



Summary Meet the Expert Dr. rer. nat. Frank Tschentscher

CSI-Düsseldorf: how I got my dream job on a zig zag course

Frank Tschentscher studied biology at the Ruhr-University Bochum and finished his diploma in the department of human genetics in 1998. He is now working as an expert for DNA-analysis at the state office of criminal investigation NRW in Düsseldorf. In our meet-the expert seminar he gave a talk about the “zig-zag-course” he went through to get there and gave us some insights into his present job.

After he finished his diploma he started his PhD at the institute for Zoology in Munich under the supervision of Prof. Pääbo and was working on DNA-Analysis of the Neanderthal. But after one year decided that the time was not right for this project and switched to the department of Prof. Horsthemke at the institute for human genetics at the University Hospital Essen for his PhD. After that he then first worked as a referee for the DFG for one year and then did a one year post-doc at the Institute for Immunology at the University Hospital Essen. But since his time as emergency medical assistant, where he did the civilian service, he was very interested in the police work on a crime scene and he knew that he wanted to work with the police but it also should have something to do with Biology.

Then he was lucky to get a position as head of DNA-Lab at the institute for forensic medicine, at the University Hospital Essen which he described as a very interesting but also very stressful job. But because he never plant a science career and never wanted to become professor and still wanted to work closer with the police he started a job at the state office of criminal investigation, as soon as he got the chance to, in Düsseldorf.

Katharina Batzke