

# Saheed Imam

**Country of Origin:** Nigeria

**Degree:** PhD, Cellular and Molecular Biology

**Graduation Date:** April 2014

**Employer:** Synthetic Genomics Inc.

**Position:** Scientist



**What do you do in your current position?**

I conduct cutting-edge algal biofuel research.

**How did you find your position?**

I found it on an online posting.

**Which career services did you find helpful at UW-Madison?**

The OPT training question and answer session offered by ISS.

**Other than your degree, what skills or experience made you competitive in the US job market?**

Computer programming with Java and experience with computational modeling.

**What advice do you have for current international students?**

Use all resources and channels available to you to find out about job openings, and don't be hesitant to apply even if your skill set doesn't perfectly match the job posting. A lot of organizations need your skills and sometimes they don't quite realize it until they see your resume.

If you're called in for an interview, it's because they already want you, so be calm and confident during your interview. The ball is really in your court to do whatever you want.

Also, if you do get an offer, be sure to take some time to think it over and don't be shy (like I was) in negotiating improved terms.

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