



Richard Wundrack

December 14, 2023, online

Career Perspectives with a PhD in Natural & Life Sciences

Doctorate:

Psychology, Faculty of Life Sciences, Humboldt-Universität, 2023

Current Position:

Teamlead Research, Analytics & Development, krisenchat gGmbH

What does your current professional life look like?

I am at the middle management level in a medium-sized, non-profit organisation in the eHealth sector. I lead a small team in the area of research and development and am therefore primarily responsible for the figures, data and facts that are communicated within the organisation. Against the background of business intelligence and accompanying research for our projects and measures, we advise other teams on data-supported decision-making and process optimisation. This has a particular impact on project development, application submission and reporting for the organisation. Other areas under my joint responsibility are data management, governance and privacy. I therefore act as a kind of in-house consultant for the organisation and am involved in many meetings, as my day-to-day work means that a lot of information comes together in my person and I usually have a better overview of the processes and developments in the organisation than other employees.

What do you enjoy most about your current job?

The variety: Thanks to my generalist interface position, I gain insights into almost all operational areas of the organisation, including HR, finance, management, the general consulting offering, risk consulting as well as training and marketing. However, I also enjoy it when I have a few hours to develop a survey or explore a data set myself.

What do you find most exciting about your current job?

The influence: My superiors place a lot of trust in me and seek my advice in many areas. Helping to develop project ideas that are implemented, co-writing proposals that support the organisation with six-figure sums, defining and operationalising KPIs and supporting working students and interns with their varied final theses.

What is the downside of your work?

The "superficiality" of research: Compared to academic research, research here remains somewhat superficial and must be subordinate to the requirements of the core business. This means that research must always be kept short and concise so that it does not disrupt the services offered to children and young people. And the number of meetings: Our meetings are surprisingly productive, but sometimes it gets too much, especially when I don't have the time to properly prepare and follow up on the meeting content.

What motivates you most about your current job?

The practical relevance: In contrast to academic research, our team's insights have a direct impact on the way the organisation provides its services. Our work not only helps us to help more children and young people better, but we also gain insights at the interface of the light and dark field, so to speak.