

Penny Sarchet is a reporter at *Research Fortnight*, where she writes about research policy, funding, and careers. She has a degree in biological sciences and a doctorate in plant developmental genetics from the University of Oxford. She began writing professionally alongside her doctoral research and in 2011 she won the scientists' category of the inaugural Guardian & Observer/Wellcome Trust Science Writing Prize. She has written for *The Guardian*, *New Scientist*, *BBC Focus*, *Times Higher Education*, *The Sunday Telegraph*, *Cosmos*, and the Nature news blog, and has been featured in *Scientific American's* blog series on young science journalists. She continues to report on pure science as a freelance journalist in her spare time.