

REAL WORLD EXAMPLE

February 11, 2016

McGill University
Psychology Graduate Program Director
Montreal, QC
H3A 1B1

Attn: Graduate Selection Committee

Leah is currently a graduate student in Psychology at McGill. This letter, along with her excellent academic record and research experience earned her not only a spot in the program, but also the McGill University Graduate Excellence Fellowship

Choosing to pursue psychology at the university level was an exciting and obvious decision for me. Having developed such an interest and passion for this field of study throughout my two years in Cegep, I was eager to begin an academic experience that would be stimulating, motivating, and directly in line with my career goal of being a psychologist. I began my studies at X University with a fascination for how the mind worked, and, in particular, its powerful influence on our behaviour. As I pursued this fascination, I learned about the importance of research and the prominent role it would play in my overall studies.

My first research experience began in June 2013 under the supervision of Dr. Y, in the Z Lab at X University. At the time, a graduate student was in need of a research assistant to help launch a new cross-cultural study investigating the cultural influences that contribute to social anxiety. After the first year of being part of this project, I was asked to be the undergraduate leader for the second wave of data collection. My responsibilities included interviewing and training new research assistants, overseeing the survey administration and dealing with any problems or inquiries from participants. Overall, having been a part of that project from beginning to end, I gained a tremendous amount of knowledge regarding the complexities involved in the research process, which further complemented what I have learned in class.

Last year, following my specific interests in the area of intervention and therapy models, I applied to work in Dr. A’s D Lab at X University. A pilot study for a new preventative intervention program aimed at reducing stress in the home for the offspring of parents with bipolar disorder was just about to launch. I had the privilege of being accepted by Dr. A as not only a research assistant but also as the undergraduate thesis student for this upcoming project. Over the past year, in addition to conducting my own research on this topic of great interest to me, I have had the opportunity to receive training in clinical assessments for both adults and children. This experience has confirmed to me that I would like to pursue both research and clinical training for my graduate studies.

As I conclude my bachelor’s degree at X University and prepare to travel across Europe throughout the upcoming summer, I want to continue broadening my exploration of human behaviour in graduate school. Beginning my Master’s degree in Psychology at McGill University is not simply the next step, but one of the most important and anticipated goals on my path to becoming both a psychologist and a respected researcher. I would be honored to be given the opportunity to be part of the McGill Q Group, and promise to convey my drive, motivation, passion and curiosity if accepted as a new graduate student in the program for Fall 2015.

This letter is meant to serve as an example. Reproducing it in any way constitutes a form of plagiarism and could hurt your chances at admission.