



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

Dr Tom Goldfinch

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University Grants Committee
7/F., Shui On Centre,
6-8 Harbour Road, Wanchai,
Hong Kong SAR, People's Republic of China.

Dear UGC Panel,

I am writing this letter to express my enthusiasm and support for Dr. Cecilia Chan's proposed research on the assessment and development of generic skills in STEM for the Research Impact Fund.

The Faculty of Engineering and IT at the University of Sydney recognizes the importance of cultivating future engineers with holistic competencies. Over the past years, we have been active in refining our programmes to better equip students with generic skills, so they are well-prepared for real-world challenges. Thus, I value this collaboration to not only benefit our students, but also to lead a positive transformation in engineering education for the next generation.

At my university, I am involved in delivering the Integrated Engineering program that is designed in-part to develop and assess generic and cross-disciplinary skills. The program is compulsory for all engineering majors and reaches approximately 3000 – 3500 engineering students per year. Dr. Chan's research inventory, framework and e-system designed for enhancing generic skill development will be very useful in shifting mindsets of engineering students and educators at the University of Sydney. Along with facilitating our understanding and assessment on students' generic skills, the data will be further enhance our capacity for benchmarking learning outcomes, advancing theory and informing policy. We are passionate about working with Dr. Chan to bring research impacts not only within but beyond academia.

As the Immediate-past President of the Australasian Association for Engineering Education, I am also well aware that transforming traditional STEM education with a focus on generic skills is particularly important for the future of STEM disciplines, and is critical for a thriving economy in our local context. Therefore, I believe Dr. Chan's proposed research is of great importance and has the potential to influence education culture to nurture all-rounded global citizens. The University of Sydney will support and contribute to this project through the time committed by myself and other academic staff associated with the Integrated Engineering program, and will explore opportunities for funding locally to assist the work. If you need any more information, please do not hesitate to contact via the details below.

Kind Regards,

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