**Recommendation for Dr Alireza Amin**

September 21, 2026

To whom it may concern,

I am pleased to recommend Dr. Alireza Amin for doctoral research opportunities in health professions education and for university appointments in clinical-skills teaching, simulation, and medical education.

I have supervised his Master in Health Professions Education (MHPE) thesis at Gulf Medical University and have formed a very positive assessment of his potential for doctoral study. He also brings substantial experience relevant to university teaching in clinical skills and simulation.

His thesis, entitled "An Electroencephalogram (EEG)-Based Assessment of Cognitive Load and Clinical Reasoning During Acute Abdomen Simulations Using the XR Body Simulator," has been approved.

This thesis counts among the best I have supervised. It brings together an educationally relevant question, an immersive clinical simulation, and several sources of evidence to investigate cognitive load and clinical reasoning. The study integrates EEG observations, subjective workload ratings, and participants' accounts of their diagnostic reasoning across the simulation. This work provides a strong foundation for further research into learning and clinical reasoning.

What I find particularly promising about Alireza is the connection between his experience as an educator and the questions he wishes to investigate as a researcher. His interest in simulation extends to understanding how learners think and how their learning can be improved. Completing this substantial research project alongside his teaching and programme responsibilities also speaks to his commitment and persistence. I see in him an educator who has made a serious investment in his development as a scholar.

My direct assessment of Alireza is grounded in his thesis work and our supervisory discussions. On that basis, I recommend Alireza with confidence. I believe he has much to offer a research group in health professions education, and I would be pleased to see him given the opportunity to develop his abilities further through doctoral research.

Yours sincerely,



**Professor Henk G. Schmidt**
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