Statement of Research Interests

NOTE: Keep this concise and ensure it does not exceed 1000 words in total.

INSTRUCTIONS

1) Open your research statement with a summary that introduces the main points of your paper to the reader. Include your field of study, major areas of past work, most well known publication titles and general area of future study. Be specific from the start and make it clear why this field of study is of particular interest to you. Your reader may not have the time to thoroughly read through all applicant papers, but he will read through the ones which seem most promising. Use this opening summary to capture his attention with a strong, creative first sentence that will stimulate his curiosity.

2) Expand upon your research background first. Keep this section completely professional. Talk about your past work, including those professional scientists with whom you have worked closely. Outline the major projects you have worked on and explain their importance. Outline what your specific role was and include the major findings of the project. Also, overwhelming the reader with numbers will detract from the overall message so keep numerical figures limited to only major findings.

3) Transition from your background into your current research. The faculty will want to see consistency in your line of work. Explain how your past interests led to your current work, stating your current place of study and supervisors. List any certifications and training that you have. Include any physical skills you may possess, such as lab work and sample taking.

PROPOSED RESEARCH: What area of research would you like to focus on within your general interests and concerns? As much as possible at this stage of your thinking, set out your central research questions, the associated theoretical issues, and proposed methodological approach.

> **Example:** *My future research goal is to develop "intelligent structural systems", from the micro-scales (MEMS) to macro-scales (aerospace systems and underwater vehicles), which will… For this research goal, I will focus on the following three research areas. First, I will carry out research on structure/fluid/control interaction phenomena… will be critical design issues in those complex structural systems, both in micro- and macro- scales, so the fundamental understanding of the phenomena is very important to successful implementation of the structural/acoustic control algorithms. Second, I will extend my specialization in smart structures technologies to the development of advanced sensors and actuators for intelligent …integrated within the systems will be critical in future areas of research. Finally, I will continue my research on advanced control and decision-making algorithms for noise and vibration reduction of complex structural systems…*

4) Summarize your report by re-working your opening summary. Put more emphasis in the final paragraph about how the reader and his university will help you succeed. Emphasize why you feel you would be an asset to the future of the university if given the opportunity to see your proposed plan through.