

Audiology Letter of Intent (UBC)

Applicant 1

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When I was still in high school, my mother started to lose her hearing. There were no drastic changes at first, but soon, there was a marked difference. We needed to talk at a greater volume with her, shout if she was in a different room, and enunciate certain sounds more clearly. It was at this time in my life that I learned about a family friend's occupation as a speech-language pathologist (SLP), inspiring the development of my interest in the related field of audiology.

As my mom's hearing continued to deteriorate, I was confronted with the deeper significance of an audiologist's work. Upon reflection and practical job shadowing experiences, I realized that music, laughter, or a simple conversation can be a luxury. Throughout the course of my degree and various job shadowing experiences, I began to understand what it means to be an audiologist. I believe that meaningful relationships are contingent upon being able to express oneself. To me, being an audiologist means helping individuals remove the obstacles that stand in the way of communicating with their loved ones.

My first exposure to scientific research took place when I was invited to work in SFU's Phonological Processing Lab. This opportunity allowed me to be a part of the process I read about in scientific articles and led me to a deeper understanding of methods, practices, and the diversity of research topics. I learned how to create stimuli, collect and analyze data, and how to present findings effectively. Through my work as a Behavior Interventionist for autistic children, I learned how to adapt to the needs of an individual while also building rapport with family members. While working with an Applied Behavior Analyst and a SLP to meet each child's specific goals, I saw the application of previously studied coursework manifest itself into a

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unique and worthwhile endeavor. As previous challenges became effortless tasks for each child, I found fulfillment in being a part of that journey.

This semester, I am pursuing a personal project under the direction of a supervisor on parallels between word recognition in second language (L2) learners and cochlear implant (CI) users. This project involves analyzing data and considering similarities and differences between word recognition in English L2 learners and CI users. My research in this area aims to identify the strategies CI users employ and will potentially lead to a deeper understanding of the nature of speech detection. These foci align with research being conducted in UBC's Auditory Perception and Speech Lab under [Person], where I would love to continue pursuing these topics.

I believe that UBC's School of Audiology and Speech Sciences (SASS) provides aspiring audiologists with professional expertise by honing research skills and providing experience through externships. Given the opportunity, I would love to study in this top program to better serve the deaf and hard of hearing community. As a passionate and enthusiastic student, I believe further education through UBC's SASS would equip me to become an outstanding researcher and audiologist.

Professionals Observed or Met

- Audiologists
 - Audiologist 1 – Location or Company
- Speech Language Pathologists
 - SLP 1 – Location or Company