

Horizon Ag-Products, LP
1450 Infinite Drive
Louisville, CO 80027

July 21, 2018

Dear Horizon Ag representative,

Given my strong scientific background and organizational skills, I would make an excellent addition to the Horizon team as a Research Technician and relish the opportunity to help develop research-driven, thoroughly tested products to advance sustainable agriculture. After a B.Sc. in Biology and participation in the iGEM (international Genetically Engineered Machine) competition, I received a M.Sc. in Biology before working with the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) in Rome. Across various research projects I have worked both independently and as part of a team, gaining strong problem-solving skills, precise attention to detail and excellent communication skills. Furthermore, I have a proven ability to adapt to new challenges, am eager to learn and am dedicated to providing a functioning, clean, and efficient work environment.

During my B.Sc. thesis I worked with *Nannochloropsis oceanica* and *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* while for my M.Sc. thesis I cultivated *Synechocystis* sp. PCC 6803 ([Publication](#)). Through these experiences I developed excellent analytical and critical thinking skills and became well-versed in gathering, analyzing and recording scientific data. The wide array of lectures I took in plant sciences, translational biology and microbiology has meanwhile left me with a solid foundation to understand nutrient flows in plants, **analyze cause and effect relationships and implement published methods**. More generally, I have consistently shown I can quickly learn new procedures and protocols. For instance, during a reorganization of my current lab, I established protocols for the production and quantification of viral vector tools in mammalian cell culture using techniques that were new to both my supervisor and me. I also began working in a BSL2 environment and am aware of the importance of stringently following safety guidelines as well as maintaining a clean, safe and efficient working environment.

Outside of the lecture hall, iGEM gave me the chance to work within an interdisciplinary team of 20 students and to adapt new protocols in a team environment. iGEM also provided an opportunity to hone my skills in the daily upkeep of a lab, including ensuring the availability of reagents, approaching companies for financial or material aid, sterilizing equipment and using an internal wiki for accurate data storage. Although my specific focus during iGEM was protein purification, I taught myself adobe illustrator in order to generate higher quality designs for our [website](#). At my current position, I took the initiative to further develop the facility's database (FileMaker) — leaving me with excellent organizational skills and able to improve data recording in any lab. I also attended a professional course on presenting with impact and project management for scientists and am able to apply these techniques to balance multiple projects at once while managing my time to keep ahead of deadlines. Finally, through a wide range of volunteering activities I have honed my interpersonal, organizational and communication skills, which will help in any situation whether organizing a lab or assisting in projects.

Working for Horizon as a research technician is a natural continuation of my experience, skills and passions and I believe I could make valuable contributions to Horizon's R&D team. If you agree, I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss the position and my skills in more detail. Thank you for your consideration, I look forward to hearing from you and will be following up next week.

Sincerely,

Rabea Jesser