

Researcher at FH Joanneum & PhD Candidate at SIS institute.

- Which academic career did you imagine when you started to study this Sustainable Development Master's Program?

Nothing specific, but I thought that it would be interesting to work at a university. And that's what I'm doing at the moment :)

- Where are you currently working and what is your scope of activity?

At the FH Joanneum, University of Applied Sciences. I'm part of the research group "Sustainable Food Systems", and I'm also doing my dissertation in this field at the SIS.

- How is your job linked to sustainable development?

We are interested in ways how to transform the current food system into a more sustainable one.

- Did the study program help you getting the job, and does it help you doing the job?

Yes, totally. I can combine two of my favorite interests: (Local) food and science.

- How did you find your job and how long did it take you to reach your current position? (e.g. Did you do internships (unpaid or poorly paid) beforehand?)

Ulrike Seebacher asked me, if I want to collaborate with her on a research project called "The social quality of products". Afterwards she forwarded me the job opportunity at the FH Joanneum, and luckily, I ended up there!

- Would you call your work varied and interdisciplinary?

Absolutely! I teach students, work on national and international research projects, read and write papers, give presentations etc.

- 3 tips you would like to pass on to future Sustainer graduates how to tackle their first job hunt?

1. Networking.
2. Search for where you are in your element, i.e. that inspires you and lets you inspire others
3. Start early enough!

- Any other advice you would like to share?

Support your locals, and buy food at farmers markets :)

- Hartmut Derler