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I am pleased to write this letter to support the application of Manikandan Murganandam, who is keen to pursue the Doctor of Philosophy in Materials engineering. I have known Manikandan since spring 2020 when he enrolled for the Phase transformations and Phase equilibria course taught by me at IIT Kharagpur. The course required a strong foundation in basic materials engineering subjects such as thermodynamics and analytical skills. Manikandan had consistently demonstrated his problem-solving skills and actively participated in regular discussions that were an integral part of the course. Furthermore, he was also a part of my laboratory course on Phase transformations. In the laboratory course, he excelled in practically applying the knowledge gained from theory classes.

Even in the most challenging circumstances during the COVID-19 pandemic, Manikandan did not lose interest in his academic activities in spite of obvious constraints in the online mode. Instead, he actively engaged in online discussions and attended online lectures and seminars delivered by eminent scientists and researchers to supplement his knowledge in Materials Engineering. This persistent effort in learning helped him secure a perfect 10/10 grade points in the course. I would personally rank him in the top 2% of the graduate students I have taught in recent years.

At a personal level, Manikandan is a well-disciplined, industrious student with a hard-working mentality. He always maintained a strong work ethic by refraining from plagiarism in the weekly assignments. I believe that these fundamental qualities already inculcated in him will eventually sculpt him into an outstanding researcher in your highly reputed institution. I give him my highest possible recommendation.