

I would like to introduce myself as Aashika Krishnakumar, (Passport No: X9093989) daughter of Mr Krishnakumar and Mrs Indira Shanmugham. My Date of Birth is 20/02/2003 and I'm an Indian citizen hailing from a beautiful part of Kerala known as Palakkad and here I am applying for degree of Master in Molecular and Development Stem cell Biology at Ruhr-Universität Bochum. When it comes to my academics so far, I have succeeded in maintaining a high standard of performance in my academics right from my early years at school. I completed my secondary school studies at Government Victoria Girls Higher Secondary School and higher secondary school studies at Government Higher Secondary School Chittur, Palakkad and secured 89% in 10th grade and 87% in 12th grade. Since science is my favourite subject in school, therefore I have actively participated in science fairs and group projects. My fascination with the intricate web of life and the desire to delve deeper into the complexities of biological sciences have been the driving forces to take up an under graduate degree in Zoology. I graduated in 2023 and secured a CGPA of 8.89 (A+).

As a college student, I always had a deep interest towards the study of stem cells and to specialise my career in the field of Regenerative Medicine. But as a student of zoology I barely had opportunities in my desired subject. Apart from that I have attended many live sessions and National seminars on biology sciences within and outside the campus. The 3-day National seminar at Sree Neelakanda Government Sanskrit College Pattambi organized by Department of Zoology on the topic "Biodiversity for Sustainable Future" where I was able to improve my knowledge on Biodiversity too. My interest towards Chemistry made me to attend a National seminar on the topic " Functional Polymers for Material Applications". While in my third year of undergraduate study, my project was based on " A study of macrofungal diversity and abundance in and around Sree Narayana College campus Alathur, Palakkad" where I gained knowledge on Macro fungi, their interactions and patterns of coevolution and also observing and collecting about 26 macro fungi, thus knowing about dominant family in that locality and all other peculiar features.

The global outbreak of Covid Pandemic during 2019 further ignited me to gain deep knowledge in Medical life Sciences particularly investigating the mechanisms of immune evasion by pathogens and development of novel therapeutic strategies. This is another reason why I want to continue my education in the field of my choice. The aim I carried since my early childhood helped me concentrate on my studies and my experience during my studies has fuelled up my commitment towards achieving my aim. My goal and sense of duty to humanity have driven me to be diligent learner since I was young, and they have also sparked my interest in stem cell biology.

Since I am gregarious and like to keep myself active, I always sought out some activity to engage me and encourage my thinking. Being challenged is something I love and I've always enjoyed working my way through them. This led me to experiment with a number of cultural activities and sports events, winning prizes on a number of events in many activities; especially sports has been my area of interest since childhood and getting state selection for events was one of the most special achievements in my life. My active Participation as a volunteer during covid 19 pandemic breakout boosted up when I joined National Service scheme during my college studies. I developed my ability to operate under pressure, organize events, communicate with variety of students and staff and work in groups. Along with this I was a member of magazine committee of the college and also participated in many cultural programs like kalotsav.

I have always dreamt of getting best education and being able to study at an institute of international standard. It was this dream that prompted me to apply for the programme at Ruhr-Universität Bochum. Master of Molecular and Developmental stem cell biology, a two-year programme at Ruhr-Universität Bochum is the degree that I would want to study. The course combines traditional basic disciplines such as cell biology, histology, biochemistry and pathology with recent progress in epigenetics, bioinformatics and developmental biology to secure a broad understanding towards innovative translational approaches in medicine. This programme was chosen because it is a student centered institution which provides a quality education shaped by community challenges, a transitioning world and scientific advancements. My strong interest in the field of Developmental biology prompted me to choose Molecular and Developmental stem cell biology as my specialization for my masters since the course incorporates traditional basic disciplines, such as cell biology, histology, biochemistry and pathology, in order to enable students to gain a comprehensive understanding of innovative translation approaches in medical science. This programme offers a comprehensive curriculum that combines theoretical knowledge with practical and laboratory skills, ensuring graduates are well equipped for the demands of the specific field. Additionally, the university has a strong reputation in the field, with experienced faculty members who are experts in their respective areas. I strongly believe that my undergraduate knowledge will be sufficient to pursue and complete this course effectively.

Ruhr-Universität Bochum was my selected university for study because of its distinguished history and illustrious reputation. It is one of the Largest Universities of Technology in Germany and is among the leading and most dynamic universities in the country. The Ruhr-University Bochum is one of the largest universities in Germany and part of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, the most important German research funding organization. The university prioritizes student success and offers personalized guidance and support throughout the academic journey. Moreover, the university's strong connections and practical approach to education provide students with valuable real-world experiences and enhance their employability upon graduation. The university provides a wide range of high-quality academic programmes that cater to various fields of study. This ensures that students have ample opportunities to pursue their desired areas of interest and gain specialized knowledge. The campus is very lush and lovely, and its outstanding research assistance activities make it a desirable option for all aspiring foreign students.

Germany was the first and final choice for me when I was in a phase to choose a country for my higher studies because of some straightforward reasons. The education system of Germany is brilliant in all sorts of possible ways and ranked as one of the best in the whole world. Every German institution offers a stimulating, creative, and demanding atmosphere where students can realize and develop their full potential. In addition, Germany is a safe and peaceful nation with superb healthcare facilities. I have done research on several universities among which I believe Ruhr-Universität Bochum is the suitable campus to fulfil my course requirements which will help me take my knowledge and career to the next level. This will surely be a stronghold for boosting my future and building my career. Every year, talented students from all over the globe do come to Ruhr-Universität Bochum to expand the horizons of their potential, so that they can make their dreams come true. Learning with them will undoubtedly broaden my understanding of their cultures and morals while also enhancing my ability to communicate. The experiences which Germany is going to offer will definitely be rewarding for me as it would help me in my personal and professional growth.

After pursuing my higher education in your esteemed university, I will come back to my home city, since no other place would give the warmth and happiness of one's home country. I will always need my family with me and I have to take care of them. After three years, procuring valuable education and work experience from Germany, I am pretty sure to secure a good job in my home country. My dreams would only come true if Germany offers me the opportunity to study there. I wish to assure you that, I will meet all your expectations diligently and prove to be a worthy alumnus I promise. With this, I conclude and I believe that my hardworking nature, coupled with my avidity for learning, proves my candidacy for the Master of Science in Molecular and Developmental stem cell biology at your esteemed university.

Thank you for the opportunity you have given me to express myself.

Regards,

Aashika Krishnakumar.