

DKFZ Career Week | May 26th – 29th, 2020

Bioinformatics and Big Data



This year, 2020, came up with many unexpected turns of events. Our original Career Day was planned to be held on 29th May 2020, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was a sudden flip of situation and the Career Week was going virtual from 26th-29th May!

There was a huge learning curve for the organizing team as this would be the first virtual DKFZ event to be held on such a large scale. They needed to quickly learn the ins and outs of hosting an online event without knowing how the participation turn out would

be. The team took up the challenge spending hours preparing and learning how to use hosting platforms and trying to find the most suitable and efficient option. The format was changed to a Career Week format to allow maximum participation on all days. Speakers were contacted to fit the event timings and sponsorship contracts needed to be modified according to a new Corona-virus exception to allow all stakeholders to gain as much from the event as possible.

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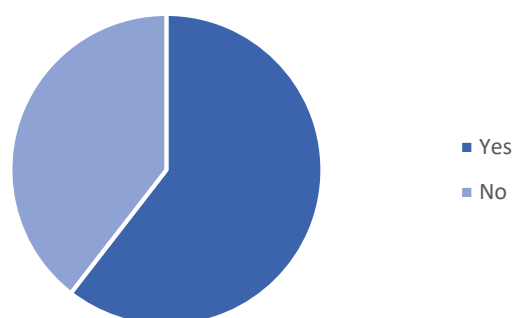


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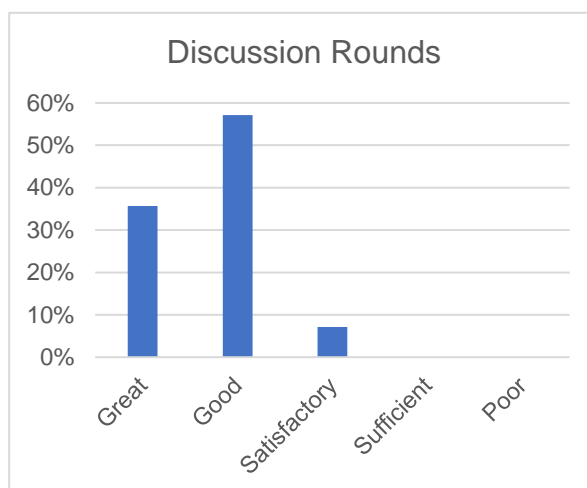
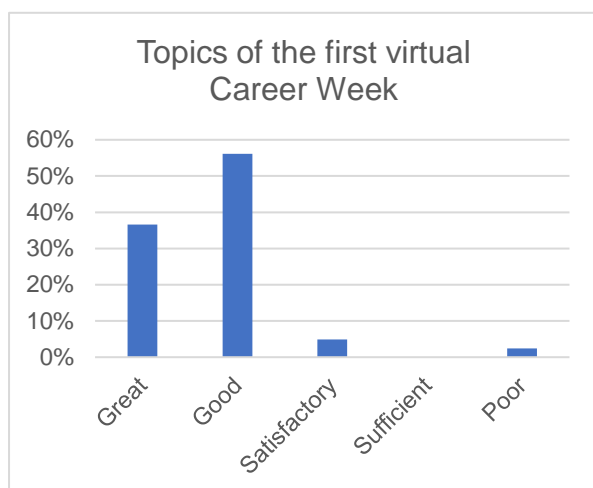
Participants

In total, 360 people registered for the virtual Career Week. On average, there was a daily participation of 140 attendees. The participants consisted of 35% PhD Students, 23% Postdocs, 14% Bachelor Students, 9% Master Students and others. About 48% of the participants were from the DKFZ and about 11% were DKFZ Alumni. According to our survey, 61% of the participants of this virtual event engaged with the speakers as much as they would have during an on-site event.

Did you engage with the speaker as much as you would have on a on-site event?



We received feedback to our survey from 43 participants. More than 90% of the participants said that the selection of topics for the Career Week was great / good and rated the discussion rounds as great / good. Below you find an overview of the feedback regarding topic selection and discussion rounds.



Take home messages (selection):

- You do not need to study bioinformatics to become a data scientist.
- It's possible to go from wet lab to bioinformatics and find good jobs in industry.
- Never give up. Participate in online courses.
- Challenges of application process can be overcome with enough motivation and persistence.
- Send more applications; consider positions which require additional training.
- There are lots of opportunities.
- Ask alumni or mentor for help.
- Use your network!
- Find a niche!
- Great organized event and very easy to follow from everywhere!
- Very well organized but maybe provide more information for the "waiting times". I only realized too late that I could use that time to "chat" privately with other participants; could you provide private breakout rooms for this?
- I really like the graphical summaries!
- I hope that we are going to have more events like this in a virtual format. And consider splitting them into multiple short sessions across several days.

Career Day Orga Team

