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When Career Counseling Is More Than Just an Office

When asked about his childhood dream, he doesn't hesitate: *"I've always seen myself in scientific research."* A path uncommon for many young Albanians, but for him, it was the natural direction—shaped by the way he was raised and the values of his family.

This student from the Faculty of Mathematical and Physical Engineering (FIMIF), now part of the Institute of Applied Nuclear Physics, shares that even the clearest dreams must navigate reality. *"In my first year, there was no dedicated Career Counseling Office. This structure was established later, but its impact was significant,"* he recalls.



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The choice of profession didn't come as a sudden revelation. He describes it as a process often accompanied by doubts and alternative considerations. *"During my final year of studies, with the help of my professors and the Dean's Office, I was presented with two concrete options: working at the Institute of Geosciences or the Institute of Nuclear Physics. That's when I truly began to feel that I was heading in the right direction."* However, there were also decisive choices to rule out certain paths. He immediately dismissed the idea of pursuing programming as a profession. *"I really like Python, but only as a tool to support my scientific research—not as an end in itself."*

Career counseling was a turning point for him—not only opening real doors to employment but also reshaping how he envisions his future. *"Today, I see myself as someone who contributes to society with passion and integrity, in alignment with the responsibilities my profession entails."*

But, was there any moment of uncertainty? *"Of course! Like any student, I've had moments where I didn't know what I wanted to do. Even now, in my professional life, I often reflect on whether I've taken on more responsibility than I should have."*

When asked if he has ever felt that society has pushed him towards a path that was not his, he makes a clear distinction: *"If we're talking about the social and economic system, then absolutely. I consider myself lucky, but many young people struggle to find employment in the field of their studies. Career counseling has been crucial—though unfortunately, it wasn't there from the very start of my journey."*

Among all the discoveries leading to a new path, one stood out unexpectedly—X-Ray Fluorescence Spectroscopy, a technique that, through the interaction of X-ray radiation with matter at the atomic level, analyzes the composition of various materials. *"I had never heard of this field until I got involved in my master's thesis. Today, it is one of the areas that fascinates me most."*

In the end, left with no regrets about the choices he made, he has only one message for his 14-year-old self: *"Keep going. In the end, everything is in God's hands."*

And now that his path is clearer, he doesn't forget to acknowledge the positive influence of his parents and friends, who have supported him wholeheartedly. With a deep sense of peace and confidence, he concludes: *"Not only do I no longer have doubts, but today, I feel calmer and more certain about the path I have chosen. I am grateful to the Career Office and the Faculty of Mathematical and Physical Engineering, Department of Physics, for accepting me as an external seminarian in the Physics course."*

