

Hannah Lister
780 616 0418 | hannah.lister12@icloud.com

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University of Victoria
3800 Finnerty Rd, Victoria, BC

Dear admissions committee,

I am excited to submit my application to obtain a master's degree in sociology from the University of Victoria. After completing my undergraduate degree in sociology and gender studies at this institution, I would like to continue my education within the fantastic community and academic support I have developed at this school. An interest in contributing to the world of research about the impact that connection to community can have upon food security, as well as a hunger to participate in community engaged and social justice oriented work, informed my decision to obtain a master's degree in sociology. I completed my undergraduate degree at the University of Victoria with an overall GPA of 7.6 having completed various courses such as Ecology, Society and Global Change, Social Change, and Quantitative and Qualitative research methods.

I am drawn to the University of Victoria as the institution through which to complete my graduate studies because of my positive experience and connections I fostered as an undergraduate student. I had the great opportunity to complete an honours thesis in my fourth year under the supervision of Anelyse Weiler, completing a qualitative analysis of food's role in mutual aid and community building during the food security crisis in Victoria. For my graduate work I intend to expand upon the information I gathered during my honours work, with the goal of delving more deeply into intentional communities that practice mutual aid through the creation and practice of alternative food systems. Ultimately, I would like to apply my research abilities towards a career in the nonprofit sector for which a background in social theory and research methods would be beneficial. Over the course of my research I was able to cultivate a network of academic and community connections and acquired a deep appreciation for Victoria's local communities involved in food support. I believe my research would benefit greatly from a continuity of location so that I may have the opportunity to continue to nurture these connections. Not only do I feel a deep affinity for UVic because of my previous time spent at the institution, but I also recognize its commitment to supporting a breadth of world-class, important, and relevant social research. UVic's strength in research within the field of ecology, global issues, and social movements is highly compatible with my intended area of study, and I know UVic would be able to provide me with the support I need in my academic journey.

Throughout my undergraduate experience I have had the privilege of participating in a multitude of diverse experiences, both within the academic institution and outside of it. I am of the belief that interdisciplinary skills and holistic knowledge developed from a wide variety of experiences and education are vital for being not only an effective employee or student, but a well-rounded human. In this way, I understand that the skills, experience, and knowledge I have developed throughout my years interact to provide a multi-faceted approach to both research and existing in the everyday world. During my undergrad I was heavily involved in the UVic community, volunteering in executive roles in both the Bureau of Sociology Students (the sociology student's union), as well as Community Cabbage, a group dedicated to providing free meals and groceries to campus and community members through the use of food diverted from the waste stream. I also had the opportunity for hand-on community engaged work with FED Urban Farm. Through this involvement I cultivated the skills for grant writing, workshop coordination, and community engaged work, which is a vital skill for the area of research I intend to pursue.

I appreciate you taking the time to consider my application.

Sincerely,

Hannah Lister