and I'd only previously done a bit of casual tutoring.

## Tell me a bit about the course you taught on the programme?

The course I developed is based on the general principles behind my biotechnology research. There is a big focus on the applications of biotechnology so the pupils can get motivated by it, and understand why the research is done. Throughout the tutorials I taught some technical aspects, such as what is DNA and DNA cloning, as well as teaching about the applications of these, and discussing climate change. I also involved details of my own research which got pupils interested, and we were able to discuss how biotechnology could be used to solve the food and security crisis.

## Where have you done placements? What were some of the highlights?

I did a placement at The Warriner School and Wykham Park Academy. I most enjoyed the discussion aspects of the tutorials, and seeing how specific pupils evolved throughout the course. It was good to see their progress from the baseline assignments at the beginning of the course to the final assignments at the end. I think the programme is a very good way for pupils to get to know university students, some can see you as a role model and they can get a better idea of what university teaching is like. It's nice that they can engage with the same tutor in a continuous way.

## How has The Scholars Programme helped develop you as a researcher?

My employability skills are better now. For academic roles it is good to have teaching experience, and I have talked about The Brilliant Club in job interviews as it has been a great experience. It has helped a lot in my undergraduate teaching that I do as a researcher, and I hadn't taught undergraduate tutorials before but this term I have signed-up to do some as I feel confident in that now thanks to these tutorials! For anyone wanting to apply, my advice for applications would be to not be too intimidated by the assessment centre as the interview and mini-tutorial preparation can seem intimidating, but be well prepared and in general enjoy it all!

