

Siddharth Reed

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SEPTEMBER 26, 2019

McMASTER UNIVERSITY 1280 MAIN ST. W,

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LIFE SCI 2G03 Teaching Assistant

To whom it may concern,

I am a fifth year student in the Molecular Biology & Genetics Co-op program. I initially entered this program because of my interest in genetics and my courses related to genetics have always by my most interesting courses, such as MolBiol 2C03, 3O03, 3I13, 3V03, all of which were strongly focused on genetics, doing well in most of these courses.

Further my research experience as a co-op student and my undergraduate honors thesis also focused on genetics, including leveraging gene expression data to compare the human placenta to various forms of cancer and investigating the relationship between CRISPR activity and rates of horizontal gene transfer in bacteria. Working on my thesis project has also helped me improve my skills presenting and explaining ideas to keep an audience engaged and ensure all of the relevant details are communicated effectively to make my point. Much of my work experience also required collaborating with people, including explaining biological or statistical concepts to those with a different set of knowledge than me.

I also have more formal experience with teaching as I was a volunteer tutor with Frontier college for 4 academic semesters. Students would come in, often with math or biology homework, and I would either help them with assignments, help them work through larger projects or them study for upcoming tests. I would alternate between working with one or multiple students, depending on the week, which helped me learn how to adapt to the needs of students and pinpoint exactly what they were struggling with.

I also had some experience mentoring other undergraduate students on the McMaster iGEM team, I would help prepare introductory lessons and activity to help teach them about synthetic biology.

I would love to gain further experience teaching, and to show new students how important and interesting evolution and biodiversity are. Further this position would give me the opportunity to help my fellow students and hopefully inspire them to continue studying a subject I personally find so interesting.

Thank you for your time and consideration

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Honors Molecular Biology & Genetics Co-op

McMaster University