

Dear Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald,

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Nicole Schiavone, and I am a second-year PhD student at Stanford University funded by the John R. MacDonald Memorial Fellowship. I am writing to express my gratitude for this gift that allows me to pursue my studies. It is an honor and a privilege to study at Stanford and it is through your generosity that I am able to pursue this opportunity, so please know that you have my most heartfelt thanks.

I am a second-year student in the mechanical engineering department at Stanford. Although I am technically still a master's student, I intend to stay at Stanford to earn my PhD. My main interest is in fluid mechanics and I am part of the Flow Physical and Computational Engineering group within the mechanical engineering department. Due to the incredible gift of this fellowship, I had the freedom to explore different laboratory groups in my first year without worrying about funding. This allowed me to truly experience everything that Stanford has to offer.

After exploring different groups, I am now in my PhD laboratory where I am co-advised by Professor John Eaton of the mechanical engineering department and Professor Alison Marsden, who is in the mechanical engineering department by courtesy and is also a professor in the departments of pediatrics and bioengineering. My current project is related to analyzing replacement pulmonary valve performance in congenital heart disease patients. My project has both experiment and computational components, which is why I am co-advised by two professors each of whom have their own expertise. My work also provides me with the opportunity to collaborate with medical doctors at Stanford's Lucile Packard Children's Hospital.

I would never be able to follow my research interests if it were not for the collaborative environment at Stanford. Being at Stanford allows me to work with experts in fluid mechanics, computation bioengineering, and medical professionals, all of which are necessary for me to pursue my

research to its highest potential. I know that by working at Stanford, I can participate in projects that will have a true impact on society. I wish to thank you again for your amazing and generous fellowship, without which I would not be able to attend Stanford. I truly appreciate the funding that makes all of my research possible. I strive to make the most of the incredible opportunity to study at Stanford every day. Thank you again for providing the means to make this possible.

With my sincerest thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicole Schiavone', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nicole Schiavone
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