Romie Morales Rosado
Scientist and Manager, Pacific Northwest National Lab

Dr. Romie Morales Rosado started her career as a political science and economics major looking to pursue a Juris Doctor degree. As an undergraduate, she had the opportunity to attend the Junior Summer Institute in Princeton University. There she learned that being able to change and evaluate policies required significant capabilities in mathematics and statistics. As soon as she came back, Dr. Morales Rosado decided she would pursue more math and statistics courses to be able to put forward great policy recommendations. As she started with her math and stats courses, she decided to add them as majors for her undergraduate career. When Dr. Morales Rosado finished her undergraduate degree, she pursued a Ph.D. in applied mathematics. During her Ph.D. research and studies, she became involved with several mentorship engagements and academic organizations that allowed her to continue to develop her leadership and management skills.

While getting closer to finishing her Ph.D., Dr. Morales Rosado decided to pursue a career where she could continue to do research, mentorship, and management. She was interviewed and received multiple offers in national labs and financial, academic, and pharmaceutical institutions. She decided to go the research route at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) since it provided the right mix of interdisciplinary research, growth opportunities, and the high-level impact she envisioned taking part in her career. Currently, Dr. Morales Rosado is a line manager for a machine learning team and principal investigator in a multi-lab research effort.

In her work, linear algebra, calculus, statistics, and logistic regression are some of the subjects Dr. Morales Rosado tends to apply daily. She does a significant amount of work applying and collaborating with scientists who develop machine learning and artificial intelligence algorithms, as well as scientists whose work depends on the outcomes of these algorithms.

Dr. Morales Rosado recommends applying to all available opportunities: “Make sure you go through the process and apply to all the internships available in your field.” She recommends that the best way to learn from a field you are interested in is to give it a try, and internships are the best path forward for such things. She says, “If you don’t get accepted to an opportunity you really wanted, make sure to follow up to find out what you could do better.”