

MARIA JOSE RUIZ PIZA

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EDUCATION

University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, FL

Class of 2025

BSc. in Environmental Science and Policy

St. Petersburg College, St. Petersburg, FL

Laboratory Specialist Certificate (Credits Earned)

Dec 2022

AA. in Biology | GPA: 3.68

May 2021

Saint Leo University, Saint Leo, FL

Dec 2018

BSc. in Biology/Ecology (Credits Earned)

EXPERIENCE

Work Study Student

Sept 2023 - current

Chemistry Department, University of South Florida

- Worked with a team to keep the lab and prep room organized, ensuring smooth coordination through effective communication.
- Organized and maintained records of materials, received packages, labels, and documents with careful attention to ensure accuracy.
- Managed inventory and ensured easy access to information by maintaining detailed and up-to-date records.

Medical Laboratory Assistant

Jan – Apr 2019

Bacteriology Department, Hospital SOLCA Matriz Guayaquil

Jul 2018 – Aug 2018

- Applied laboratory techniques, including micro pipetting, to inoculate samples onto agarose gels, promoting bacterial growth for further analysis.
- Identified and labeled human-origin samples according to established protocols, ensuring precise testing and detection of bacterial presence.

Work Study Student

Jan – Dec 2018

Department of Arts and Science, Saint Leo University

- Prepared lab experiments by following established protocols and formulas to ensure accuracy and consistency.
- Organized and stored materials in designated locations to prevent misplacement and maintain accessibility.

Undergraduate Research Intern

May 2017

Department of Arts and Science, Saint Leo University

- Researched and experimented how the amount of Glycine Betane in the mangrove species *Avicennia germinants* affected survivorship in extreme temperatures.
- Discussed methods to reduce sources of errors and improve general procedures with Prof. C. Miller and fellow team members.
- Collected mangrove leaves and seedlings from various locations on the western coast of Florida to record the amount of Glycine Betane stored in the leaves.

- Applied research and laboratory techniques, encouraging me to see world problems through an ecological mindset.

LEADERSHIP & VOLUNTEERING

Global Citizens Project (Participant)

May 2023 – Current

Office of High Impact Practices and Undergraduate Research, University of South Florida

Participated in a two-year program focused on global citizenship, aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Through online workshops, university courses, and study abroad, I tackled global issues, deepened cultural awareness, and cultivated global competencies.

Honoring the Ocean (Participant)

Apr 2024

Judy Genshaft Honors College, University of South Florida

Participated in weekly lectures exploring humanity's relationship with the ocean through historical, political, and artistic lenses; educational day cruise in a research vessel; created a research project advocating for ocean sustainability.

St. Pete Science Festival (Volunteer)

Feb 2024

St. Petersburg Innovation District, St. Petersburg

Collaborated with a three-person team to teach local elementary school students about Florida's aquifers as a natural filtration system through testing various sediments combinations to produce the most transparent water.

Fundación Mingas por el Mar (Volunteer)

2022

Mingas por el Mar, Ecuador

Participated in community beach clean ups collecting and classifying recyclable and nonrecyclable waste.

AIESEC LC UCSG (Volunteer)

2019

AIESEC Ecuador, Ecuador

Collaborated in promoting AIESEC at Universidad Católica de Guayaquil (Ecuador) and managing the recruitment and application process for new members.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Writing & Editing: Microsoft Office Suite, APA Style Writing, Science Writing & Technical Writing, Report Writing, Grammarly
- Research & Citation Management: Zotero
- Web Development & Technical Skills: HTML & CSS, Git, Github, Github Pages, Markdown.
- Digital Content Creation: Wordpress, Canva
- Graphic Design & Visual Tools: Excel

COURSEWORK

Honors Seminar in Ethics: Confronting the Holocaust

Participated in a seven-week lecture course on the historical background and consequences of the Holocaust, followed by a two-week study abroad program in Poland and Germany comprised of visits to museums, memorials, and concentration camps through former Nazi Germany.

Environmental Field Methods

Conducted water quality monitoring research at Bayboro Harbor and presented findings to the class.

Mapping and Geovisualization

Applied cartographic principles such as sourcing quality data, data-querying, symbology best practices, incorporating essential map elements to address geospatial questions. Utilized various ESRI software tools, including ArcGIS Pro, ArcGIS Online, and StoryMaps to create and share maps effectively.

Wetland Environments

Performed wetland delineation research in the St. Petersburg region using the Munsell Soil Color Chart, plant identification apps, and In-Situ Aqua TROLL 700 techniques.

Scientific Communication

Created original, research-based visual, written, and oral materials (including Power Point presentations, essays, infographics) tailored for both scientific and non-scientific audiences, adhering to respective format standards.

HONORS & AWARDS

Genshaft/Greenbaum International Honors Study Scholarship, University of South Florida	2024
Class of 2021 Magna Cum Laude, St. Petersburg College	2021
Carmine Picciano '76 Memorial Scholarship Recipient, Saint Leo University	2018
Saint Leo Merit Award & Saint Leo Award, Saint Leo University	2016 – 2018

LANGUAGES

Spanish: Native
English: Proficient
French: Basic
German: Basic

REFERENCES

Available upon request.