



April 21, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

Nora Hessen has been accepted to study at Friday Harbor Labs (FHL) as part of the Marine Botany course taught by Dr. Wilson Freshwater and Dr. Tom Mumford during Summer quarter of 2023. FHL is renowned for its hands-on learning approach in addition to its focus on field and lab work. Courses and research at FHL are experiential learning at its finest. During the course, Nora will be embarking on her first field experience, living at the field station in an immersive hands-on learning environment and conducting her own independent project on macroalgae of the Puget Sound. My Masters student, Sarah Tanja, is mentoring Nora as part of the pilot program, [Identity, Belonging and Inquiry in Science \(IBIS\)](#), and working as a TA for the course. Together, they plan to develop an experiment and collect data that will be used as an undergraduate research experience Nora. This research will be presented at the commencement of the course, published in the [Friday Harbor Labs Student Research Papers Archive](#), and made into a poster for the [Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics & Native Americans in Science \(SACNAS\)](#) conference to be held October 26-28, 2023 in Portland, Oregon.

Nora is an excellent candidate for undergrad experiential learning support; she has shown commitment, responsibility, and discipline in her pursuit of knowledge and skills to further her education and experience in the field of Marine Biology at the University of Washington. She is extremely interested in pursuing field-work and is continuing to further her research goals by exploring pathways that would allow her to get more hands-on experience within the field of marine biology. Over the course of the IBIS pilot program, Nora has shown eagerness to begin conducting field-work and working together with others to understand and explain trends within research. She is very hardworking and continues to be enthusiastic about research as she's continued to work with Sarah in the IBIS program. She has expressed interest in research regarding kelp and continues to aim for graduate school in hopes to explore her topic of interest and develop a better understanding of kelp and their importance within the Puget Sound.

However, these exciting aspirations need support. As a first-time field scientist, Nora has yet to build up her 'field-kit' of foul weather gear that is vital both for successful field data collections and for a budding scientists' safety, comfort, and sense of belonging. This award would provide Nora with the necessary funds to purchase boots for tide-pooling, a good-quality rain jacket for working outside in rainy Puget Sound, warm layers, gloves, hats, rite-in-the-rain notebooks, and the myriad other gear items that

students are expected to have as per the [student packing list](#). These essentials would provide the necessary materials to jump right into field-work at Friday Harbor, allowing Nora to solely focus on research and collecting data instead of trying to compile the funds necessary to begin her journey into field-work.

Talk a bit about access & privilege in a nuanced way

Being a first-time field scientist, it can be costly to begin her journey within field-work, and these funds would grant her access to ease into the transition between first time field scientist and gaining more experience. Coming from a family of 5, Nora has not experienced access to an abundance of funds to support materials regarding her education without the help of UW's generous scholarship programs and Federal Pell Grants. With the additional funds from this award, Nora would have access to the necessary materials one would need to complete thorough field-work. Nora has excelled within UW's Marine Biology program while being a full time, job-working student who is also taking part in the IBIS program. She is passionate about her studies, and has continued to further her education and explore her major-related interests. With these additional funds for field-work specific items, it would greatly reduce the burden of financial pressures on her ability to learn more about her interests, and allow her to focus wholeheartedly on researching macroalgae while at Friday Harbor.

Final paragraph concluding why Nora is awesome

«««< HEAD ## Final paragraph concluding why Nora is awesome With these additional funds, Nora would be able to afford a nice beginner friendly field-work necessities kit, which would remove the limitations of being able to afford a field-work kit, and ensure that Nora can solely focus on her studies and continue looking into her topic of interest surrounding kelp ecosystems and their importance within the Puget Sound.

##Add more

Thank you for your consideration

Thank you for your consideration »»»> 2d513e3634b4a810035a539a3f9d7442cfa9cbde

Sincerely,

Dr. Jacqueline Padilla-Gamiño

Associate Professor

School of Aquatic & Fishery Sciences