



### Bettina Kritzer

Research Associate,  
Children's Hospital Zürich

### Educational Background

Bachelor in Biotechnology (ZHAW),  
Pharmaceutical Assistant

### Studies

Master in Life Sciences,  
Pharmaceutical Biotechnology

## Master in Life Sciences

Biopharmaceuticals such as therapeutic proteins and antibodies make it possible to treat diseases in new ways. Modern biotechnology techniques are crucial for advancing medical science.



More about the Master  
in Life Sciences  
[zhaw.ch/icbt/master-  
biotechnology](https://zhaw.ch/icbt/master-biotechnology)

## Master in Life Sciences, Pharmaceutical Biotechnology

«My education at the ZHAW has perfectly equipped me for my career. The numerous internships in biochemistry and biology have been an invaluable asset.»

### What motivated you to study biotechnology at the University of Applied Sciences?

I already knew during my apprenticeship that I wanted to pursue higher education. Since I really enjoyed working in the pharmaceutical field, the biotechnology programme at the ZHAW came highly recommended. I was particularly interested in the biological and pharmaceutical aspects of the degree programme.

### Why did you choose to study at the ZHAW?

Coming straight from my apprenticeship and vocational baccalaureate, the ZHAW was clearly the best choice. The focus on hands-on work at the ZHAW was what appealed to me most.

### After completing your bachelor's degree, you decided to pursue a master's. What motivated you to do this?

My main motivation was an exciting project in Jack Rohrer's lab. However, I also really wanted to deepen my understanding of both the origins and developments of novel therapeutics.

### Which topics fascinated you the most during your master's studies?

I was particularly captivated by the Drug Development and interdisciplinary modules such as Leadership and Management. These aspects are crucial for career success and are often absent from other university programmes.

### How did you find the transition from academic to professional life?

The transition was incredibly smooth for me. I started applying for jobs while writing my master's thesis, and before I submitted it, I was able to secure a position at the Zurich Children's Hospital. The lab work for my master's

thesis happened to be a decisive factor. I have been part of the DIPG/DMG (pediatric brain tumor) research group as a research associate for three years now.

### What are you focused on in your day-to-day work?

Approximately 50 percent of my time is spent conducting experiments in the lab. The remainder is dedicated to managing projects and assisting in writing grants/proposals and papers for publication. On top of that, I've been responsible for organising meetings and conferences for an international consortium for the past two years. The extra responsibilities that I've acquired outside of the laboratory setting are primarily a result of my organisational skills.

### Which subjects from your studies do you find the most useful in your current role?

From the outset, my laboratory skills have been extremely beneficial. Also, my experience with group work has helped me to successfully manage collaborations and ensure effective communication.

### What qualities are essential for someone in Biotechnology?

Given that new fields and methods quickly emerge, being open to new ideas and maintaining flexibility are crucial. Curiosity and the ability to think outside the box are also key.

### Would you choose this path again?

I thoroughly enjoy my work in preclinical biological research. My education at the ZHAW has perfectly equipped me for my career. The numerous internships in biochemistry and biology have been an invaluable asset.