



February 04, 2023

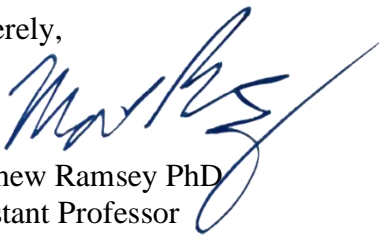
To whom it may concern:

My name is Matthew Ramsey and I am an Assistant Professor in the Department of Cell and Molecular Biology at the University of Rhode Island. I am writing to enthusiastically recommend Emily Holland for the internship program. I have had the pleasure of teaching Emily in my 400 level Microbiomes and Biofilms course last semester (fall 2022). This course met twice per week and is focused on very small group level work (<20 total students) and is highly interactive, based on current journal articles in the field. This allows me to get to know students in this course much better than in my larger general microbiology course for example. During the semester I got to see firsthand Emily's interest and excitement for the field, particularly when we discussed how the microbiome may affect the host. Emily's motivation for further scientific training stems from her own family circumstances and this drive and motivation were evident in her in-class interactions with myself and her peers.

Overall as a student I would rank Emily in the top 10-20% among all I have taught. I believe she could be much higher than that but given that we only had one semester of interaction I can only judge on that duration, the lower ranking here is only due to being less familiar with her in other aspects compared to students I rank highest. I would not hesitate to have her work with my own research group if she so desired and she would be an asset to our graduate program if she wished to do so. In my course I got to observe Emily's ability to read, comprehend and verbally communicate very difficult research papers that each student struggled to understand at the beginning of the semester. Over the semester Emily began to grasp the content faster than most in the room and it was apparent that she was doing the work ahead of time and came to me with good questions when she was stuck on some facet of the assigned reading. I believe that Emily has what it takes to succeed at the next level and I have only good opinions of her integrity, work ethic and motivation. In the group setting Emily was interactive and while not a natural leader she would step up and lead her groups discussion to the rest of the class when she had a better grasp of the content that day vs her peers. I think as Emily grows as a scientist she will have an easy time mentoring others in a group setting. At present she is a good asset as a trainee and would be easy to instruct and a reliable presence.

It is my belief that Emily would be very successful in a research-based internship and I give her my full and enthusiastic recommendation.

Sincerely,



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