

Musa V. Ahmed | Cover Letter

20197 NW 10th Street – Pembroke Pines, FL 33029 – USA

☎ +1 (954) 993 0768 • ✉ mahme012@fiu.edu • 📄 /in/musavahmed

Dr. Jamie Foster

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University of Florida

Department of Microbiology and Cell Science

Dr. Foster:

I am currently a graduate student at Florida International University pursuing a Master's Degree in Computer Science. I possess a strong background in computer networking simulation and modeling as well as high performance distributed computing. As part of my coursework and more so my research I must constantly programming and tinkering with the computer. I feel my experience makes me the ideal candidate for this position.

I have been programming and messing around with the computer since I was three. My father is a Computer Scientist by trade and he introduced me to computers at a young age. By the time I was ten years old I already rejected Windows and only preferred to use Linux on all of my computers.

When I came to college that side interest in Linux, open source software, and programming turned into something palpable that I could use and apply in the real world. I excelled in all my classes and worked hard and was even accepted into the highly honored 4+1 accelerated Bachelors and Masters program.

I began conducting undergraduate research where my skills and knowledge of Linux and programming set me apart from the other students.

Recently, I have been working on Master's Thesis which consists of a hybrid approach to network simulation and emulation. Part of this project required extensive data collection on each computer to see what kind of data it is transmitting and how much, this can be thought of as network metadata. This data is then filtered, analyzed, and finally sent to a discrete-event simulator for processing. The entire data collection part was written in a combination of Python and Bash scripts (mainly for automation and some small speed optimizations).

I firmly believe I can be a serious asset to your project. The field of metagenomics is extremely interesting to me as there is a massive amount of data integration and analysis.