LEILA HIGHLANDER

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Detail-oriented and results-driven Master's student in Microbiology with a strong background in protein biochemistry. Skilled in molecular biology techniques, protein expression and purification, and data analysis. Seeking to apply expertise in a research or industry setting to contribute to advancements in biotechnology and pharmaceuticals.

EDUCATION

University of California, Riverside (UCR)   June 2026
Master of Science, Microbiology

California State University, Fullerton   May 2022
Bachelor of Science, Biology

TECHNICAL SKILLS

PCR, Gel Electrophoresis, DNA/RNA Isolation, Cloning, CRISPR, Protein Expression (E. coli, Yeast), Protein Purification (FPLC/ÄKTA), SDS-PAGE, Western Blotting, ELISA, GraphPad Prism, PyMOL, Microsoft Office Suite BLAST, R, Python, NCBI databases

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant, UCR   September 2024-Present

- Led a project focused on the expression and purification of novel protein [name of protein/class of proteins].
- Utilized techniques including SDS-PAGE, Western blotting, and column chromatography to analyze protein purity and function.
- Optimized expression and purification protocols, increasing protein yield by [e.g., 25%].
- Collaborated with a team of researchers on data collection and interpretation for a peer-reviewed publication.
- Employed bioinformatics tools to predict protein structure and function.

Research Assistant, XXXX Laboratory, XXXXX Hospital, Los Angeles, CA   June 2022-August 2024

- Contributed to a study on the microbial pathogenesis of [specific disease or condition], handling and processing clinical samples.
- Performed protein analysis, including SDS-PAGE and Western blotting, to identify biomarkers in patient samples.
- Maintained detailed laboratory records and collaborated with a team of clinical researchers and medical staff.
- Assisted with the preparation of research findings for a clinical journal submission.

OUTREACH EXPERIENCE

STEM Program Mentor, Name High School, Riverside, CA   2024-Present
Science Fair Judge, Riverside County Annual Science Fair, Riverside, CA   2024, 2025

AWARDS

Dean's Fellowship, UCR, 2024, 2025
Outstanding Student Presentation Award, XXXXX Society of America, 2024