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To

IMBRSea Program Coordinators

RE: Reference Letter, Laura Raposo

12/02/2024

Dear Committee members

I am writing this letter in support of Laura Raposo's application for the International Master of Science in Marine Biological Resources (IMBRSea). I feel strongly compelled to support this student because of Laura's exceptional dedication to research and teaching, infectious enthusiasm, and genuine care for others.

I have known Laura since she took my 'Conservation Biology' Class in 2019, where she impressed me with her strong conservation ethic, her outstanding communication skills, and deep passion for learning. She earned a top grade in my class, and I thus approached her to help me teach this class as a paid teaching assistant in 2020 and then again in 2021. Of course, this was a difficult time, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and our transition to online teaching in mid-term 2020. I give Laura full credit for staying calm and organized, keeping this class afloat, and moving everything along during this transition.

In both years, Laura essentially threw everything she has at this job, which was the first time she TA'd. She really carried class discussions, provided detailed and compassionate feedback to students, and worked extra hard to help students conduct meaningful change-making conservation projects, which as a result were more in-depth and transformative (and with resultingly better grades) than in previous years.

Students clearly trusted her for advice, found her very approachable and attentive, and commented very positively in their TA evaluations, again, more so than I have seen in the past. As an example, one student wrote: *“Laura was so great!! Not only was she very interested and enthusiastic about the course content but she did a great job connecting with the students. She was very approachable and always answered any questions whether in person or by email. Would highly recommend Laura for more positions like this one”*

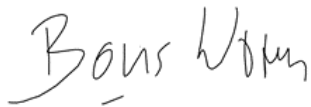
I completely agreed and thus nominated her for a Departmental TA Award that she won in 2020. The same year she also participated as a student in my advanced class called ‘Cutting Edge in Marine Science’ where we primarily discuss breaking news and the most novel research results. Again, I saw her engaging deeply with the material, always curious to learn more and apply her skills and knowledge to applied conservation and marine resource management problems.

Due to these very positive experiences, I recommended her for a position at the marine NGO Oceana, where she worked for several months on contract, again surpassing any expectations that people might have had.

In summary, Laura Raposo consistently presents as an outstanding student in the marine science and conservation fields, with exceptional drive, curiosity and

communication skills. I don't think I ever had a TA who worked so hard and showed such genuine concern for our students. Laura has been fantastic to work with I would be hard-pressed to think of anyone else more suited to a leading international Masters Program. I can recommend her wholeheartedly and hope you get to work with her as well.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Boris Worm". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

Dr. Boris Worm

Killam Research Professor, Department of Biology, Dalhousie University