

08 February 2024

To whom it may concern:

We are writing this letter to refer Laura Raposo to the Marine Biology program at the University of Algarve.

This is a joint letter of reference written by Richard Davis, Director of the Ocean Frontier Institute's Research Implementation Unit, and Adam Comeau, Glider Operations Manager for the Dalhousie glider program. Ms. Raposo worked for Dalhousie within the glider program as a glider pilot on a casual basis. After that she worked for us for one year as a replacement for a staff member on maternity leave. Her primary duties were those of a glider technician: mission planning, glider piloting, managing a team of part time pilots, field work and stakeholder engagement. At the end of her contract, we asked her to consider remaining with us as full-time staff but she wanted to pursue other opportunities.

Our experience with Ms. Raposo was not that of a student but an employee. However, we feel that many of the qualities she exhibited in her position with us would serve her well in a Master of Science program. She is intelligent, hardworking, adaptable, and personable. She picks up on ideas and concepts quickly, requiring little repetition in training. As part of her employment, she managed a group of casual pilots and made herself available at odd hours. When confronted with problems she sought novel and effective solutions. Ms. Raposo got along well with both colleagues and pilots under her watch.

During Ms. Raposo's time with us she undertook a project to integrate ice coverage maps from the Canadian Ice Service into mission planning for wave glider deployments. She was able to streamline the ingestion of the data into daily briefs of the glider team so that intelligent decisions could be made about glider operations. Her efforts were so successful that the Canadian Ice Service invited her to give a talk at their annual meeting.

The best conclusion we can offer about our opinion of Ms. Raposo is that we twice tried to hire her back when we had openings.

Best Regards,



Richard Davis  
Director, Ocean Frontier Institute Research Implementation Unit

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Adam Comeau  
Manager, Dalhousie Glider Operations