

#### Application Related Information

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Application: Application Not Verified  
Grad Program Applying To: MES

Iteration Name: 202610\_GR\_G  
Program Name: MES

#### Recommendation Information

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Recommended By: Clarissa Dirks  
Recommenders Institution: The Evergreen State College

Recommenders Title: Member of the Faculty,  
Molecular Biology

Contact Name: Gina Jarasitis

Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs: I choose to waive my right to  
review this recommendation.

Recommendation Waiver  
Choice:

Recommendation Form Submitted: ✓

Recommendation Status: Received

Received Date: 10/20/2024 09:02 AM

Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant  
without reservation.

Recommendation Type: General

Recommender Form: Letter of Recommendation

Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000119929554

Recommendation Owner: Josephine Bernier

#### Recommender Form Questions

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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

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Description:

Form URL: <https://evergreenstatecollege.radius>

#### Other Information

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Created Time: 09/10/2024 12:35 PM

Created By: Josephine Bernier

Modified Time: 10/20/2024 09:02 AM

Modified By: Josephine Bernier



October 15, 2024

Dear Selection Committee,

I am pleased to write a letter in support of Gina Jarasitis' application to enter the Master of Environmental Studies (MES) program at The Evergreen State College. I have known Gina for several months now, as she was an outstanding undergraduate in my 2024 summer General Biology course. Gina was taking the course to prepare herself for the MES program and was truly an asset to the programs' learning environment. During her time in General Biology, I was very impressed by Gina's work ethics, problem-solving skills, and leadership abilities. Gina is a mature student, and she spent quality time engaged in learning biology through any resource provided for her. It was very clear that she really knew the material. What was so impressive about Gina is how she helped others in the class learn the material during workshops and in-class activities. Her competence and kind personality mixed with a lot of patience made her an excellent peer mentor. Gina also had the top scores on exams and did excellent work in the field and lab. Gina's work in the field and laboratory sessions demonstrated effective application of knowledge and substantial learning, giving her a real set of tools to take into upper division work. As a culminating experience, Gina wrote a paper and gave a presentation on one of the chapters about animals as well the organism of her choice – the black soldier fly. The group gave an excellent presentation of their work, and it was clear that Gina was the leader (and supporter) of the other students in the group. Gina's paper was well researched and clearly written, and her presentation of her organism was excellent, demonstrating outstanding communication skills.

Gina conveyed to me at the beginning of General Biology that she is completing her lower-division science work at Evergreen with the goal of continuing her education in environmental studies by entering the MES program at Evergreen. Gina will be an outstanding student in the MES program, and I fully support her application. Please feel free to contact me about Gina's work in the General Biology course.

Best Regards,

Ph.D., Member of the Faculty, Molecular and Cellular Biology  
National Academies Scientific Teaching Fellow and Mentor  
Society for the Advancement of Biology Education Research Co-Founder

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