

Dear --,

I am writing to apply to Institute, for the PhD project regarding (topic)--.

In 2008, I graduated from Università degli Studi di Padova (Italy) with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. Following my first degree, I remained at the same university, where I \*\*\*will receive in October a Master's(?? compare with original) Degree in Evolutionary Biology.

Through my years of studying, I became fascinated with ecology and environmental issues. After taking my high school diploma, in summer 2004, I worked as a volunteer in Riserva Naturale Isola di Lampedusa to support the local equipe in protecting sea turtles during reproductive season and \*\*\*educating tourists on our environment. \*\*\*At a camp for applied Eco-Ethology at Parco Nazionale delle Foreste Casentinesi, \*\*\*I studied the impact of the institution of natural reserves on local population. \*\*\*Through these activities, I \*\*\*became passionate about our environment and its preservation.

I \*\*\*completed my Bachelor's thesis on animal pshysiology, studying adaptations of a sea water crustacean (*Upogebia pusilla*) to lower oxygen environments. \*\*\*I enjoyed my three month period field work in the lagoon of Chioggia (Venezia, Italy).(prior sentence needs more work) During Master's degree, I excelled at animal ethology where I learned (xxx). (They have your transcripts and will see your marks. This letter should be self-contained.)

In the meantime, I attended a two-year Master Course in Science Communication at ISAS (International School for Advanced Studies), Trieste (Italy). This experience not only provided me the opportunity to practice different forms of scientific communication\*\*\*, but also developed my capacity to \*\*\*interact with the public as well as scientists, journalists, scientific and governmental institutions. Through my studies, I learned how to use write and promote articles, (need more stuff here to make this flow smoothly) multimedia, animation work in science festivals, realisation of exhibitions, organisation of scientific events.

\*\*\*At present, I am in an Erasmus exchange program at the Université Paris-Sud XI, where \*\*\*I am conducting my Master thesis project in the field of ecological modelling, at Department Ecologie, Biodiversité et Evolution. In this framework (framework??, doesn't feel right) I had the opportunity to work with students and researchers \*\*\*from all over Europe, who kindled/strengthened my enthusiasm about prosecuting (nobody is prosecuting your studies...doesn't make sense) my studies with an international research experience, and made me acquire a deeper appreciation of the different perspectives in ecology.(You have a habit of making your sentence long with extraneous non-valued added stuff at the end. Try making your sentences shorter with only essential information.) Furthermore, I sharpened my critical thinking and analysis as well as acquired new skills and techniques. (prior sentence is

vacuous because you don't support it.) I am working in R software environment on a statistical model describing reproductive pattern of sea turtles, readjusting it by search of new parameters by optimization. Attending extracurricular classes, I learned how to apply the R language on the analysis of biological and ecological data.(this whole paragraph needs more work. I am not sure what the main purpose of this paragraph is. Is it that you're an exchange student? Became more passionate about your studies? Or that you are working with soem statistical software? Help your reader by telling her exactly what she needs to read and understand. Everything else, eliminate.)

I found a great interest on this topic of research because it puts together some of my favourite topics: ecology, animal physiology and ethology. Moreover, I retain the opportunity to work in a prestigious institution like Université Pierre et Marie Curie extremely challenging and as an additional motivation for me. (This passion topic is repetitive. Not sure what you are trying to communicate here.)

My varied academic curriculum provided me a solid knowledge of the different subjects implied in the research project. I also developed good skills in science communication, which could make me easy to spread research results in scientific contexts as journals, workshop and conferences, as well as public ones, like newspapers, magazines and expositions. (Hasn't your media stuff already been communicated? So why repeat? Given your emphasis on communication, a reader expects more from you. She expects tight, concise prose. Otherwise, she will question your prior communication studies.)

Given my record of \*\*\*solid academic achievement and strong interest in your research program, I am certain that, if given the opportunity, I will enjoy \*\*\*excel. (You want to leave the impression that you will excel at the entire program) In addition to my academic qualifications, I am confident that my interdisciplinary and international background will \*\*\*strengthen your \*\*\*class/students/something.

Thank you for considering my application, \*\*\*and I look forward to your acceptance.

Yours sincerely,  
Anna Rizzo