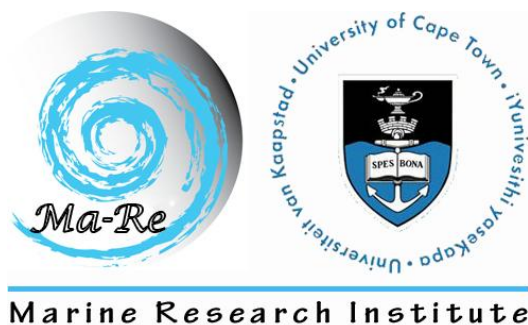




Marine Research Institute
University of Cape Town
7 January 2015

Letter of Reference: Kirsty McQuaid

Kirsty McQuaid joined the University of Cape Town taught masters programme in Applied Marine Science at the beginning of 2012 and I have thus known her for the past three years, having also acted as supervisor of her master's dissertation and interacted with her in her subsequent position as an intern at SANBI and collaborating researcher on field trips.

Kirsty has an excellent academic record, having come to us from Rhodes University, where she obtained a BSc Honours in Marine Biology with distinction. She did an excellent project with me on long-term changes in the fauna of Zandvlei Estuary and the impacts of the invasive reef worm *Ficopomatus enigmaticus* on the rest of the fauna. This has now been published as a paper in a major international journal (*Estuarine Coastal and Shelf Science*) and was well received by reviewers for that journal.

Kirsty is an all-round competent student, who played an active role in designing her dissertation topic, was diligent and independent in terms of carrying out the field work and wrote up the dissertation and subsequent paper in a professional style and with minimal supervision. Her written work is excellent and required little correction or input from her supervisor.

Apart from her many academic and life skills, Kirsty is an absolute pleasure to work with. She has an excellent work ethic, thinks about what she is doing and has a fun, sparkling personality. I have certainly found her to be a valuable member of my research team and a pleasure to work with. I would certainly accept her into our PhD programme should she so desire in the future, and have no hesitation recommending her as a productive and pleasant graduate student, intern or employee.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Ch. Griffiths', followed by a long horizontal line.

Emeritus Prof Charles Griffiths
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