

# Freelance Biobusiness Writers Wanted (But...)

Why make the search for talent easy? Take one *Lab Times* reader's mysterious approach to jobseeking as an example.

Not so long ago (it was April this year), a *Lab Times* editor received an e mail from a *Lab Times* reader who was responding to a small advertisement in a previous issue. In the advertisement, we asked for eloquent natural scientists with a talent for writing and a feeling for economics to contact us. The reader's email went as follows:

*Dear Sir/Madame,*

*I'm contacting you in relation to the advertisement of "FREELANCE BIOBUSINESS WRITERS WANTED" that have seen in the Lab Times magazine (Issue 2, March 18th 2008). I would like to ask you for further information about this job in*



*order to sent you my CV and application. I'm looking forward to hearing from you. Thank you very much in advance,  
Olga [...] PhD Molecular Biology  
[E-Mail address]*

The *Lab Times* editor deduced from her e mail address ("...@yahoo.es"), that the hopeful writer was a Spanish señora. He composed a reply:

*Dear Olga,*

*I'd like to hear from you, so I am looking forward to receiving your short CV (a formal application is not necessary).*

*Best wishes*

*[...]*

*---*

*[...]*

*Lab Times*

*wk@lab-times.org*

*[Tel. etc.]*

In a couple of minutes, the editor received a response that left him perplexed:

*Failed to deliver your message to [...]@yahoo.es: SMTP: The host does not maintain the SMTP mail service. Cannot speak with 'd.mx.mail.yahoo.com' for 30 minutes. Action: failed. Status: 5.0.0.*



The editor tried resending the e mail several times. Each time the result was as above.

Well, mysterious Olga from Spain:

- 1. We at Lab Times are glad that you wanted to apply for the job.*
  - 2. We are still looking for freelancers from European countries.*
  - 3. If you are interested in working for us you need to use a valid e-mail address or at least leave us your telephone number. We go to great lengths in the search for new journalistic talent but, sadly, developing telepathic powers is beyond even the scope of the Lab Times team.*
  - 4. We don't know what a "Status 5.0.0" is.*
- All the best  
Your Lab Times editor*