I intend to study a Master of Environmental Studies at Evergreen State College. My previous studies in international industrial engineering and current work in researching environmental economics have prepared me to excel in a rigorous and intensive master's program. At Evergreen I look forward to grappling with big issues related to climate change as a graduate student.

As a child, I did not know the terms "climate change" or "environmental studies," but I frequently found myself deeply engrossed in books about wildlife, especially marine creatures. Being a naturally inquisitive person, I began questioning and exploring from an early age. I played outside every day and watched nature documentaries on TV, which exposed me to the area of natural science. I always wanted to know the details of how things work when others were satisfied with less profound answers.

I am still an explorer, which can be seen through my recent and current academic and professional commitments which include research and scientific work. My bachelor's degree covered various scientific technological and economic coursework but also involved an intense study of the R&D of electric vehicles. For my thesis, I completed an intricate comparison of the energy use of electric vehicles based on driving cycles and vehicle configurations in the R&D department of a large automotive company. I currently work as an environmental economics research assistant and conduct studies on measuring an economy's sustainability and circularity. A few months ago, I co-authored a paper on resilient supply chains in Germany, given the country's transformation toward a climate-neutral economy. At the moment, I am working on projects related to analyzing resource efficiency in Bavaria and the status and advancements of Germany's closed-loop economy. My additional research projects address renewable energy technologies, natural resource dependency, green economy, climate change, and environmental indicators. Through my academic and professional experiences, I learned to think and work collaboratively with diverse professionals, such as engineers or sustainability experts, who have unique approaches to research and scientific work. Moreover, these experiences allowed me to develop a solid foundation for further scientific study as I gained knowledge in environmental economics and natural sciences, such as mathematics, thermodynamics, engineering mechanics, material science, and data processing.

My previous academic and professional experiences, coupled with my everlasting interest in nature and the environment, have led me to intend to study a Master of Environmental Studies. The topics of environment and sustainability played a role in my past scholastic and employment career, but I am interested in delving even deeper into scientific issues and expanding my knowledge of environmental sciences. In the master's program, I am particularly interested in understanding the scientific processes in the environment better and conducting research and fieldwork.

Also, my personal situation has contributed to my decision to pursue a master's degree in Environmental Studies. I have been a caretaker of my brother with Down syndrome for almost my whole life and also cared for my grandparents for many years. The lessons I have learned as a caregiver have reinforced my desire to work towards a more sustainable world. A world where those who have the privilege to do more, work together towards creating a better life for everyone around them.

After gaining practical work and research experience in the sciences, and given my deep interest in environmental issues, pursuing a master's degree at Evergreen is the logical next step for me as I continue my scholastic career and focus my interests on environmental

research. As a master's student, I intend to explore how climate change affects ecosystems and how we can prevent further degradation. I am deeply interested in conservation ecology, biodiversity, and climatology, particularly in aquatic ecosystems. After completing the master's program, I will engage in researching solutions for the aquatic and terrestrial habitats at risk, such as coral reefs and forests, working at a think tank or an NGO. I also plan to dedicate my career to science communication to inform others about the importance of healthy ecosystems and to counteract misinformation. I believe information backed by science must be more present in public dialogue and politics to find sustainable solutions for today's and the future's challenges. Increasingly, leaders fail to take the action needed to address the climate and biodiversity crisis the world is facing. Thus, I intend to add my voice to the conversation and work to establish a more productive dialogue about ways to address climate change.

When discovering the master's program at Evergreen, I immediately identified a match with my scientific outlook due to the program's interdisciplinary nature, allowing a systemic understanding of the complexity of Earth's ecosystems across disciplines. I am especially drawn to the emphasis the program places on providing a balance between theory and practice by implementing field trips and internships into the program schedule which is essential to make actionable scientific advances. Also, the fact that Evergreen is a top-rated master's college underscores the high quality of education offered, making Evergreen an excellent environment for academic development. Furthermore, Evergreen is surrounded by various national parks and ecosystems and thus offers valuable opportunities to conduct research in aquatic and terrestrial habitats.

Through my master's studies, I will experience deep academic and personal growth as a part of the scientific community at Evergreen. Therefore, I look forward to beginning my journey as a master's student at Evergreen State College.