

10 October 2025

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to offer my strong support for Dr. Thai Binh Nguyen's application for the National Innovation Visa. I was one of Binh's supervisors throughout his PhD candidature, from 2022 to 2025 at Federation University Australia's regional campus in Churchill, Victoria. I found it a privilege to work closely with Binh and observe his exceptional technical achievements, research productivity, and integration into the Australian community.

Binh's research productivity has been exemplary. His technical expertise has been clear throughout his work in addition to his ability to communicate about his work. He produced five first-authored publications during his candidature. He showed significant initiative and leadership in terms of his research including conceptualization, implementation, analysis, and dissemination. His work was published in competitive research venues including IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters, the Journal of Intelligent & Robotic Systems, and the International Conference on Unmanned Aircraft Systems. The quality of Binh's research and each of Binh's publications was excellent as was his thesis. His thesis, titled "Efficient Memoryless Local Planning for Quadrotor Navigation," represents an outstanding piece of doctoral research that weaves all his publications into a smooth, compelling narrative. External examiners recommended his thesis for a Dean's Award for Excellence, a recommendation I support. The rigour and clarity demonstrated in his thesis set a standard that I have used as a reference example for my other Higher Degree Research students.

Beyond his publication record, Binh showed initiative in founding the Intelligent Drone Laboratory at Federation University's Gippsland campus. This facility, the first of its kind at our institution, provides an invaluable indoor flight arena for testing autonomous aerial systems. His ability to conceive, design, and bring this laboratory from concept to reality showcases Binh's innovative thinking and problem-solving, capabilities that Australia needs in its researchers.

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During his candidature, Binh also made a significant positive contribution to some technical work as a Research Associate on my Early Career Researcher (ECR) project developing simulation platforms to investigate coordination in autonomous multi-agent AI systems. This project is working to explore the use of artificial agents to model, understand and assist humans in unpredictable environments such as emergency management. Additionally, Binh contributed to another project focusing on koala detection systems for Victorian forestry operations. His expertise in AI-based perception and object detection was instrumental in developing autonomous solutions for wildlife protection. This work demonstrates his ability to apply cutting-edge robotics research to address real-world challenges, directly contributing to our unique wildlife protection while supporting sustainable management of our natural resources.

Beyond our professional relationship, I have had the privilege of getting to know Binh on a personal level. I have learnt about various aspects of his personal life, his values, and his aspirations. One aspect that sets Binh apart from other students is his interest to integrate into Australian life and contribute to our diverse community. He has embraced the Australian culture while sharing his own Vietnamese heritage, creating enriching bridges between cultures.

Binh was an active member of Churchill United Soccer Club since January 2023, playing in the Latrobe Valley Soccer League. Through sport, he has formed genuine friendships with teammates from different backgrounds and was a valued member of the local community. This willingness to participate in local sporting clubs demonstrates his commitment to becoming part of the fabric of regional Australia.

In his role as a Residential Advisor at the university's on-campus residence, Binh provided support and leadership to fellow international students, helping them navigate challenges and feel at home in Australia. He organized social events, conducted wellbeing checks, and created a welcoming environment for all students. Binh also contributed to cultural diversity through cuisine, winning a prize in the 2022 Student Living Cookbook competition with his recipe for "Minced Pork with Eggs." He generously shared this and other dishes with fellow residents, creating opportunities for cultural exchange and fostering appreciation for culinary traditions. These small gestures positively contributed toward creating an inclusive, culturally rich campus community.

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I served as one of Binh's referees when he applied for his current position at UNSW Canberra, and I am pleased that he is now working as a Research Associate on the Defence Trailblazer program, where his skills are being deployed to strengthen Australia's sovereign defence capabilities. In a global security context where drone technology is rapidly evolving and proving decisive in modern conflicts, having researchers with Binh's calibre working on Australian defence projects would seem to strategically benefit Australia.

Binh represents the type of exceptionally talented migrants that Australia needs to attract and retain, offering world-class research capabilities, proven innovative leadership, practical industry experience, and genuine integration into Australian community life. He has already demonstrated that he thrives in regional Victoria, contributing not just through his research but as an active, valued community member. From both my professional observations and personal conversations with Binh, I am confident that he will continue to integrate well into Australian life and make lasting contributions to our society. I wholeheartedly recommend Thai Binh Nguyen for the National Innovation Visa. His combination of research excellence, innovation leadership, community engagement, and cultural integration makes him an ideal candidate who will continue to make significant contributions to Australia's prosperity and innovation capacity.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any additional information.

Yours sincerely,



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