

Application Related Information

Application:	Application Incomplete	Iteration Name:	202410_GR_G
Grad Program Applying To:	MES	Program Name:	MES

Recommendation Information

Recommended By:	Pauline Yu	Recommenders Title:	Faculty
Recommenders Institution:	The Evergreen State College	Contact Name:	Megan Engstrom
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs:	I do not waive my right to review this recommendation.	Recommendation Waiver Choice:	
Recommendation Form Submitted:	✓	Recommendation Status:	Received
Received Date:	07/12/2023 01:14 AM	Recommender Assessment:	I recommend this applicant without reservation.
Recommendation Type:	General	Recommender Form:	Letter of Recommendation
Recommendation Entity ID:	1024000110167306	Recommendation Owner:	Josephine Bernier

Recommender Form Questions

How long have you known applicant:	Applicant ability as self-directed learner:
Time since last contact with applicant:	Applicant as productive member of group:
Relationship with Applicant:	Applicant most significant strengths:
Ability to complete rigorous grad program:	Responsibility/reliability:
Communication Skills - Oral:	Communication skills - written:
Service Orientation-sensitivity/empathy:	Ability to work independently:
Ability to handle stress:	Ability to think critically:
Ability to analyze/problem solve:	Ability to think creatively:
Openness to feedback:	Potential for leadership:
Ability to work in a team:	Personal/professional reflection:

Description Information

Description:	Form URL:	https://evergreenstatecollege.radius
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Other Information

Created Time:	06/28/2023 03:08 PM	Created By:	Josephine Bernier
Modified Time:	07/12/2023 01:14 AM	Modified By:	Josephine Bernier



Lab I, Room 2022
The Evergreen State College
Olympia, WA 98505
July 11, 2023

Masters of Environmental Studies Admissions
Lab I 3022
The Evergreen State College
2700 Evergreen Parkway NW
Olympia, WA 98505

Dear Masters of Environmental Studies Admissions Committee,

It is with enthusiasm that I give my highest recommendation to Mx. Fauna Engstrom for admission to the Masters of Environmental Studies at the Evergreen State College. Mx. Engstrom was a serious and committed student of the biological sciences in the program that I taught this year Marine Biodiversity. Mx. Engstrom consistently demonstrated dedication and professional promise in undergraduate work as my student, and is an excellent candidate for interdisciplinary graduate study in the MES program. Mx. Engstrom has consistently demonstrated academic excellence, a persistent work ethic, and a strong understanding of the varied topics covered in marine biodiversity, as exemplified by performance on exams, field notebooks, research and laboratory work. Mx. Engstrom is meticulous with record keeping in laboratory/field notebooks, and shows true promise as a scientist, demonstrating strong observational skills, patience, attention to detail, and persistence with research work. Mx. Engstrom comes to class well-prepared and organized for class, field and lab activities. Overall, Mx. Engstrom has demonstrated curiosity and engagement throughout, and is passionate and inquisitive about science in the broader sense of its greater place in society. It has been a thoroughly enjoyable experience having Mx. Engstrom as a student, and seeing them grow as a scientist. I am very pleased Mx. Engstrom has chosen to further develop their education and training in environmental studies.

As an Evergreen undergraduate, Mx. Engstrom designed a curriculum with an interdisciplinary bridge between science and the arts. Mx. Engstrom sought out a solid foundation in environmental science and related sciences, and has breadth in psychology in their studies. Mx. Engstrom has maintained an interest in cultivating fine arts skills alongside the training in the sciences and has worked in multiple artistic media. Mx. Engstrom's close observation skills and artistic skills were invaluable in their ability to understand and illustrate marine specimens. Mx. Engstrom is a dedicated, hard-working student who is not afraid to confront a challenge, demonstrates leadership among classmates with laboratory and project field work and uses broadly creative skills to effectively communicate their knowledge.



With group work, Mx. Engstrom demonstrated excellent leadership, collaborative learning skills and learning across difference through engaged participation. Mx. Engstrom was able to facilitate their own learning and others' learning with questions, group guidance, patience and the ability to know when to seek help from others. Mx. Engstrom has strong communication skills and demonstrates an ease with both group work and independent work; Mx. Engstrom also works actively at improving themselves as a student, continually developing as an intellectual and human being, and clearly demonstrates this drive in their work and performance. During the spring quarter of our Marine Biodiversity program, Mx. Engstrom was a lead on a small group project examining the presence of symbiotic copepods on ghost shrimp, and the main study design and writing was carried by Mx. Engstrom's work. The writing for both the proposal and final paper demonstrated a strong understanding of technical scientific writing, both in content and form; the final paper was a very good demonstration of Mx. Engstrom's ability to critically evaluate the research findings and the role of those findings in the context of existing scientific literature. Quantitative analysis was not emphasized in our program, but nonetheless the research group incorporated some basic descriptive statistics in the research report. I found that when I gave assignments that had exploratory and independent inquiry components, Mx. Engstrom demonstrated their strengths as a scholar by demonstrating initiative and encouraging classmates who were less confident. Mx. Engstrom is committed to applying themselves resourcefully and creatively in multiple ways as both a scientist and an artisan, who is curious and caring. I have every expectation that Mx. Engstrom would continue their excellent academic and scientific inquiry in the MES program.

Overall, I give Mx. Engstrom my highest recommendation for this graduate training opportunity for both accomplishments to date, and also their potential for further achievement. Mx. Engstrom has demonstrated worthiness as a scientist-in-training, and additional interdisciplinary graduate study would assist in their future career aspirations in the environmental sciences. Mx. Engstrom's demonstrated achievement and consistent passion for ecology and environmental sciences make them a worthwhile time and training investment. With this opportunity for advanced graduate training, Mx. Engstrom will strengthen their potential for further accomplishments as a field scientist and a creative problem solver. Thank you for considering Mx. Fauna Engstrom for admission to the Masters of Environmental Studies at The Evergreen State College.

Sincerely,

Pauline C. Yu, Ph. D.
Regular Member of Faculty