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**TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN**

I am writing this letter to strongly recommend **Mr. George Varghese P J** for the admission to **IIT Kharagpur – University of Manchester dual doctoral degree program**. George has completed his B.Tech in Polymer Science and Engineering from Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) with a cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 8.06 out of 10. George did his B.Tech final year project in prestigious Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) where he worked on “studies on effect of flame retardants in polyurethane-based inhibition systems for solid rocket motor”. After B.Tech, George has worked as an Assistant Manager in India’s one of the most reputed tyre industry, CEAT Ltd., Maharashtra from October 2017 to July 2019. Currently he is pursuing M.Tech. in Material Science and Engineering in department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering (MME) at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Patna. I have taught George in multiple courses and hence, I can say that I know him well. During all these courses and across all the lectures, I found him to be immensely interested in understanding the subject's fundamentals, as evident by the enthusiasm he showcased during classroom discussions. He is known to us all, as a student with very solid basics, across subjects and across domains. These qualities, along with a stellar academic record are the reasons I was compelled to write this recommendation for him. I have been closely monitoring his progress since day one, and as one of the departmental faculty members, I can conclusively say that he is among the toppers (till 3rd semester) among a highly able group of students. In spite of his regular theory classes, he was actively engaged with my Ph.D. students to pick the intricacies of various research projects that were running in my lab. His academic pursuits are further enhanced by his excellent communication skill, which allows him to understand, analyse, critique and find a solution to problems in any and everything that he may be working on. He has this innate ability to balance his academics and extracurricular activities (currently George serves as the head placement coordinator of IIT Patna) that makes him a complete student, as evidenced by his academics along with an active participation in the college events. George’s final year M.Tech project is under my supervision and co-supervised by Dr. S. Sivaram (former director National Chemical Laboratory, NCL, Pune and currently Honorary professor / INSA scientist, IISER Pune) where he focuses on a problem which demands synthesis of graphene like materials using a very simple and scalable process. Also, George has performed a minor project under my supervision on the subject “Fuller’s earth: a low-cost potential nanoclay for preparation of rubber nanocomposites”. George has already written a manuscript based on his M.Tech minor project, which will be soon communicated to an international peer reviewed journal for publication. George has the ability to build good relationships with people of any stature. This makes him a very resourceful member of any group. He has an inquisitive mind and is interested in learning new things and solving problems. He is capable of working with a group of researchers and in inter-disciplinary programs. Again, I give him my highest recommendation for this prestigious IIT Kharagpur - University of Manchester dual doctoral degree program. Please feel free to contact me if any further information is needed from my side.

**DR. DINESH KUMAR KOTNEES**