

Applicant: Mia Elizabeth Simmons (29621281)

Program: M.Sc. in Genome Science and Technology (VGMMSC-LE)

Entry period: September 2024

Application comments:

No comments available

Order of content:

Application form
Resume
Statement of Interest/Intent
Transcripts & Diplomas – Unofficial
eReference (eRef) Responses
Reference Letter
AVAILABLE FOR USE

SIMMONS, MIA ELIZABETH ()

29621281

Degree Selection

Submission Date: 30/Nov/2023

Campus	Program (VGMMSC-LE)	Academic Year	Term	Term Start
Vancouver	M.Sc. in Genome Science and Technology	2024-2025	W1	Sep 2024

Source of Interest

How did you find out about UBC?
Web Search

Personal and Contact Details

Student Number		Family Name (Surname)		Preferred Name
29621281		SIMMONS		
Title	Given Name	Middle Name	Former Family Name (Surname)	
	MIA	ELIZABETH		

Date of Birth	Gender	Country of Birth	Country of Current Citizenship
22/Aug/2002	Female	Canada	Canada
Dual Citizenship	Primary Spoken Language	Other Spoken Language	Visa Type
	English		

Address Line (1 & 2)			
143 ROSSING DRIVE			
City	Province, State or Region	Postal or Zip Code	Country
MIDDLE SACKVILLE	NS	B4E3G2	Canada

Day Telephone Number	Evening Telephone Number	Email Address
9024142835	9022522835	miasimmons015@gmail.com

Do you identify yourself as an Aboriginal person of Canada?
No
Do you identify yourself as a Racialized person?
No

Academic History

- Applicant indicates that they have only attended post-secondary institution(s) other than UBC.

Saint Mary's University

Institution Country:	Canada
Start Date:	01/Sep/2020
End Date (or Expected End):	31/May/2024
Program of Study:	Honours Biology and Minor in Chemistry
Credential Status	In Progress
Expected Conferred Date:	01/May/2024
Expected Credential:	Bachelor's
Awards & Honours received with this degree:	Entrance Award (\$7000/year, 4 years) William Chisholm Scholarship (\$300) Dean's List (1st, 2nd, and 3rd year)
Required to withdraw:	No
Self Reported GPA:	
Used for Basis of Admission to UBC:	Yes

GPA Calculations Summary

Calculation Name	Purpose	Date of Calculation	Minimum GPA Req'd	GPA Calculation	GPA Rank	Meets Progrm Requirements	Meets UBC Requirements	First Class Standing?
Honours Biology and Minor in Chemistry	Admissions	01/12/2023		4.18		Yes	Yes	Yes

- No **UBC** academic history found for this student number (29621281)

Funding

Standard Questions

Primary Funding

SOURCE of the support	
DOLLAR amount	
Includes TUITION fees?	
WHEN the support will commence	
WHEN the support will end	

SOURCE of the support	I have an RESP that my mother generously set up for me and my own savings. I can work while I study.
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Please indicate the SOURCE(S) of any awards, scholarships, sponsorships or fellowships for which you have applied or will apply.	Spring Graduate Awards Competition, UBC; Mackenzie King Memorial Scholarship
Please indicate the Canadian Dollar amount PER YEAR of support applied for.	\$150-\$16000, \$8500-\$15000
Please indicate the NUMBER OF YEARS of study this support would cover.	1 year, 1 year
If you do not receive this financial support, will you be able to attend.	Likely
How do you plan to fund your studies?	I have an RESP that my mother generously set up for me and my own savings. I can work while I study.

Experience & Interests

Standard Questions

Areas of Interest

Faculty Members

Loucks, Catrina
Blakney, Anna

Please provide a brief statement of your academic and/or professional goals and how these align with this graduate program.

Please describe any research and/or work experience (including publications, etc.) you've undertaken that is relevant to your proposed field of study.

I am currently in the process of writing my Honours thesis on a symbiotic transporter between legumes and their rhizobial symbionts. I have used multiple cloning strategies and genetic programs to do this. Lab experience includes golden-gate cloning, PCR, gel electrophoresis, transformation of *E. coli* and *S. cerevisiae*, and liquid and plate yeast assays. Programs include CLC Workbench, ChimeraX, and genetic databases. My supervisor would also like me to publish a paper on my research after my thesis is done, if possible.

Program-Specific Questions

Briefly discuss your background in life sciences, including academic, work or other experiences that may assist the admissions committee. Please limit your response to one page.	I am completing my Honours in Biology, which focuses on molecular biology and genetics. I spent 16 weeks working in a Molecular Biology lab doing research for my Honours and helping out around the lab as needed. During this time I made media, cleaned the lab, designed and carried out experiments, trouble-shot problems, compiled genes into CLC Workbench to make phylogenies, aligned sequences to a structure in ChimeraX, and did research to further my experiments and thesis.
Briefly discuss your background in quantitative sciences (math, statistics, computer science, engineering, physics) including academic, work or other experiences that may assist the admissions committee. Please limit your response to one page.	I have taken first year calculus 1 and 2, biostatistics, analytical chemistry, and physical chemistry. While those last two may not seem to fit, they both involve the use of either statistical analyses (analytical chemistry) or calculus (physical chemistry). I have excelled in all of these classes except for calculus 2, where I got my lowest grade of my university career: a B-. I am thankful that mathematics and numbers make sense to me, and I find them generally easy to understand and manipulate. Most of these classes also involved the use of analytical softwares like Excel and Minitab. I was always able to either figure these softwares out myself or use the resources available to me to clear my confusion. As said in the previous answer box, I also used CLC Workbench and ChimeraX, which I used to analyze genes and align protein structures, respectively.

Referee 1

Name	David Chiasson
Job Title / Occupation	Assistant Professor, Department of Biology
Institution / Company / Organization	SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY
Type of Reference	Academic
Address	923 ROBIE STREET HALIFAX Canada B3H1G3
Referee Email / Website	David.Chiasson@smu.ca
Telephone #	
Notes to Referees	Hi Dr. Chiasson, I know this is really short notice and I understand if you can't complete reference before this is due, but I would really appreciate it if you are able to. I apologize for the timing. Thank you very much, Mia Simmons

Referee 2

Name	Mary Sheppard
Job Title / Occupation	Senior Lecturer, Department of Chemistry
Institution / Company / Organization	SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY
Type of Reference	Academic
Address	923 ROBIE STREET HALIFAX Canada B3H1G3
Referee Email / Website	Mary.Sheppard@smu.ca
Telephone #	
Notes to Referees	Hi Dr. Sheppard, I know this is really short notice and I understand if you can't complete reference before this is due, but I would really appreciate it if you are able to. I apologize for the timing. Thank you very much, Mia Simmons

Referee 3

Name	Genlou Sun
Job Title / Occupation	Professor, Department of Biology
Institution / Company / Organization	SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY
Type of Reference	Academic
Address	923 ROBIE STREET HALIFAX Canada B3H1G3
Referee Email / Website	Genlou.Sun@smu.ca
Telephone #	
Notes to Referees	Hi Dr. Sun, I know this is really short notice and I understand if you can't complete reference before this is due, but I would really appreciate it if you are able to. I apologize for the timing. Thank you very much, Mia Simmons

Mia Simmons

143 Rossing Dr. | Middle Sackville, Nova Scotia, B4E 3G2 | (902) 414-2835 | miasimmons015@gmail.com

Work

Student Researcher | Saint Mary's University

May – August 2023

Worked towards completing research for my Honours Thesis. Helped lab mates and supervisor as requested. Did general lab tasks and upkeep as needed.

Poll Clerk | Elections Canada

August 17th, 2021

Greeted voters and checked them in to the poll by looking at their identification. Filled out the proper paperwork if they needed to be registered or there was an error. Helped set up and take down the voting location.

Cashier | Atlantic Superstore

July – September 2020

Processed grocery orders, interacted with customers and families, used problem solving in order to meet customer needs, and followed COVID standards for maintaining the cleanliness of my station.

Information Accessibility Officer | Elections Canada

October 28th, 2019

Helped set up and close the polling station, as well as greeted voters, answered questions, and ensured that everyone could access the polling station and any help they might have needed.

Education

Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia

September 2020 – Current

- Recipient of \$7000/year Entrance Scholarship
- 4th Year Student in BSc., Honours in Biology and Minor in Chemistry
- Current overall GPA of 4.16

- Currently taking Physical Chemistry I, Wildlife Forensics, Honours Seminar, and Research Thesis
- Will take Physical Chemistry II, Fungal Biology, Microbiology, Honours Seminar, and Research Thesis next semester

Millwood High School, Middle Sackville, Nova Scotia

September 2016 – June 2020, Grade 9 – Grade 12

School Involvement

The societies and groups I have been a part of during my university career.

- General Member of the SMU Biology Society (24 months)
- General Member of the French Society (12 months)
- General Member and Actress in the Drama Society (4 months)

Achievements

- Received Dean's List Distinction in my 1st, 2nd, and 3rd years for GPAs of 4.08, 4.11, and 4.16
- Have earned a B1 level on the DELF, the test for French Language Proficiency

Lab Skills and Experience

- Golden-gate cloning procedures
- Test digests with gel electrophoresis
- Transformation of yeast (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*) and *E. coli*
- Yeast assays and complementation tests (liquid and plate)
- Agar media mixing
- CLC Workbench for DNA and Protein

Volunteer Work

- IWK Children's Hospital Summer Volunteer in the Escort and Delivery Office (3 years)

References upon request

Dear University of British Columbia,

I am Mia Simmons, a fourth-year student at Saint Mary's University, where I am currently completing an Honours in Biology with a Minor in Chemistry. My Honours' research is focusing on a symbiotic nutrient transporter between leguminous plants and their symbiotic rhizobia. Therefore, I have a deal of experience in molecular biology and genetics.

In the classes that I have taken, I have learned a great many things. Not just theory, but how to think critically, seek out knowledge, and apply it. Through writing my thesis, I've learned about the trials and setbacks of doing research. Figuring out why something didn't work and how to fix it can be surprisingly challenging, but in a good way. I've also discovered that I greatly enjoy lab work. Sitting down, devising an experiment, and then revising again and again until you learn something new is satisfying, and something I want to continue doing with my life.

Beyond just the classes I have taken, I am currently a teaching assistant for Molecular Biology; I aid the students with any questions they have during labs, grade lab notes, and assist the professor as needed. I have always been told that one of the best ways to demonstrate knowledge of a subject is to teach it; I believe my ability to accurately direct students on their lab work demonstrates that.

I'm dedicated to learning. I do well in classes and understand theory, but also excel in hands-on learning. I'm a hard worker no matter what I am doing. I'm not afraid to ask questions either; while I'll look for the solution myself first, I won't sit around in my confusion. Whether it be clarifying how something functions or scientific curiosity, questions and admitting that you don't know something are a vital part of science.

While I am greatly interested in molecular biology and genetics in general, I haven't decided on a specific subject that fascinates me more than any other yet. For me, GMO crops is just as interesting as mRNA vaccines, which is just as interesting as genetic therapies. And that's only the subjects I know about. Having said that, I am certain of what I want to do. Namely, I want to help as many people as possible, as much as possible. I believe that genetics and molecular biology is a field that can improve the lives of countless people, and that is something I want to contribute to. So, I'm not certain what path I want to take, yet. But it's going to be in this field, even if I have to get more work experience and then apply to graduate school again later. And whatever it is, I'm going to help people.

I'm interested in the Master's in Genome Science and Technology program at UBC because of the many opportunities for growth available. The focus on research is wonderful, as is the sheer number of research opportunities and directions. I have gone over each and every professor associated with the program and sent out emails to those whose research interests align with my own, though unfortunately have not received any positive replies at this time. The thriving campus life at UBC has also drawn my interest. I want to contribute to and work with a community to pave the way to innovation, and I feel that UBC is a perfect place for that.

Thank you for taking the time to read my cover letter and review my application.

Mia Simmons

Saint Mary's University

TRANSCRIPT OF ACADEMIC RECORD



DAN SENEKER
ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT,
ENROLMENT & UNIVERSITY REGISTRAR

Student No: A00443143 Date of Birth: 22-AUG

Date Issued: 14-NOV-2023

Record of: Mia Elizabeth Simmons

Page: 1

Current Program

Program : Bachelor of Science (4yr)

Major : Honours Biology

Minor : Chemistry

SUBJ NO.	COURSE TITLE	CRED GRD	PTS R
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TRANSFER CREDIT ACCEPTED BY THE INSTITUTION:

ADVSTANDING Advanced Placement

ENGL 1205 Introduction to Literature 3.00 TR
Ehrs: 3.00 GPA-Hrs: 0.00 QPts: 0.00 GPA: 0.00

INSTITUTION CREDIT:

Term: September - December 2020

Renewable Entrance Scholarship

ANTH 1280	Intro to Biological Anthro	3.00 A	12.00
BIOL 1201	Molecular and Cell Biology	3.00 A+	12.90
CHEM 1210	General Chemistry I	3.00 A+	12.90
FREN 2235	Intermediate French Level I	3.00 A	12.00
MATH 1210	Introductory Calculus I	3.00 A-	11.10
Ehrs: 15.00 GPA-Hrs: 15.00 QPts: 60.90 GPA: 4.06			

Term: January - April 2021

BIOL 1202	Organismal & Ecological Bio	3.00 A+	12.90
CHEM 1211	Gen Chem II for Physical Sci	3.00 A+	12.90
CLAS 2201	Myth Greece-Rome: Gods & Heros	3.00 A+	12.90
FREN 2236	Intermediate French Level II	3.00 A+	12.90
MATH 1211	Introductory Calculus II	3.00 B+	9.90
Ehrs: 15.00 GPA-Hrs: 15.00 QPts: 61.50 GPA: 4.10			

Dean's List

Term: September - December 2021

Entrance Scholarship-Renewable

BIOL 2303	Plant Biology	3.00 A+	12.90
BIOL 2307	Genetics	3.00 A+	12.90
BIOL 2321	Cell Biology	3.00 A+	12.90
CHEM 2332	Intro Analytical Chem: Wet Met	3.00 A+	12.90
CHEM 2344	Organic Chemistry I	3.00 A-	11.10
Ehrs: 15.00 GPA-Hrs: 15.00 QPts: 62.70 GPA: 4.18			

Term: January - April 2022

ANTH 1290	Intro to Language & Society	3.00 A+	12.90
BIOL 2304	Animal Biology	3.00 A+	12.90
BIOL 2324	Ecology	3.00 A+	12.90
CHEM 2333	Intro Analytical Chem: Electro	3.00 A+	12.90
CHEM 2345	Organic Chemistry II	3.00 A	12.00

***** CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 *****

GRADING SYSTEMS UNDERGRADUATE

To August 1997				From September 1997			
Grades	Quality Points	Percentage Equivalents**	Rating	Grades	Quality Points (Full Courses)	Percentage Equivalents	Rating
A+	4.30*			A+	4.30		
A	4.00	80-100	Excellent	A	4.00	80-100	Excellent
A-	3.67			A-	3.70		
B+	3.33			B+	3.30		
B	3.00	70-79	Good	B	3.00	70-79	Good
B-	2.67			B-	2.70		
C+	2.33			C+	2.30		
C	2.00	60-69	Satisfactory	C	2.00	60-69	Satisfactory
C-	1.50			C-	1.70		
D	1.00	50-59	Marginal Pass	D	1.00	50-59	Marginal Pass
F	0.00	0-49	Failure or withdrawal after deadline	F	0.00	0-49	Failure or withdrawal after deadline
W	Approved Withdrawal			W	Approved Withdrawal		
IC	Incomplete			IC	Incomplete		
AE	Aegrotat No Grade Assigned			IP	In Progress		(Reserved exclusively for honors courses and thesis; Co-operative Education work terms.)
AU	Audit			AI	Administrative Incomplete		
				AE	Aegrotat No Grade Assigned		
				AU	Audit		
* In November 1997, the Senate of Saint Mary's University voted to have the A+ grade carry 4.30 quality points, retroactive to the first Summer Session, 1988. All past decisions on academic matters such as academic probation/required to withdraw; placement on the Dean's List; qualifications for graduation; academic distinctions; and the awarding of scholarships shall not be affected.				Notations effective January 2020			
				P	Pass		
				NC	No Credit		
** These percentage equivalents are provided solely to assist other institutions in interpreting letter grades.							

GRADUATE

To August 1994			From September 1994 to August 2007			From September 2007		
<u>Grades</u>	<u>Quality Points</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u>Quality Points</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u>Quality Points</u>	<u>Rating</u>
A	4.00	Excellent	A+	4.00	Excellent	A+	4.30	Exceptional
B+	3.50	Good	A	4.00	Excellent	A	4.00	Excellent
B	3.00	Satisfactory	A-	3.67	Very Good	A-	3.70	Very Good
B-	2.50	Below Graduate Standard	B+	3.33	Good	B+	3.30	Good
C	2.00	Marginal Pass	B	3.00	Satisfactory	B	3.00	Satisfactory
F	0.00	Fail	B-	2.67	Below Graduate Standard	B-	2.70	Substandard
IP	-	In Progress	C	2.00	Marginal Pass	C	2.00	Marginal
			F	0.00	Failure	F	0.00	Failure
			IP	-	In Progress	P	-	Pass
						IP	-	In Progress
						NC	-	No Credit

One Full Course = 1.0 Course Credits, 6 Semester Hours
One Half Course = 0.5 Course Credits, 3 Semester Hours

As of January 2020

Saint Mary's University

TRANSCRIPT OF ACADEMIC RECORD



DAN SENEKER
ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT,
ENROLMENT & UNIVERSITY REGISTRAR

Student No: A00443143 Date of Birth: 22-AUG

Date Issued: 14-NOV-2023

Record of: Mia Elizabeth Simmons
Level: Undergraduate

Page: 2

SUBJ NO.	COURSE TITLE	CRED GRD	PTS R
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Institution Information continued:

Ehrs: 15.00 GPA-Hrs: 15.00 QPts: 63.60 GPA: 4.24
Dean's List

Term: May - June 2022
BIOL 3004 Principles of Physiology 3.00 A+ 12.90
Ehrs: 3.00 GPA-Hrs: 3.00 QPts: 12.90 GPA: 4.30

Term: September - December 2022
William Chisholm Scholarship
Scholarship Renewal Entrance Dom
BIOL 3002 Entomology 3.00 A+ 12.90
BIOL 3020 Comp Vertebrate Anatomy 3.00 A 12.00
BIOL 3308 Biostatistics 3.00 A+ 12.90
BIOL 3434 Communication & Defense 3.00 A+ 12.90
CHEM 3473 Environmental Chemistry I 3.00 A+ 12.90
Ehrs: 15.00 GPA-Hrs: 15.00 QPts: 63.60 GPA: 4.24

Term: January - April 2023
BIOL 3419 Molecular Biology 3.00 A+ 12.90
BIOL 4404 Behavioral Ecology 3.00 A 12.00
BIOL 4887 ST: Synthetic Biology 3.00 A+ 12.90
CHEM 3451 Introductory Biochemistry 3.00 A- 11.10
PSYC 1000 Introduction to Psychology 3.00 A+ 12.90
Ehrs: 15.00 GPA-Hrs: 15.00 QPts: 61.80 GPA: 4.12
Dean's List

Term: September - December 2023
Scholarship Renewal Entrance Dom
IN PROGRESS WORK
BIOL 4002 Wildlife Forensics 3.00 IN PROGRESS
BIOL 4500 Research Thesis 3.00 IN PROGRESS
BIOL 4549 Honours Seminar 3.00 IN PROGRESS
CHEM 2312 Physical Chemistry I 3.00 IN PROGRESS
In Progress Credits 12.00

January - April 2024
IN PROGRESS WORK
BIOL 3398 Microbiology 3.00 IN PROGRESS
BIOL 4416 Fungal Biology 3.00 IN PROGRESS
BIOL 4500 Research Thesis 3.00 IN PROGRESS

***** CONTINUED ON PAGE 3 *****

GRADING SYSTEMS

UNDERGRADUATE

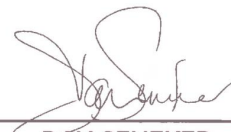
To August 1997				From September 1997			
<u>Grades</u>	<u>Quality Points</u>	<u>Percentage Equivalents**</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u>Quality Points (Full Courses)</u>	<u>Percentage Equivalents</u>	<u>Rating</u>
A+	4.30*			A+	4.30		
A	4.00	80-100	Excellent	A	4.00	80-100	Excellent
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B+	3.33			B+	3.30		
B	3.00	70-79	Good	B	3.00	70-79	Good
B-	2.67			B-	2.70		
C+	2.33			C+	2.30		
C	2.00	60-69	Satisfactory	C	2.00	60-69	Satisfactory
C-	1.50			C-	1.70		
D	1.00	50-59	Marginal Pass	D	1.00	50-59	Marginal Pass
F	0.00	0-49	Failure or withdrawal after deadline	F	0.00	0-49	Failure or withdrawal after deadline
W	Approved Withdrawal			W	Approved Withdrawal		
IC	Incomplete			IC	Incomplete		
AE	Aegrotat No Grade Assigned			IP	In Progress		(Reserved exclusively for honors courses and thesis; Co-operative Education work terms.)
AU	Audit			AI	Administrative Incomplete		
				AE	Aegrotat No Grade Assigned		
				AU	Audit		
* In November 1997, the Senate of Saint Mary's University voted to have the A+ grade carry 4.30 quality points, retroactive to the first Summer Session, 1988. All past decisions on academic matters such as academic probation/required to withdraw; placement on the Dean's List; qualifications for graduation; academic distinctions; and the awarding of scholarships shall not be affected.				Notations effective January 2020			
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				NC	No Credit		

GRADUATE

To August 1994			From September 1994 to August 2007			From September 2007		
<u>Grades</u>	<u>Quality Points</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u>Quality Points</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u>Quality Points</u>	<u>Rating</u>
A	4.00	Excellent	A+	4.00	Excellent	A+	4.30	Exceptional
B+	3.50	Good	A	4.00	Excellent	A	4.00	Excellent
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C	2.00	Marginal Pass	B	3.00	Satisfactory	B	3.00	Satisfactory
F	0.00	Fail	B-	2.67	Below Graduate Standard	B-	2.70	Substandard
IP	-	In Progress	C	2.00	Marginal Pass	C	2.00	Marginal
			F	0.00	Failure	F	0.00	Failure
			IP	-	In Progress	P	-	Pass
						IP	-	In Progress
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 One Half Course = 0.5 Course Credits, 3 Semester Hours

As of January 2020



DAN SENEKER
ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT,
ENROLMENT & UNIVERSITY REGISTRAR

Student No: A00443143 Date of Birth: 22-AUG

Date Issued: 14-NOV-2023

Record of: Mia Elizabeth Simmons
Level: Undergraduate

Page: 3

SUBJ NO.	COURSE TITLE	CRED	GRD	PTS	R
IN PROGRESS WORK continued:					
BIOL 4549	Honours Seminar	3.00	IN PROGRESS		
CHEM 2313	Physical Chemistry II	3.00	IN PROGRESS		
In Progress Credits		15.00			
***** TRANSCRIPT TOTALS *****					
Earned Hrs		GPA Hrs	Points	GPA	
TOTAL INSTITUTION	93.00	93.00	387.00	4.16	
TOTAL TRANSFER	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
OVERALL	96.00	93.00	387.00	4.16	
***** END OF TRANSCRIPT *****					

GRADING SYSTEMS

UNDERGRADUATE

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B-	2.67			B-	2.70		
C+	2.33			C+	2.30		
C	2.00	60-69	Satisfactory	C	2.00	60-69	Satisfactory
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A	4.00	Excellent	A+	4.00	Excellent	A+	4.30	Exceptional
B+	3.50	Good	A	4.00	Excellent	A	4.00	Excellent
B	3.00	Satisfactory	A-	3.67	Very Good	A-	3.70	Very Good
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C	2.00	Marginal Pass	B	3.00	Satisfactory	B	3.00	Satisfactory
F	0.00	Fail	B-	2.67	Below Graduate Standard	B-	2.70	Substandard
IP	-	In Progress	C	2.00	Marginal Pass	C	2.00	Marginal
			F	0.00	Failure	F	0.00	Failure
			IP	-	In Progress	P	-	Pass
						IP	-	In Progress
						NC	-	No Credit

One Full Course = 1.0 Course Credits, 6 Semester Hours
 One Half Course = 0.5 Course Credits, 3 Semester Hours

As of January 2020

December 8, 2023

RE: Mia Simmons
MSc in Genome Science and Technology

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing a letter of reference for Mia Simmons' application for the Master of Science in Genome Science and Technology graduate program. I have known the applicant for one year as both a student in one of my courses at Saint Mary's University (BIOL4887 Synthetic Biology) and as an Honours student in my research laboratory. Mia has demonstrated an ability to understand and disseminate complex material in both the classroom and laboratory. They performed very well in the course (A+), which included tests, exams, oral presentations, and written assignments. Beyond my courses, I can see from Mia's transcript that they have also achieved excellent academic standing in other courses and have been on the Dean's list every year. I can conclude that Mia is a capable student who can handle the intellectual demands of a research scientist.

Through personal conversations, it is clear to me that Mia is very passionate about the GSAT MSc program and UBC in general. Mia has gained research experience in my laboratory over the past 8 months and is motivated to continue to broaden their knowledge and skills. Mia has worked on a project that utilizes yeast a model system to study membrane transport proteins. The applicant has gained experience in molecular biology, genetic, and bioinformatic procedures. The applicant has successfully assembled plasmids using Golden Gate cloning, manipulated the yeast genome (gene replacement), and analysed growth phenotypes. Combined with very strong academic performance, the applicant is poised to succeed in the GSAT MSc program. I have no reservations in recommending that Mia be accepted into the graduate program.

Sincerely,
David Chiasson



Dr. David Chiasson
Assistant Professor
Saint Mary's University
Department of Biology
923 Robie Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3H 3C3 Canada

david.chiasson@smu.ca
+1-902-420-5754

December 1, 2023

Dear Sir/Madam:

On behalf of - Mia Simmons, I send you the recommendation letter to support her application. I was her instructor for the course "Genetics". She is the teaching assistant for my Molecular Biology. I knew her well and found that Mia is an industrious and intellectual student. She always studied hard to make herself understand the subject and has the ability to analyze the problems. She can judiciously evaluate her lab results, and gave appropriate explanation on the results. She has shown a critical thinking ability, and did well in the class as one of top students. As a teaching assistant, she is very knowledgeable on the subject, and very passion with students, and helps students whenever the students need.

Moreover, her personality is recommendable. She is a mature student. The oral and/or written presentations given by her were good, showing her good oral communication skills. I would support her application and accept her as master student without reservation.

Sincerely Yours,



Genlou Sun, Ph. D
Professor
Biology Department
Saint Mary's University



December 8, 2023

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in support of Mia Simmons' application for a M.Sc. in Genome Science and Technology at the University of British Columbia. I have known Mia since September 2020 when she was in my online general chemistry lectures during the pandemic shutdown year. While some students did not respond well to the level of independent learning required in an online class, Mia excelled. Her excellent time management skills were an asset then and later during the heavy course and lab workload required in a science degree. While taking an in-person advanced analytical chemistry lab in the next year, Mia came prepared to dive into the work and was very organized throughout the 3-hour lab. Even though student lab skills were lacking due to having first year online, Mia dedicated herself to the steep learning curve. This lab course grades students on the accuracy and precision of their experimentally determined results. Mia's excellent results demonstrated her ability to conduct careful multistep analyses in a time-constrained and stressful environment using hazardous chemicals. Being able to work under a time crunch while still having the calmness to conduct careful measurements is a testament to her ability to balance stressful situations.

Mia is a very intelligent student who attained top grades (A+) in the three lecture classes she took with me as instructor. She asked thoughtful questions during the senior level environmental chemistry course she took last year. She submitted exceptional written work, including a lengthy term-end independent research paper, that was well thought out and showed excellent writing skills. She demonstrated her ability to research within peer-reviewed literature and write a cohesive literature review on her chosen topic (effect of nitrogenous fertilizers). These skills will serve her well when she engages in her own graduate research.

The environmental course had a significant amount of group work with team members changing each week. Students rated group members anonymously based on attitude, ability to stay focused on task, working with others and contributions/leadership. Mia was well respected by her peers as evidenced by a solid 3.94/4.00 average rating from 65 independent student ratings. I also observed her positive attitude and her ability to work well with others and stay focused during in-class discussions. She always came prepared, having read the required literature, and contributed well thought-out comments.

Mia is easy to talk with, respectful to people, and an effective communicator. Mia successfully gave several oral presentations with a confident voice and professional demeanor. One of the presentations was a peer-teaching session where she taught a solar radiation management topic to her group. She was enthusiastic, engaged, and appeared to enjoy the session. Her fellow students were attentive and appreciated her relaxed, yet engaged manner. Finally, she is attentive to timing and attended all classes on time and came well prepared for pop-quizzes. Moreover, she takes deadlines seriously and has never requested extensions on any assessments in my classes or labs.

I am confident that Mia will excel in graduate studies as she has excelled throughout her undergraduate degree. I strongly recommend her for the M.Sc. in Genome Science and Technology.

If you have any questions, I am happy to answer them by email (mary.sheppard@smu.ca) or telephone (902-491-6470).

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'msh', followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends to the right.

Mary Sheppard, PhD

Senior Lecturer, Department of Chemistry

MENTIONS ET RESTRICTIONS
Ce passeport est valable pour tous les pays sans indication contraire. Le titulaire doit se conformer aux formalités relatives aux visas ou aux autres formalités d'entrée des pays où il a l'intention de se rendre.

VOIR LES OBSERVATIONS DÉBUTANT LA PAGE 5 (LE CAS ÉCHÉANT)

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VOIR LES OBSERVATIONS DÉBUTANT LA PAGE 5 (LE CAS ÉCHÉANT)

Signature of beare - Signature du titulaire

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PASSPORT
PASSPORT

CANADA

Passport No./N° de passeport
AM109929

Type/Type	Issuing Country/Pays émetteur
P	CAN
Suriname/Nom	
STIMMONS	
Given name/Prénoms	
MIA ELIZABETH	
Nationality/Nationalité	
CANADIAN/CANADIENNE	
Date of birth/Date de naissance	
22 AUG /AOUT 02	
Sex/Sexe	
F	
Place of birth/Lieu de naissance	
HALIFAX CAN	
Date of issue/Date de délivrance	
30 JULY/JUIL 19	
Date of expiry/Date d'expiration	
30 JULY/JUIL 29	
Issuing Authority/Autorité de délivrance	
GATTINEAU	

Type/Type	Issuing Country/Pays émetteur
P	CAN
Suriname/Nom	
STIMMONS	
Given name/Prénoms	
MIA ELIZABETH	
Nationality/Nationalité	
CANADIAN/CANADIENNE	
Date of birth/Date de naissance	
22 AUG /AOUT 02	
Sex/Sexe	
Place of birth/Lieu de naissance	
HALIFAX CAN	
Date of issue/Date de délivrance	
30 JULY/JUIL 19	
Date of expiry/Date d'expiration	
30 JULY/JUIL 29	
Issuing Authority/Autorité de délivrance	
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