Curriculum Vitae of PhD Candidate

Melissa Prelac is currently employed at the Institute of Agriculture and Tourism in Poreč, Croatia. Prior to this, she worked as a professional advisor at the Paying Agency for Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development and at the Ministry of Agriculture (2018–2021). From 2017 to 2018, she managed her family's winery.

In 2017, she worked as an external associate on the project "Adaptability assessment of maze and soybean cultivars of Croatia in the function of breeding for drought tolerance – AGRO-DROUGHT-ADAPT", conducted at the Institute of Agriculture and Tourism in Poreč. In 2016, she completed an internship without establishing an employment relationship at the International Relations Office of the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Agriculture.

She earned her MSc degree in Agroecology from the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Agriculture, in 2015. During her graduate studies, she spent one semester at the Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW) through the Erasmus+ programme.

She is currently completing her doctoral studies at the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology, in the field of food technology. She is employed as a research assistant on the project "Biochar as a tool for environment-friendly and sustainable grapevine nutrient management in the context of climate change'' (BIONUTRIVINE UIP-2019-04-7370), funded by the Croatian Science Foundation. Her research focuses on the adsorption of polyphenols onto biochar produced from grapevine pruning residues, and the optimization of green extraction processes.

To date, she has published four scientific papers as the first author, co-authored three additional scientific papers and one book chapter, all in publications indexed in the Web of Science/Current Contents Connect databases. She has presented her research at national and international scientific conferences.