

2200 Old Largo Rd
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

Date

Company Address

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm grateful for the opportunity to apply for the Data Science Intern position, which I learned about from your introduction at the career fair. This position aligns with my interest in conducting data analysis to address real-work issues. As an Information Science major at the University of Maryland, I have excelled in courses such as Introduction to Information Technology, Introduction to Programming for Information Science, and Elementary Statistics and Probability and earned a 4.0 GPA. To supplement this coursework, I've worked on independent projects using common tools such as Excel, Python, and SQL. This background, along with other experiences, has prepared me to extract meaningful insights from data and become capable of learning necessary skills quickly.

My most relevant experience is my data analysis project that I developed during a Forage job simulation program with Accenture. At my program I leveraged advanced functionalities of Google Sheets, including VLOOKUP and SUMIF formulas, along with filters, to compute insightful statistics and metrics about a social media company's user data. This exposure has improved my attention to detail and critical thinking skills as it required considering the broader context the data resides in and connecting data with society. I've also recently got a Microsoft Azure AI Fundamentals certification, which has equipped me with a solid foundation in artificial intelligence (AI) concepts that can supplement my data science tasks. My tenacity to work towards this skill set shows my initiative to control my learning in any scenario, including the independent research I would conduct under the MARC program. Through these data skills and AI certification, I've demonstrated competency to comprehend new material, and these would be beneficial to my position.

Just as I could contribute to this program's success through my previous experience and passion, this program also provides multiple accessible resources that I need to fulfill my plan of getting a Ph.D. Obtaining higher education is invaluable to me to contribute to a more efficient workforce with graduate degrees as an ambitious African-American woman. The advancement of underrepresented groups in STEM is essential because it encourages younger minorities to pursue their dreams and provides diverse perspectives in STEM. Additionally, I've learned through my previous laboratory experience with mosquitos as disease vectors that I want to use research to positively impact society, and securing a Ph.D. would bring me closer to that reality. The unique benefit of this program that I would utilize fully is the ability to tackle real-world issues. As someone who is passionate about social good, the opportunity to immerse myself in a team that shares the same goals and expertise I can learn from is invaluable. Thank you for considering my application, and I can be reached at makem27@terpmail.umd.edu for further information.

Sincerely,
Michelle Akem
makem27@terpmail.umd.edu