



January 5, 2015



Stacey DeAmicis PhD
Lecturer in Marine Ecology
School of Marine Sciences and Engineering
Davy 620
Drake Circus
Plymouth PL4 8AA
☎+44 1752 587711
✉+44 1752 584605
✉stacey.deamicis@plymouth.ac.uk
<http://www.research.plymouth.ac.uk/mberc/>

To Whom It May Concern

Miss Melisa Vural

As a Lecturer in Marine Ecology and Academic Programme Coordinator for the Peer Assisted Learning Scheme (PALS) in Marine Biology, I am happy to provide this reference in support of Melisa's internship application. I have known and worked closely with Melisa for the past one and a half years during which time she has proven herself to be highly motivated, enthusiastic, and scientifically curious.

Melisa is driven and shows initiative to succeed. This is evidenced by her involvement in a variety of marine biology related volunteer opportunities as well as through her undertaking leadership roles in student union societies, as a PALS Leader, and by obtaining a Santander scholarship to further her knowledge and experience in marine systems in Chile during the summer in 2014. As a student, she is outgoing and sociable, follows instructions and guidance well, and is capable of working independently. She is well liked amongst her peers as well as by academic staff.

Melisa is keen to develop herself academically and professionally as a scientist and is eager to further broaden and enhance her skillset she has developed during her undergraduate studies. She has shown great interest how abiotic factors influence the distribution of marine organisms and is currently writing her final year dissertation on how various sediment types influence the movement of the sea star *Heliaster helianthus* using data collected whilst in Chile. Based on

marks allocated thus far, she is currently on track for a first class honours degree. I highly recommend Melisa as an excellent candidate to undertake a MBARI internship.

Yours sincerely,



Professor M Neil James
Head of School and Associate Dean