

Dear Hiring Manager,

My name is Lifan(Lee) Shi and I am a junior majoring in Informatics. I am writing this letter to express my strong interest in an opportunity for getting considered for this position. As a current Informatics student who is studying data science, I am confident that my data analytics skills, problem-solving skills, communication skills, etc, can help me to be a strong candidate for this position.

I am passionate about learning more technical skills such as another computer language. Therefore, during the past quarters, I dedicated much of my time to take challenging courses that help me a lot for learning new skills in this industry. The course that guided me to dig deeper into data science is Technical Foundations of Informatics, which is a course that teaches students about R language, including how to process/clean data, make visualizations, build interactive data dashboards and so on. I investigated wage distribution between genders for my final project in this class and I was surprised that the data didn't reflect my knowledge at first glance. The situation is more nuanced than my presumptions that men earn more than women. Confounding variables that statistics failed to account for began to surface once I started to cluster the data points. For example, if we only compare the wage differences for the same job levels, the gender wage gap is not significant. It is the disproportion of percentage of women in high-level jobs that makes the average pay per person lower. I was able to identify the blind spots that misled my judgement because of the insightful data visualization that we designed and implemented.

I became intrigued by learning more about data science as well as information technologies, as I got exposed to more projects that used data to drive decision-making. During my experience with Quantum, I used tools such as R, SQL, PowerBI and Tableau that I learned from courses such as statistics, database, data analytics to solve business problems. I used data visualizations to evaluate sales performance, and drafted recommendations for product distribution to drive revenue. By completing these challenging tasks, my technical skills, problem solving abilities and communication skills were improved in strength quickly.

In addition to my technical skills, I developed my communication skills through both group works in class and extracurricular activities. During my experience with UW housing and food services and business development officer with China Union at UW, I learned how to listen and talk with team members, do self-reflection according to their feedback and comments to develop skills and capabilities.

I am confident that all of my skills make me a strong candidate for this position and I can definitely bring new opportunities to your team. If you have any questions about me, please feel free to contact me at my email address or my phone number.

Best Regards,

Lifan Shi