

Application Related Information

Application:	Application Incomplete	Iteration Name:	202510_GR_G
Grad Program Applying To:	MiT	Program Name:	MITU

Recommendation Information

Recommended By:	Miranda Mellis	Recommenders Title:	
Recommenders Institution:	The Evergreen State College	Contact Name:	Joshua Fritch
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:	09/12/2023 01:22 PM	Recommender Assessment:	I recommend this applicant.
Recommendation Type:	General	Recommender Form:	Letter of Recommendation
Recommendation Entity ID:	1024000110478165	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.radiu
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Other Information

Created Time:	08/31/2023 09:26 AM	Created By:	Josephine Bernier
Modified Time:	09/12/2023 01:22 PM	Modified By:	Josephine Bernier



9/12/23

To Whom It May Concern:

I first worked with Josh Fritch in Word Play, an interdisciplinary humanities and literary arts class in 2021 which I co-taught with classicist, Dr. Andrew Reece. Participants in this inquiry-driven, foundational program read ancient and contemporary literature with a focus on the poetics of catastrophe. We studied the formal properties and historical contingencies of a range of kinds of writing in several genres and styles with a focus, on the one hand, on catastrophe, and on the other hand, on play.

The program demanded intensive reading and writing, independent initiative, the ability to work autonomously, shared leadership, and collaborative learning. In all of these areas Josh excelled, participated collaboratively, generously, and whole heartedly, and completed all work with high levels of engagement and thought.

I also sponsored Josh's Individual Learning Contract, Learning to Understand: Literature, Creative Writing, and Philosophy which entailed a contemplative exploration of inner life, selfhood, and wisdom teachings through a solitary hiking trip of over 70 miles; fiction writing, essay writing, discussion, and weekly reflections; and readings in contemporary literature and Buddhist philosophy, including texts by Pema Chodron, Khaled Hosseini, among others.

Joshua completed an impressive amount of writing for this summer ILC project, including three major projects: a deeply thoughtful, well-crafted and lucid philosophical essay of 25 pages; a one week solo backpacking trip of 73 miles and a 7-page paper on what the trip was like and the things Joshua learned; and a nearly 50-page literary science-fiction story in the vein of Philip K. Dick, exploring consciousness, simulacra, AI and representations of self. Joshua's work this summer reflects a passion for thinking, wonder, curiosity, reflection, and contemplative and spiritual practices through writing, reading, discussion, and that activity beloved of philosophers and writers, long, solitary walks. In our meetings I was struck by Joshua's capacity for speculative, open-ended, and courageous inquiry into suffering, cognition, and mind.

Josh engages sincerely, works hard, participates, brings deep care to academic work and collaborative learning, and will make an excellent graduate student. I believe Josh will make a gifted and wonderful teacher and I recommend Josh strongly!

Sincerely,

Miranda Mellis
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