

My name is Elisavet and I come from Greece. I have studied Biology at the University of Patras and during the last year of my BSc I entered the world of Neuroscience. Back then, I studied the effect of lead on learning and memory of adult male mice and the changes in several biochemical markers in their cortex and cerebellum.

I found the world that opened in front of me exciting so I decided to get deeper knowledge in this field and therefore I chose The University of Edinburgh to do my MSc in Integrative Neuroscience. There I had the opportunity to get involved in a very new and state-of-art behavioural project that concerned spatial navigation of rodents in a virtual environment. In this emerging experimental paradigm I expanded my knowledge about animal behaviour.

After having spent 3 years in the field of behavioural neuroscience it became clear to me that this was the path I wanted to follow. In this project, my job will be to perform a sophisticated and automated phenotypic assessment of fine motor, cognitive and emotional disturbances in a transgenic rat model for Spinocerebellar Ataxia type 17 (SCA17). During my final year, I aim to use the identified potential read-outs in a gene therapy study.