

Claudia Merlassino about her daily work as a physicist

What was your physics teacher at high school like? She was really cool! An old lady who was about to retire. Today she lives in the US and we sometimes exchange letters.

How many friends or relatives do really understand what's your research is on? Only my university friends.

I love that!

Do you need social media in your professional life? Not today, but later I will be able to explain my research to a broad public.

What do you dislike in your research job? For my research, sometimes I need to work in underground labs and I spend hours without daylight. I'm glad when I'm out again.

Have you ever been mobbed because you are a physicist? During my first year of studying physics in Milan, my classmates looked at me awkwardly and asked, „What, you're studying physics?“

Did your parents like it when you have chosen physics as your main subject of study? Absolutely! They were just a bit worried that this field is very competitive and it is hard to find a permanent job in research.

Why Bern is a good place to study high energy physics? We have a great research group that does not just look after one, but for many experiments. So we roll many problems at the same time and exchange great ideas!

What was the highlight by preparing your PhD thesis so far? When I can talk about my research at the CERN before the researchers of the ATLAS experiment. About a hundred of people are there listening curiously and ask clever questions. I love that!

What part of your professional life is paperwork? There is quite few paperwork, since I am a doctoral student. In addition to my research, I also teach students, but that's no paperwork!