

**YOUR NAMES**  
**Contact details**  
**E-mail address**

August 12, 2021

The Toxicology and Food Microbiology groups,  
Wageningen University,  
Netherlands.

Dear Professor XXXXX,

I, (Your name), write to express my interest in the recently advertised Ph.D. Position on the topic; “Chemical and Microbiological Hazards of Mild-Processed Plant-Based Ingredients” at Wageningen University. I hold a B.Tech in Biology (xxx/5.00) and M.Tech in Environmental Biology and Public Health (xxx/5.00) from the Federal University of Technology Akure (FUTA), Nigeria.

My master’s thesis titled; “Microbial and heavy metal contamination of sliced watermelon fruits from selected markets in Akure, Nigeria”, was commended as one of the best research projects carried out in the Department of Biology, FUTA, Nigeria. The study revealed the presence of microorganisms and toxic heavy metals in sliced watermelon fruit samples. Morphological, biochemical, and molecular techniques were used in identifying the microorganisms isolated from the fruit samples. Organisms identified include, *Escherichia coli*, *Proteus mirabilis*, *Bacillus cereus*, and *Aspergillus niger* which are known agents of food poisoning and infection. In addition, about 95% and 28% of the sliced fruit samples recorded unsafe levels of nickel and chromium respectively. These are heavy metals whose side effects include rashes, stomach aches, skin irritation, liver, or kidney damage.

As a budding researcher who just completed her master’s program, my research interest is aimed towards food security and safety. Food contamination is a topical issue; presence of toxins and microbes found in plant-based ingredients could pose a serious threat to public health. My interest in this advertised Ph.D. Position is spurred by my desire to protect the public from the harmful effects of toxic chemicals and microbes present in food.

My commitment to research is evidenced by the three peer-reviewed publications from my bachelor’s and master’s degree projects. I am confident that my research experience and technical skills in detecting microbes and toxic chemicals in food substances will be valuable for this Ph.D. Position. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,

(Include your signature)

Your name