

#### Application Related Information

---

Application: Application Not Verified  
Grad Program Applying To: MES

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

#### Recommendation Information

---

Recommended By: Lauren Hall-Lew  
Recommenders Institution: University of Edinburgh  
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs: I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.  
Recommendation Form Submitted: ✓

Recommenders Title: Dissertation advisor  
Contact Name: Tully McCombs  
Recommendation Waiver Choice:  
Recommendation Status: Received

Received Date: 11/26/2024 04:24 AM  
Recommendation Type: General  
Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000120721438

Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant.  
Recommender Form: Letter of Recommendation  
Recommendation Owner: Josephine Bernier

#### Recommender Form Questions

---

How long have you known applicant:  
Time since last contact with applicant:  
Relationship with Applicant:  
Ability to complete rigorous grad program:  
Communication Skills - Oral:  
Service Orientation-sensitivity/empathy:  
Ability to handle stress:  
Ability to analyze/problem solve:  
Openness to feedback:  
Ability to work in a team:

Applicant ability as self-directed learner:  
Applicant as productive member of group:  
Applicant most significant strengths:  
Responsibility/reliability:  
Communication skills - written:  
Ability to work independently:  
Ability to think critically:  
Ability to think creatively:  
Potential for leadership:  
Personal/professional reflection:

#### Description Information

---

Description:

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

#### Other Information

---

Created Time: 10/21/2024 03:51 PM  
Modified Time: 11/26/2024 04:24 AM

Created By: Josephine Bernier  
Modified By: Josephine Bernier



26 November 2024

Linguistics and English Language  
SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY, PSYCHOLOGY  
and LANGUAGE SCIENCES

University of Edinburgh  
Dugald Stewart Building  
3 Charles Street  
EDINBURGH  
EH8 9AD

Tel: (+44) 131 650 3961  
Fax: (+44) 131 650 6883

### **Letter of Recommendation for TULLY MCCOMBS**

I am writing in support of Tully McCombs's application to pursue a Master of Environmental Studies Program at The Evergreen State College. I have supervised Tully's work as a researcher, and I believe that they can succeed in this programme. I recommend them fully.

Note: In Scotland, an undergraduate degree is a four-year MA degree, unlike in the US where it is a four-year BA degree, and unlike England, where it is a three-year BA degree. The degree is an MA rather than a BA because of the fourth-year dissertation component, which is a bit like a masters degree added a three-year English BA, although also a bit like a four-year BA with honors, on the US system.

Another note: Tully's degree, Cognitive Science, is an unusual one because students take courses from three different subjects (Philosophy, Psychology, and Linguistics) rather than taking courses 'in' Cognitive Science. It is a challenging degree in its interdisciplinarity, asking students to switch focus and mindset from class to class. You'll see from Tully's transcription that they excelled across all areas.

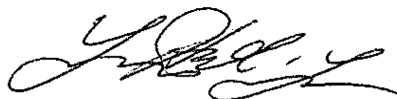
A final note: In the UK, and specifically at the University of Edinburgh, a very good mark is a 65, equivalent to a 'B'. This is the dissertation mark that we unofficially require on a dissertation to consider a student for admission to the PhD, for example. Tully's dissertation got a 66, so just above this threshold. Marks above 70 are exceptional; the 70 is the threshold for an 'A', but it's also a less common to find students with A's than at many US universities (I write this as an American who did BA, MA, and PhD work in the US). You'll see that Tully obtained two A's at 'Honours' level (the second two years of the four-year MA). These are essentially 'balanced' out by the two C's on their transcript, indicating that, overall, Tully is a solid 'B' student.

I was Tully's supervisor for their fourth-year dissertation in Autumn 2021. (Normally I would've continued into Spring 2022, but I was on research leave that semester.) This period was a difficult one because Scotland and the UK were still cautiously emerging from Covid-19 lockdowns. The kind of research that I supervise usually involves either fieldwork or lab-based data collection, so my students had some methodological challenges that year. Tully and I settled on an online survey methodology, because of this. They designed completed research ethics training and a Human Subjects protocol, and then wrote a language attitudes survey in Qualtrics. The survey was very creative, presenting short stories to participants about different kinds of characters, and then varying the pronoun (he/she/none/neopronoun) to see if it affected readers' views of the characters. The data were then analyzed quantitatively. Through this experience, Tully acquired a number of key research skills that will be useful on the Master of Environmental Studies, even though the discipline is a different one.

I know that Tully has given their future quite a bit of thought in the intervening years, and had while never losing a love for interdisciplinarity, they have developed a passion for environmental science. As Tully wrote in their email to me, both Cognitive Science and Environmental Science "require context, synthesis of information from different sources, and enough understanding of the statistics and epistemology involved to adapt your methodology to the resources available. When I took a course in forestry to support my work with the family business last Fall, this was one of my main takeaways: everything in a natural environment is interrelated. I've been having a great time with that!" Tully is especially drawn to Evergreen because of your famous hands-on approach, which suits their learning style.

I have no reservations in recommending Tully McCombs for admission to a Master of Environmental Studies Program at The Evergreen State College. Please feel free to contact me with any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lauren Hall-Lew', with a stylized, flowing script.

Professor Lauren Hall-Lew  
Personal Chair of Sociolinguistics  
[Lauren.Hall-Lew@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Lauren.Hall-Lew@ed.ac.uk)  
+44/0 131 651 1836