



Name:

Disha Lodha

Job title:

Bioinformatics Developer

What do I do:

I work in Ensembl-plants, where we bring together public data sets including genome assemblies, genome annotation and genetic variation. I am also a member of the Staff Association at EMBL, representing the economic, professional, social, and cultural interests of all EMBL employees.

My career highlights



What do I enjoy most about my job?

I really enjoy adding new features to our pipelines and exploring new technologies. Sometimes these lead to a wider inter team discussion and we get a chance to learn from each other. I also enjoy going to conferences and hackathons and meeting new people.

What parts of my job are challenging?

We receive data from scientists worldwide, and removing contamination while validating the data can be time-consuming. Additionally, I've been actively working on improving my ability to context switch efficiently and stay up to date with emerging technologies.

Skills I use in my job :



Coding

Our job is mostly coding. We create pipelines which houses raw genome data and formats this ready for uploading to the website.



Teamwork

Within my team we work really well and help each other out if someone is stuck on a problem.



Problem solving

Our work is thinking about the users of our data so if a user has any issues we have to try and come up with a solution or investigate what has gone wrong.



Communication

We try to share more of what we are doing so we can learn off of each other, share how we are using new technologies as well as making our jobs easier.

My top tips for students wanting a career in genomics:

- There are a lot of projects and research out there for you to explore, try and find the topics that really interest you. If you're interested in something go for it!
- It's always useful to learn the fundamentals of a programming language. I have been working a lot with python in EBI.
- From afar when you are just starting out everything looks really complex, but start by building your foundation and then you can open the door into loads of different avenues at a later stage.

What hobbies do I have?

I really love dancing, I've doing lots of different classes since I came to live around Cambridge. I also enjoy painting and recently I have been trying to learn how to roller skate!

