Alejandro Russo   Student Travel Grant
Professor   ACM CCS 2019

<u>To whom it may concern</u>

I would like to strongly recommend Nachiappan Valliappan (Nachi) as a recipient of a travel grant. I know Nachi via his PhD studies. Nachi is currently a first year PhD student at Chalmers University of Technology and I am his advisor. Nachi is a *brilliant* student. Despite being in his first year, he already published three research articles across different research areas in computer science: verification (ISoLA 2018), programming languages (ACM PPDP 2019), and security (ACM PLAS 2019). His last article got accepted for publication in the Programming Languages Analysis for Security Workshop (PLAS) co-located with CCS. We co-authored the first two articles, while his PLAS' paper is co-authored with another student of mine—a sign that shows me Nachi's initiative and independence.

For the past months, Nachi has been focusing on language-based security applied to make the programming of IoT devices secure. In this effort, Nachi has been looking into proof techniques to verify the absence of leaks in programs. His PLAS' paper applies a novel technique to prove the security property known as non-interference and is the reason for him to travel to London.

I have personally encouraged Nachi to attend the entire conference due to its relevance for his formation as a researcher in the field of security. Unfortunately, my project funding is limited and does not cover his attendance to the whole conference, thus, it has been important to search for alternative funding options to cover his expenses. I believe that exposing Nachi to the CCS community will tremendously boost his interest for security topics.

Respectfully yours,

Russo, Alejandro