Dear Dr. Sunila Nair,

My name is Emily Poulin, I am a sophomore in the honors program at the University of Washington, and I am writing to apply for a research position in your lab studying the brain and drug addiction, which I heard about through Sarah Claypool. I would like to begin by saying I am passionate about pursuing a career in biology. As you can see from my résumé, I have tried to put myself in a position to maximize my exposure to different opportunities in the field of biology. My time at a large research university has shown me that there are a seemingly endless number of directions that a career in science could go, so I want to experience as many of them as possible before I start to specialize.

My academics have consisted of chemistry, biology, English composition, statistics, calculus, as well and two graduate level courses at UW’s Friday Harbor Labs. My classes at Friday Harbor Labs allowed me to learn about marine botany, marine birds, and mammals at a deeper level than I would have been able to during my typical school year. I was fascinated by my birds and mammals course, and I am now planning to attend veterinary school so that I can work with marine animals someday. During my time at the labs, I conducted two independent research projects that allowed me to become proficient in Microsoft Excel and the Barcoding of Life Database (BOLD), as well as gain experience with microscopy and running PCR. I presented each of my projects to the FHL Faculty and my peers at the labs.

I am incredibly passionate about biology, and I have continued to be involved in research since my time at Friday Harbor Labs this summer. I assisted Christopher Wells from Dr. Kenneth Seben’s lab during Autumn quarter on a project analyzing the distribution of macroalgae and benthic invertebrates around the San Jan Islands with machine learning technology. This past quarter I have been interning for UW’s Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST) to help record data about marine debris accumulation and seabird mortality on the West Coast of the United States and manage volunteer training sessions. I have enjoyed these experiences, and I am now looking for a position that will provide me with relevant experience that I will need for veterinary school such as the care of lab animals and a more advanced understanding of neuroscience and biochemistry.

If you select me to interview for this position, I can promise that you will see a person who is passionate, willing to learn, and dedicated to improving herself and the people that she works for and with. I will throw myself into this position because I know that hard work is required to achieve meaningful outcomes. Thank you for your consideration, I look forward to hearing from you. If there is any additional information I can provide, please let me know.

Best regards,

Emily Poulin

Physiology & Marine Biology major

UW Class of 2021

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