

06/01/15

To whom it may concern,

RE: Melisa Vural

I would like to recommend Melisa for the MBARI Summer Internship Programme. Melisa is currently a final year student on the Marine Biology and Oceanography undergraduate programme at Plymouth University, UK. Her grades to date are excellent, with most in the first class range (>70%) and a few in the higher second class range (>65%). I anticipate she will achieve a first class degree over all.

Melisa is a hard working dedicated student and an active member of the programme. In year 1 she volunteered to assist in organising a student conference where she helped to register the 300+ students for the day's events and assisted in the general running of the day. In year 2 Melisa volunteered in my research group where she has been working on a project aimed at developing a field key to deep-sea echinoderms. This has involved looking at deep-sea photographs and working with standard keys to see if standard taxonomic approaches can be applied to imagery. This experience would be highly relevant to the project she is interested in working on at MBARI "Monitoring changes in a deep-seafloor community using time-lapse photography". While working within my research group she demonstrated commitment and a professional attitude to scientific research.

I know Melisa is keen to further both her knowledge and experience in marine research and I feel she would make a good candidate for consideration for an internship. I hope you will consider her application.

Yours faithfully



Reader in Marine Ecology
Programme Leader for Marine Biology and Oceanography Degree
Head of the Deep-Sea Conservation Research Unit.