Candidate Statement

My name is Natalia Bereznicki and I am currently taking the Bachelor of Computing Science program through TRU's Open Learning.

I have a previous honours degree from UBCO; Bachelor of Science. There I completed an undergraduate thesis investigating predictive factors of discharge status post-stroke rehabilitation. With supervision of two clinical neurospychologists, I compiled real-life patient data and underwent advanced statistical methods to produce a paper which earned me academic awards.

After my first degree, I worked as a Clinical Research Coordinator at a medical research site. After being educated on clinical research protocols and some medical procedures such as ECG's or Venipuncture, I was able to independently run multiple trials. I also ran a memory clinic's using neuropsychological batteries. After, I transitioned into a support worker role at a local nonprofit that supported individuals living with the effect of brain injury. In the positions, I worked on frontline support services that specialized in rehabilitation and assistance in overcoming obstacles in the daily lives of those living with brain injuries. I then took on roles such as running support groups or working on research and distribution of proper education. After a while, I moved on to become a community support coordinator, where I took additional responsibilities such as sitting on housing tables and various committees to bring awareness of the ubiquitous nature of brain injury.

My current professional aspirations are focused on becoming a software engineer, perhaps in game development where I could combine both my analytical and creative sides. In addition, I would like to somehow merge my two degrees and work in the field of neuro-coding, assisting with further development of neurophysiological mapping.

Beyond school, I try to involve myself in surrounding communities by volunteering. I have volunteered at the hospital, certain care homes, and with a mutual aid group focused on assisting unhoused individuals. I also have worked with children, such as going to local schools and doing science presentations and working as a Behavioural Interventionist for children with ASD. I also belong to the Polish Society in the Okanagan, where I have both attended and helped with polish education (language, history etc) and folk dance.

I have never belonged to any organized academic boards and would love the chance to involve myself and meet fellow peers. Since I chose to do my degree through TRU's Open Learning, I have not gotten a chance to fully embrace the TRU culture and feel as if this would lend to that.

Thank You,

Natalia Bereznicki