



28 September 2022

Graduate Research Admissions Team

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Jiahe (Grace) Liu's Application to the Doctoral Program in Decision, Risk and Financial Sciences

This is a reference for Miss Jiahe (Grace) Liu, enrolled in a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Melbourne, for admission to your program. I am delighted to offer my recommendation in support of Grace's application to the Doctoral Program in Decision, Risk and Financial Sciences. In this letter I outline reasons that make Grace a strong candidate for the program. I will elaborate on Grace's qualities and skills in relation to research and communication.

I met Grace in March 2022; she was a student in my class: UNIB10006 - Critical Thinking with Data. Since then, Grace has been involved in a variety of activities under my purview and I have seen first-hand that she has immense potential for a career within academia. I believe the Doctoral Program will help her realise this potential.

Throughout her time as a student in my class, Grace developed and demonstrated organisational, leadership, collaboration, and communication skills. During our tutorials, Grace actively participated in group and whole-class discussions and was also active in asking questions to clarify concepts. Grace demonstrated maturity and organisational ability in the way she navigated a team-based assessment; she fostered an effective team environment by arranging weekly meetings, setting agendas, and organising her team's outputs. Grace demonstrated clear and coherent public communication when she and her team delivered an outstanding presentation outlining the findings of their team project.

Since May 2022, Grace has represented and contributed to the School of Mathematics and Statistics as a Student Outreach Ambassador. She continues to actively volunteer her time in service to the School. One of Grace's activities in this role was assisting in the design, development and testing of our [Mathematical Escape Room](#). Grace provided meaningful and constructive feedback to help us refine the activity prior to launching it for the 2022 Open Day. Another activity towards which Grace contributed meaningfully was in reviewing and assessing research projects submitted to our [Mathematics and Statistics Research Competition](#) (MSRC). Grace demonstrated extensive self-management in balancing her full-time coursework with this volunteer work. She also demonstrated in-depth understanding of the research topics and was able to provide feedback on the

projects in line with a marking rubric. Throughout this task, Grace demonstrated her ability to work independently and effectively; further, she was able to undertake the tasks according to academic conventions, within an academic setting and framework.

I was thrilled to hear that following her recent involvement in the MSRC, Grace had been inspired by the research projects she reviewed and had drawn on the inspiration to develop her capstone project. This demonstrated to me that Grace is creative, resourceful, adaptable, and versatile when it comes to research.

In July 2022, I acted as Grace's academic referee for her successful application to study on exchange at University College London (UCL). Grace was awarded the Mobility Award Scholarship to study Business Psychology at UCL; this demonstrated to me that Grace is highly ambitious, independent, and open to new experiences in unfamiliar contexts. In my conversations with Grace upon her return to Melbourne, I was delighted to see that Grace had excelled both academically, developed socially, and advanced herself professionally during the exchange program.

In addition to representing the School of Mathematics and Statistics, Grace has demonstrated her commitment to proudly represent the Faculty of Science and the University at home and abroad. I firmly believe that Grace is exceedingly suitable to represent the Department of Finance, the Faculty of Business and Economics and the University more generally as a candidate in the Doctoral Program.

I hope that in reading this letter you have gathered a sense of Grace's character through her qualities and skills. I am certain that Grace will make an effective and successful Masters candidate and even more so as a PhD candidate.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at cindy.huang@unimelb.edu.au to discuss the above points in more detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cindy Huang', written in a cursive style.

Dr Cindy Huang
Outreach Fellow
School of Mathematics and Statistics