



Ambre and Dune NOLY were born in the Gard region on the same night in 1999. After their high school years in Nîmes, they joined the preparatory program for elite biology schools at Lycée Joffre, but soon redirected their paths toward the University of Montpellier. Drawn to marine biology yet curious about earth sciences, they ultimately chose genetics by enrolling in the EpiGenMed Master's program.

Which teachers left a lasting impression on them? Stéphane Bodin, for his engaging way of teaching metabolism; Patrick Lemaire, whose contagious passion for embryonic development proved inspiring; and Anne-Marie Martinez, a charismatic scientist. This is how Ambre found her way to the CRBM for her first internship with Dom Helmlinger, while Dune was supervised by Stéphane Bodin, also at CRBM. Their paths were strongly influenced by Dom Helmlinger, who convinced both of them to pursue a PhD in his team — an opportunity the inseparable twins couldn't resist.

Ambre is co-supervised by Maryse Vanderplanck at CEFÉ, studying the adaptation of fission yeasts to bee products and their ecological role in plant–pollinator interactions. She values the ecological perspective her PhD subject offers and the multi-scale approach that allows her to explore both metabolic pathways and bumblebee behavior. This research helps her develop a synthetic and integrative way of thinking.

Dune, for her part, studies the determinants of transcriptional regulation by co-activator complexes. This project enables her to master a broad range of genomic techniques and helps her cultivate strong organizational skills, resilience, and critical thinking.

By supervising Master's students themselves, both sisters have realized how far they've come and appreciate the confidence their PhD work has helped them build. What comes next? It's too early to say — but there is little doubt that these twin sisters will find their way.