

Daria Venkova

CEO, Creative Protein Solutions Inc.
MBT Class of 2019

From early on, Daria felt that her career pursuit would be tied to healthcare, whether through innovation or medical practice. After completing her undergraduate, where she majored in Zoology and minored in Psychology, Daria selected the MBT program. For Daria, MBT was the perfect opportunity to learn about the biomedical and biotechnological industries.



Daria credits the MBT classes for her skills in securing funding, obtaining regulatory approval, managing clinical trials, commercializing biomedical inventions, working in teams and giving scientific as well as business pitch presentations. As an MBT student, Daria enjoyed participating in the Innovation4Health Hackathon — where students of various disciplines take on real-life health care problems over a span of 6 weeks. As an MBT student, she also became involved with Creative Protein Solutions, a Calgary start-up with platform diagnostic technology for detection of various diseases in livestock and other animal groups.

For her internship, Daria gained hands-on experience as a Clinical Trials Assistant at SolAeroMed, a respiratory drug company focused on treating Cystic Fibrosis patients. In this role, Daria was involved in many aspects of recruiting patients, writing and submitting protocols to Health Canada, and managing clinical trials. Following her internship, Daria accepted the position of CEO at Creative Protein Solutions. In this role she is responsible for overseeing fund acquisition, partnerships and business model development. Highlights include spending a week on a dairy farm, acceptance into the Creative Destructions Lab accelerator program and winning pitch competitions, one of which granted her a scholarship to a 5-week entrepreneurship program in Silicon Valley.

Daria's advice to new students is to take advantage of all the great resources and opportunities MBT has to offer, as it will undoubtedly set them up for success in the biotech and life science industries, no matter what path they end up on.