

Virginia Tech – Department of Computer Science
Virginia Tech Innovation Campus
Alexandria, VA

Date: October 30, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to confirm that Sydney Johns is a doctoral student in the Computer Science Ph.D. program at Virginia Tech, conducting research under my supervision. Her current dissertation focuses on multimodal AI safety and harmful content detection in short-form social media videos, specifically examining frameworks to distinguish humor, dark humor, and genuinely harmful content.

I fully endorse her application for access to TikTok's Research API for academic purposes. The requested data will be used solely for non-commercial research related to her dissertation and will comply with all TikTok Research API terms, data-handling requirements, and ethical research standards established by Virginia Tech.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any additional information or verification.

Sincerely,

Dr. Vaibhav Garg
Associate Professor of Computer Science
Virginia Tech Innovation Campus
Email: vaibhav.garg@vt.edu