

# Topic Proposal

I have come to notice that the field of astrobiology has been overlooked by many individuals but this industry has a significant impact on the world. For example, in 1996, a group of NASA scientists had found possible evidence of fossilized microbes in the ALH 84001 Martian Meteorite. The results indicated that Mars was at one point habitable for life. As a result of this discovery, the field astrobiology has risen tremendously. In the coming years, NASA and other major space agencies have proposed missions that will better our understanding in this field. This year in ISM, I am intent on studying the field of astrobiology. I specifically want to learn more about Martian meteorites that are high in carbonaceous matter, through lab work. Apart from doing scientific research, I also want to focus on gaining career knowledge: outlook, educational requirements, and the top focus groups.

As a young girl, I always found myself pondering over the wonders of the universe. I didn't realize it then that I was meant to be an astrobiologist until my first visit at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, TX. I still remember being amazed by the work and missions that NASA had done. At that moment, the passion within me grew exponentially. I know the path to become an astrobiologist is extremely difficult but I believe that I have the capabilities and qualities an astrobiologist needs. I am an individual who finds excitement when learning or discovering something. In just the past few weeks, I have gotten the chance to talk to a lot of professionals in this field, in which some of them work for NASA. As I talked to them, many of them took the time to tell me that I would make a great scientist. They said this because from the conversation we had, they understood that I was passionate, patient, and hungry for knowledge. It is one thing to believe that you have these qualities but it is different when an unbiased professional tells you that you are perfect for the career. These characteristics are just the few you need to make a great scientist. In addition to these characteristics, I am a problem solver, a conceptual thinker, and a person who thinks out of the box. These skills are crucial for an astrobiologist to have in order to drive our understanding of the universe forward. This is something that has inspired me to never give up on my dreams. Like I said before, the road ahead is going to have a lot of bumps but even if there is a slightest chance that I can become an astrobiologist, I will fight for it.