

## **Samantha Maillie**

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Dear UC Davis Data Science Initiative,

I am a graduate student in the Statistics Masters program and planning to graduate in June of 2018. Throughout my undergraduate career I had the opportunity to work on a research project with the local hospital. This project gave me the desire to continue to develop my knowledge and use data analytics to solve problems.

I lead the project from the beginning stages by developing the protocol for submission to a national medical review board. After it was approved I got to figure out the best way to solve the problem and design data collection to analyze the effects of PET scans on lung cancer patient follow-up routines. As the project came to an end I presented findings at conferences. I also wrote and continue to edit the publication for official submission to a Radiation Oncology Journal. After going through this project from start to finish I realized how much of a passion I have for using analytics to solve problems.

I elected to work on my Masters full time as opposed to working and taking classes one at a time so I could get the opportunity to TA. As an undergraduate I gained experience teaching students. Something I discovered is that teaching not only solidified my own knowledge on the subject but it helped build my speaking and communication skills. I am currently working as a Teaching Assistant and I love getting the chance to work with my students. Their many different perspectives have helped me think of problems from new angles. Collaborating and teaching has become as exciting to me as my independent studies and projects.

I want to become a data science affiliate because I believe it will not only benefit me by developing my skills but also will offer me the opportunity to explore my passions. I love collaborating and learning new research schools and hope I will get the opportunity to join the DSI team.

Sincerely,

Samantha Maillie