

PhD Vlog Week 4: Katherine MacKenzie Transcript

TIME	SPEAKER	AUDIO
0:00:01		[MUSIC/TITLES].
0:00:05	Katherine Mackenzie	Hey, welcome to my final week, Week 4 of the PhD blog. I have a, kind of, idea of what I'm gonna talk about today, but it might diverge. Yeah, what have I learned from being a scientific PhD student? I think I've learned to have a little bit of a thicker skin. I know now, a lot more, that things don't work out, they don't work out the way you want them to.
0:00:35		It's, you can plan an experiment, and plan it really well, and you might, it might not work. And it's disappointing, it's really disappointing, especially if you really thought it would work. And a lot of things, little things go wrong. Like, reagents don't work, you have to order new things, it takes weeks for something to come in. It's not in supply, right now. Like, just these stupid, like, logistical things,
0:01:05		that, it can be really frustrating, that that's what's holding you back, sometimes. But, so I need to still work on not getting bogged down by these things, and not getting so frustrated when something doesn't work out. Because it just happens, and that's that. As well, you'll, especially in the Netherlands, I feel, you'll be confronted, or told very directly,
0:01:35		when something is not what someone else think will work. So, the Dutch people that I've worked with can be very direct, very...it's the directness of the Dutch, it's a thing here. They will tell you exactly what they think of your work. So if you're giving a presentation to the department, and someone thinks that one of the steps you're doing is not right, or that they would do it differently, they'll tell you. And you have to really know what you're doing.
0:02:05		You really have to know why you're doing a certain thing, that's not what they suggest as well. So you have to be able to stand your own ground, or know when they're right. And, yeah, getting that balance, it can be quite intimidating at first, when you're

		kind of faced with someone that disagrees with you. Because, yeah, I know that I have trouble, sometimes, being eloquent, being able to state why I think something. And I know it in my head, but to be able to
0:02:35		portray that to someone else, is really difficult for me, sometimes. So I think, to be here, you really need to, you have to know what you're talking about. Which, yeah, I'm working on. I know that in all research, there's general ups and downs for things not working, and stuff. So yeah, I am getting better at figuring that out, but I wish I'd known a little more about that before I started my PhD.
0:03:05		Because I was really optimistic when I started, and I kind of thought, oh yeah, my project's gonna be perfect, this is gonna work straightaway, these are gonna, this is all gonna fall into place. And it's now been, yeah, a year and a bit, a year and a half, almost. And I'm not there yet, with getting full results. So, it can be really frustrating, so you should know that.
0:03:35		Living abroad, in general, I've found to be quite nice. I'm really lucky that I had good flatmates, and I had a nice place to stay, straightaway when I got here. I feel at home here, because I have the friends that I've made through the lab, as well as the friends that I've made through my flatmates. And I think I'm just gonna keep feeling more at home here, because there's nothing that's, like, putting me off.
0:04:05		I've got my cats, I've got, kind of, of a lifestyle here, which I think is quite positive. There are a few international people that are, they know that being here is a stepping stone, and that they want, they have a specific place that they want to be after - either that they go home, or that they know that they want to move to a specific other country, and do research there, and things like that. Where, I've found that I feel quite at home here, and I would be happy to stay in the Netherlands.
0:04:35		And there are a lot of opportunities here for research, either in universities, and academic research, or, as well as that, in spinoff companies, or

		industry. So, because there are so many opportunities, and so many more, I feel, than in the UK, for me, yeah, I think I feel very comfortable being here. Yeah, it's really great. One downside is, you know, you're away from your family. I've always lived in the UK before this.
0:05:05		The furthest away from home I lived was London. So, it's actually quicker getting home from here, than it was getting home from London, and cheaper. Because the trains from London to where I'm from in Scotland, were, like, eight hours long, and had - or in fact, like, 12 hours, it took to get home. And they were, like, £200. Whereas, a flight from here is 440 Euros, or something, return. Which is really great, and it's quick, and easy.
0:05:35		So, I do miss home, and it does feel like I'm far away sometimes. But with Skype, and, you know, everything now, it's so much easier than it's probably ever been, to live abroad, and to still have the same contact with your family. I think that being an EU citizen really helps with studying here, like visa wise, work wise.
0:06:05		Like, I get all the same benefits as a Dutch citizen, because I'm from the EU. Where, like some people in my group from Indonesia, India, have to really apply for the work permits, apply for everything. So it was really nice doing this PHD vlog. I hope that I haven't bored you too much, and that you know more about living in the Netherlands now, and doing a scientific PhD here.
0:06:35		I think it's a really good place to work, and there are a lot of opportunities available, and new PhD places all the time. And the research industry moves so fast, that there will be new opportunities, like, yeah, all the time. So, again, if you want to leave a comment, and ask any specific questions, I'll try and get back to you. And I know that I'm doing a PhD follow-up video in a few months. So, look out for that.
0:07:05		And good luck with your applications, and your decisions, with what you want to do. If this is influencing it in any way, then that's great. Good

		luck. Bye.
0:07:18		[MUSIC/CREDITS].

END OF TRANSCRIPT