

## Eurac Research

INSTITUTE FOR EARTH OBSERVATION  
VIALE DRUSO 1 - 39100 BOLZANO

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2019

### Job Application for Junior researcher within ECOPOTENTIAL project

Dear Mrs. Winkler,

I write to you regarding the open position as a Junior researcher within the ECOPOTENTIAL project listed on your website. I would like to start by introducing myself. My name is Lorena Abad, I am an environmental engineer from Cuenca, Ecuador, studying a masters in Geospatial Technologies, on the final stage of my masters thesis, expecting completion by the end of this month.

As I read the job offer description I felt that my previous studies, along with my work experience, matched accurately the requirements listed. Furthermore, finding such a position for my study levels fits perfectly with my personal motivation to pursue a career in science, research, and academia. Therefore, I would like to point out the main highlights in my career that led me into believing that I would make a good candidate for the job.

Before starting my bachelor, I already felt passionate about the environment. My hometown, in a valley between mountains was an ideal setting to start exploring the world around me, and the high biodiversity in my country, Ecuador, did only but increase my interest in the field. As part of my bachelor studies, I covered a wide range of topics which included among others Microbiology, Biology, and Ecology. I reinforced my knowledge on this field during a Summer School in Biodiversity which I attended in the University of Osnabrück in 2015. Later on, courses on Cartography and Remote Sensing caught my attention and motivated me to pursue a path in GIS-related fields, as tools to study and improve the environment.

I took a first step with my bachelor thesis, where I investigated the use of satellite imagery to estimate air pollution in urban environments. My supervisor by then, a Biologist specialized in Geomatics, invited me to collaborate with him in other projects related to his field, that became part of my early job experience. It was then that I familiarized myself with species distribution modelling, as part of a project to study and recover endangered amphibian habitats in my city. I first performed modelling tasks using the software MaxEnt, and then was in charge of the in-situ water and air quality monitoring of artificial habitats selected by the results of the distribution modelling. The project became a big success and has shown already recovery of the urban fauna.

I realized with this short experience, that many of my interests had a common core, Geospatial Technologies, which drove me into applying to the Erasmus Masters I am pursuing currently. This masters did not only enriched my knowledge in several theoretical topics such as geographic information science, remote sensing, cartography, among others, but also reinforced my programming skills. R has become my preferred programming language and I am very comfortable in using it for different tasks from spatial to statistical analyses, as well as data visualization.

Along this journey, I have had the opportunity to work within different research groups, composed by people with multiple professional qualifications encompassing various disciplines, as well as cultural backgrounds, which was consolidated during my international masters studies. In addition, I had the chance to publish my work in journals indexed on LatinIndex and Scopus databases. This has improved my academic writing skills, and my ability to communicate the results of my work.

On a personal note, I believe my skills as a researcher are accompanied by my team work and organizational skills, along with my reliability and responsibility. To finalize I would like to add that working in a prestigious academic institution in my field, such as Eurac will certainly be of great gratification for my personal goals. I sincerely hope to be considered for the position and to discuss further during an interview.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**Lorena Abad**

## **Attached**

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Curriculum Vitae

Transcript of Records of Erasmus Mundus MSc. Geospatial Technologies as proof of progress.

## **Compliance declaration**

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I have read the privacy policy under <http://www.eurac.edu/en/aboutus/Jobs/Pages/default.aspx> and hereby authorize Eurac Research to use my personal data in accordance to decree 196/2003.

I hereby explicitly authorize Eurac Research to store my personal data for the purpose of being contacted for potential future job openings.