

ESMAEIL NASROLLAHIAZAR

a) What was your V & E background before attending VENIT?

I already had a Master degree in Agronomy. Simultaneous working placement taught me the importance of dedication to research, project management and the significance of collaborative laboratory and field activities. However, I did not have any deeper knowledge on grapevine or enology.

b) What was your occupation before attending VENIT?

I worked for an agricultural Research Institute, which is a governmental institution. I was in charge of the Plant Variety Protection (PVR) department's seedbank and Image Analysis Lab.

c) What is your current occupation?

In 2018, due to my stay as a visiting scholar in the course of the internship program, I got to work in the Viticulture Laboratory in the Department of Horticulture of Michigan State University supervised by Dr Paolo Sabbatini. My program was focused on viticulture production and disease management in the southwest and Northwest of Michigan. The activities took place in the laboratory, in vineyards and in green house of collaborators. After my study visit / internship I have taken up a position in the laboratory employed by Dr Einhorn, Associate Professor of Fruit Physiology in the Department of Horticulture. In this role, I am working on several projects related to fruit disorders and root physiology in apples and cherries.

d) How much did VENIT contributed to such a change?

My previous experience got broaden by the modern educational system in the well-developed Viticulture and Enology facilities and the high-quality research. UCSC with its state-of-the-art educational facilities is one of the best places study Viticulture and Enology. It is offering cutting-edge education system and led by far-sighted distinguished professors. I appreciated the opportunity to gain hands-on experience and knowledge about many aspects of vineyard management. My education experiences in UCSC Piacenza under suppression of Prof Poni and his excellent team, my previous educational background made me an excellent candidate for getting my job position at one of the most prestigious universities in the world.