
KRYSTAL KRISTIA MAE P. GONZALES

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CHERYL C. BATISTEL Ph.D.

Department of Biological Sciences

College of Arts and Sciences

Visayas State University

Baybay City, Leyte 6521

Dear Prof. Batistel,

I am writing to formally express my interest in the Instructor I position of the Department of Biological Sciences (DBS) at Visayas State University. As an alumna of this esteemed university where I earned my Bachelor of Science in Biology, majoring in Ecology, I am eager to contribute to the department where my academic journey began.

After completing my undergraduate studies, I had the privilege of serving as a part-time instructor in DBS from 2016 to 2017, teaching laboratory classes for various biology-related courses. This experience solidified my passion for teaching and research, motivating me to pursue advanced studies. I completed my Master's degree in Microbiology at the University of the Philippines Los Baños, with a minor in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology. My thesis work involved soil microbial biodiversity and community profiling in a forest-over-limestone ecosystem, a unique karst ecosystem in the Philippines. This research also encompassed soil fungal isolation, enzyme screening, and fungal species identification through DNA barcoding.

To deepen my expertise in metagenomics and next-generation sequencing (NGS), I participated in a training and internship program at the University of the Philippines Diliman in early 2020. This experience provided me with foundational knowledge in bioinformatics and broadened my understanding of cutting-edge molecular techniques.

Since 2021, I have worked as a University Research Associate (URA) at the Envi. Laboratory, BIOTECH-UPLB, focusing on DNA extraction of bacterial isolates. I later joined a DA-BAR-funded project led by Dr. Nelly S. Aggangan when I transferred to Mykovam Laboratory, investigating the effects of vermicompost-bamboo biochar-microbial inoculants on the growth and fruit yield performance of cacao and coffee crops. After the DA-BAR project, I joined the NRCP-funded project of the Greening Mined-out Areas in the Philippines (GMAP) program as one of their projects' URA, wherein the program uses native tree species inoculated with microbial inoculants to rehabilitate mined areas.

In addition to my research experience, I have authored four publications—two as the main author and two as a co-author. I have also presented results of the projects where I was involved in various conferences, both under oral and poster categories.

I am passionate about sharing the knowledge and skills I have gained through my academic and professional journey. I am confident that my background in ecology, microbiology, and molecular biology, combined with my teaching and research experience, makes me a strong candidate for this position. Being a part of DBS again would allow me to contribute meaningfully to the academic community and hopefully inspire the next generation of biologists.

Thank you very much for considering my application.

Sincerely,


KRYSTAL KRISTIA MAE P. GONZALES, M. Sc.
