



ERSI QAZOLLI

From Cosmic Dreams to a Passion for Biotechnology

From a young age, Ersi dreamt big. The idea of traveling through space, witnessing galaxies up close, and experiencing firsthand what he saw on screen captivated him.

"I wanted to become an astronaut. The thought of venturing into space to uncover whether what I saw on TV was real seemed mesmerizing, fascinating, and beyond imagination."

A dream both beautiful and far removed from the realities of life in Albania. During his career counseling process, Ersi realized that pursuing such a path required a specific blend of skills and opportunities—ones that did not align with his surroundings or personal circumstances. This was the first moment when his dream collided with reality.



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"During career counseling, I discovered an inclination toward biotechnology, my current academic major. As I began reading more about biotechnology, I felt a surge of enthusiasm and a deep fascination for this discipline—one I had never encountered before. It sparked my curiosity, compelling me to ask more questions and delve further into my research," Ersi recounts.

It was a feeling that didn't come from the outside but from within—a clear and sincere **"yes"** to a path he might never have discovered without the guidance of career counseling.

The beginning of this journey was not easy. Ersi admits he felt uncertainty and fear. Everyone around him seemed confident in their choices, while he felt an emptiness—a lack of direction. Career counseling helped him realize that this uncertainty was entirely normal. It was not a sign of weakness but a healthy starting point for self-exploration.

Ersi admits that, at one point, he felt the pressure of society nudging him toward **"secure"** choices—those that promised stability and financial security but were often pursued without passion. Career counseling helped him recognize that not everything deemed **"secure"** was necessarily right for him. He realized that true peace of mind would come only from following what genuinely motivated him.

"In the early stages of career counseling, I felt as if everyone around me had already found their direction, knowing exactly what they wanted to do in life and which university major they would pursue. Meanwhile, I was uncertain and somewhat afraid. But career counseling helped me understand that this is completely normal and an inherent part of making life choices—particularly when it comes to shaping my future occupation. It guided me through this moment of discomfort and fear about what the future might hold," Ersi shares.

Among the occupations that surprised him the most was that of a biotechnologist—a field that merges technology with biology and medicine, offering an innovative approach to solving real-world problems. It was a discovery he might never have made without professional guidance and the right inspiration.

Today, Ersi feels confident in the path he has chosen. He has shaped a vision for his future—one not dictated by others, but thoughtfully guided by professional insight, helping him navigate his desires, skills, and passions.

At the end of this journey, if Ersi had the chance to speak to his 14-year-old self, he would tell him not to fear uncertainty. To trust himself, embrace new experiences, and not be swayed by external noise. Because the right path is not always the one others envision for you—it is the one you feel within. *"Explore, try new things, and listen to yourself more than to others."*

