

Hannah Okafor

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Professor Anna Whitlock
Professor of Catchment Science
School of Environmental Sciences, University of the Fens
Riverside Campus
Ely CB7 4LU

Dear Professor Whitlock

Application for the funded PhD studentship: Farm run-off and chalk stream recovery

I am applying for the funded PhD studentship on farm run-off and chalk stream recovery. I am completing an MSc in Environmental Science (Freshwater Systems) at the University of Wensum, with a current average of 74%, after a 2:1 in Biology.

My MSc dissertation sampled invertebrates at 18 sites on three Norfolk chalk streams and related family richness to nitrate using mixed-effects models in R. Sites below arable fields had fewer mayfly and stonefly families, which is the question your project takes further.

The project's eDNA surveys build on my summer post with Broadland Rivers Trust, where I collected samples and kept the chain of custody. I would like to test whether eDNA picks up the recovery of sensitive families sooner than kick sampling after buffer strips are planted.

My CV and transcripts are attached, and my two referees are named on the application form. Thank you for considering my application.

Yours sincerely

Hannah Okafor