

Roberta Fiorino is a 25-year-old scientist. At the age of 20 she moved from Apulia to Modena because she was interested in the program offered by the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia. In 2019 she graduated in Biological Sciences with 110 *cum laude* with a bachelor's thesis project focused on the study of specific pathways associated with autophagic cell death in an insect cell line. Though involved in projects proportioned to a Bachelor internship, she felt excited by the environment of research of the comparative immunobiology laboratory (led by Professor Davide Malagoli) she was attending, and thanks to her interests, she was given the opportunity to go further than her thesis and to approach translational aspects of biological research. For her Master (Experimental and applied Biology, *curriculum* "study and control of human health", Department of Life Sciences, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia) thesis, she performed experiments on super-paramagnetic iron nanoparticles (SPIONs) administered to an *in vivo* invertebrate model, the invasive freshwater snail *Pomacea canaliculata*. In July 2021, she master graduated with 110 *cum laude* and honors. Now she is attending a predoc at Stowers Institute for Medical Research in Kansas City (MO, USA) as an intern in Dr. Alejandro Sánchez Alvarado's Lab (Executive director and Chief Scientific Officer of the Institute). In January 2022 she will start her PhD at the International Max Planck Research School (IMPRS) in Dortmund (Germany).

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