

Letter of Motivation

Greetings

Since the very beginning of my academic journey, biology has captivated my interest. During my time in lower secondary school, I vividly recall the day when my science teacher shared the fascinating tale of microbes and subsequently demonstrated the practical applications of a microscope. At that moment, my passion for microbiology began to take shape. My enthusiasm grew even stronger when he explained that bacteria and viruses are invisible to the naked eye, yet they possess the ability to cause diseases and even fatalities. Upon completing high school as a science major, my parents urged me to pursue a medical career and become a doctor. However, my mind was already consumed by an insatiable curiosity for microbiology. Thus, I embarked on my journey into the captivating world of microbiology.

My name is Eruvilamkadu Prabhannan Navajyoth and I am from Kerala southernmost of India. I am expressing my sincere interest in pursuing an MSc in Molecular Microbiology, Microbial Ecology, and Immunobiology at the University of Vienna, Austria. I completed my high school in 2016, scoring 60% and my Senior higher secondary in 2018, scoring 65%. My fascination with unraveling the intricacies of microorganisms and their relationships with their surroundings and hosts has been the primary motivation throughout my academic and professional endeavors. I am confident that the University of Vienna provides an ideal setting for me to enhance my expertise and competencies in these dynamic fields, ultimately empowering me to make meaningful contributions to groundbreaking scientific research and advancements.

I embarked on my academic journey by obtaining a Bachelor's degree in Bio-Chemistry with Nanotechnology, which ignited a strong interest in the microscopic world of microbes. This passion led me to pursue an MSc in Biomedical Science at Nottingham Trent University in the UK. Unfortunately, my academic pursuits were interrupted due to an unforeseen health issue - a diagnosis of an accessory navicular bone condition that required surgery. After undergoing the procedure at

New Medical College in Thrissur, I faced complications in the form of pus discharge, which necessitated a second surgical intervention. These health challenges forced me to return to my home country and temporarily pause my studies. However, despite these obstacles, my determination to build a career in microbiology and immunobiology has only grown stronger. After treatments and rest During this time, I have taken the opportunity to deepen my knowledge in these fields through self-directed study, an internship at VJ Biotech, and working as a laboratory assistant from May 3, 2021, to April 4, 2022. This experience has also reinforced my resilience and perseverance, qualities that I believe are essential for a successful career in scientific research.

The MSc program at the University of Vienna holds particular appeal to me due to its interdisciplinary nature and comprehensive syllabus, encompassing molecular microbiology, microbial ecology, and immunobiology. I am enthusiastic about the prospect of exploring the molecular mechanisms governing microbial life and comprehending the ecological interactions. The objective of the Master's program in Molecular Microbiology, Microbial Ecology, and Immunobiology at the University of Vienna is to gain extensive knowledge, practical skills, and scientific expertise in the areas of "Molecular Microbiology," "Microbial Ecology," and "Immunobiology." Through the selection of specific mandatory modules and elective courses, students can further enhance their competencies in one of these subfields. The Master's program offered by the University of Vienna in Molecular Microbiology, Microbial Ecology, and Immunobiology equips students with the skills to independently conduct scientific research, including planning and execution, as well as the ability to start a dissertation and write scientific publications. In addition, students have the opportunity to gain further specialized knowledge in their chosen field and explore related areas of study. Graduates of this program possess both practical and theoretical knowledge, enabling them to address subject-specific questions. The curriculum offers a range of study options, allowing graduates to prioritize their future professional endeavors. With three alternative mandatory module groups to choose from - Molecular Microbiology, Microbial Ecology, and Immunobiology - the Master's program aims to train experts with in-depth knowledge in specific subfields of these subjects within an internationally

focused, English-language curriculum. Founded by Duke Rudolph IV in 1365, the University of Vienna is the oldest in the German-speaking world and one of the largest in Central Europe. With 178 degree programs, 40 university continuing education and training programs, and approximately 45,000 active students, it is Austria's largest and most diverse educational institution. The university boasts a staff of around 7,000 academics, solidifying its position as the largest teaching and research institution in the country. Its mission is to offer a wide range of studies while fostering new and innovative fields of research and establishing new networks between subjects. Various centers, including the Center for Translation Studies, the Center for Sport Science and University Sports, the Center for Molecular Biology, the Center for Microbiology and Environmental Systems Science, and the Center for Teacher Education, are housed at the university. Ranked #130 in the QS World University Rankings 2024, the University of Vienna is one of the top public universities in Vienna, Austria.

Upon completion of my studies, I will come back to my home country. A Master's degree in Molecular Microbiology, Microbial Ecology, and Immunobiology from the University of Vienna can lead to various career opportunities in India. The fields offer a wide range of roles in academia, research, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, environmental organizations, and government agencies. The opportunities are diverse, including positions in Research and Development at universities, research institutions, and private sector R&D departments. Job roles may involve diagnostics, clinical research, hospital laboratories, drug development, quality control, regulatory affairs, microbial ecology, environmental monitoring, bioremediation, soil microbiology, plant-microbe interactions, and biofertilizers. Job titles in these areas include Research Scientist, Microbiologist, Quality Control Analyst, Clinical Research Associate, Environmental Microbiologist, and Regulatory Affairs Specialist. Companies and organizations in India that often hire professionals with expertise in these fields include Biocon, Serum Institute of India, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, Panacea Biotec, Wockhardt, Lupin Limited, Zydus Cadila, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), National Institute of

Immunology (NII), Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), and Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). Given the increasing significance of microbiological research and applications in India, embarking on a profession in these domains can be extremely fulfilling. By utilizing your advanced education and research abilities, I can explore a plethora of prospects in both the public and private sectors. With that being said, I am confident that I can carry a particular approach toward learning and including value to the discipline, university, and society at large.

Thank You

Eruvilamkadu Prabhannan Navajyoth