

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 Cell and infection biology at Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg . 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've 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 to gather more knowledge on cell biology, biochemistry, molecular biology and biodiversity studies. I have attended many live sessions and National seminars on biology sciences within and outside the campus. Moreover, 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. Apart from Biology 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 and its association with Cardiovascular disease further ignited me to gain deep knowledge in infection science 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 cell and molecular 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 -Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg . Master of Cell and infection biology, a two year programme at at Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg is the degree that I would want to study. Topics covered in this programme is based on general aspects and novel approaches in Molecular Biology including Bioinformatics and Computational Biology, current research topics in the fields of Microbiology, Biophysics and Cell Biology including tissue regeneration, cell migration, stem cell biology, epigenetic plasticity, multicellularity are emphasized. This programme was chosen because it is a progressive, 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 biology prompted me to choose Cell and infection biology as my specialization for my masters. From a young age, I have been captivated by the complexities of developmental processes of cells and tissues. 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.

Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg was my selected university for study because of its distinguished history and illustrious reputation. It is an internationally renowned research university and is one of the Largest Universities in Germany. JMU is one of the leading institutions of higher education in Germany, according to the rankings of domestic and international research organizations and international expert committees. On an international level, the University of Würzburg ranks in the top bracket of academic institutions in many scientific disciplines including biology, medicine, physics, and psychology. The university prioritizes student success and offers personalized guidance and support throughout the academic journey. Moreover, the univeristy'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 Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg is the suitable campus to fulfill 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 Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg 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 Cell and infection biology at your esteemed university.

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

Regards,

Aashika Krishnakumar.