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University of British Columbia
Interdisciplinary Oncology Program
Cancer Research Centre
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Dear Graduate Admissions Committee:

I am writing to express my interest in the Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Oncology. The program's multidisciplinary nature resonates with my research interests in cancer immunology and genetics. The projects of Dr. Kevin Bennewith and Dr. William Lockwood, which combine approaches like cancer immunology and genomics, exemplify intriguing ways to study cancer. As a potential candidate, I hope to combine approaches in immunology and genetics to become a cancer immunology researcher. Long term, I seek to apply multidisciplinary approaches from the program in a science policy career. Overall, the Interdisciplinary Oncology program is ideal for my graduate training. Given my research experience and coursework, I believe I will be a strong program candidate.

I have considerable research experience from an independent research course and co-op terms. In the course "BIOL 448: Directed Studies in Biology", I characterized properties of the *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis* protein LipU. My role involved performing enzymatic assays, site-directed mutagenesis, and *in silico* analysis to determine functional characteristics. I then received the Singapore International Pre-Graduate Award, a 9000 SGD scholarship, to intern under the national research body. As an intern, I assessed binding affinities of select Rab proteins to the cytotoxic drug Apratoxin. As part of my analysis, I performed thermal shift assays, isothermal calorimetry, and SILAC pulldown. Throughout my experiences, I also developed strong skills in experimental design, data analysis, as well as oral and written communication.

During my degree, I have undertaken courses relevant to research. In "ENGL 301: Technical Writing", I refined my written communication skills by writing a formal report for the UBC Debate Society. I additionally took the course "MICB 302: Immunology". The intensive nature of the course strongly developed my critical thinking skills and immunological knowledge. Overall, my coursework has given me a strong foundation to devise questions, assess them, and communicate findings effectively.

In sum, the Integrative Oncology program offers a unique training experience that matches my research interests. The extensive research network ensures that I will constantly learn new theories and approaches. Both aspects are integral to becoming a successful researcher; thus, the program is the ideal environment for my training. Overall, I believe my undergraduate experiences will help me excel as a future candidate and researcher. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,
[Signature]
Jennifer Luu