

Report: SICSA MMI Theme, Doctoral Consortium 2012

This report was prepared by:
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Images from the event by:
Miguel Nacenta

Date: June 19, 2012

Location: University of Glasgow

Organisers:

Prof. Stephen Brewster, University of Glasgow
Dr Per Ola Kristensson, University of St Andrews

Panel:

Dr Wendy Moncur, University of Dundee
Dr Miguel Nacenta, University of St Andrews
Dr Michael Smyth, Edinburgh Napier University
Dr John Williamson, University of Glasgow

Students:

Karim Mohsen Mahmoud El Batran, University of Strathclyde
Wanda Diaz, University of Glasgow
Jakub Dostal, University of St Andrews
Shimin Feng, University of Glasgow
Luke Hutton, University of St Andrews
Lauren Norrie, University of Glasgow
Dari Trendafilov, University of Glasgow
Mark Zarb, University of Dundee



Doctoral Consortium Selection of Students

Advertisement

We sent out emails to all CS departments in Scotland and also used the SICSA-MMI and SICSA graduate mailing lists.

The Call for Participation is appended to the Appendix of this document.

Submission Materials

Students were asked to submit an application that contained the following:

- CV
- Description of their research on two pages of A4 with a minimum font size of 10 pt
 - The research description should include the main hypotheses investigated and may include a description of results obtained so far or results expected in the near future.
- A brief letter of recommendation from their supervisor.

Student Interest

The scheme was oversubscribed. We received 11 applications and accepted eight of them. We could not accept more than eight students because each student needs plenty of presentation and discussion time.

Review and notification

The two organisers reviewed all applications and selected the students that in their opinion would benefit the most from participating in the doctoral consortium.

Expenses

Students were compensated for their travel expense and received one night of free accommodation if they lived outside the Glasgow area. As a thank you, students and panel members were invited to a dinner at a nearby restaurant on the evening after the event.

Doctoral Consortium Format

Preparations

Students were asked to do the following preparations:

- Read all proposals and compile discussion points for each of them.
- Prepare a 15-minute formal presentation about their proposal, the students were asked to include the following in their presentation:
 - Research questions and goals
 - Methods and approaches
 - Results or findings thus far
 - Plan for your remaining research
 - Overall scientific contributions expected from the work

Organisers and panel members were asked to read all proposals and compile discussion points for each of them.

Presentations and Discussions

Each panelist and student acted as a lead discussant for proposals assigned to them beforehand.

Each presentation was followed by 30 minutes of discussion. This discussion was initiated by a student discussant and then followed-up by two panel members. Thereafter all students and panel members were encouraged to ask questions.

A typical student's 45 minute session would look like this:

- 2 minutes: Change over
- 15 minutes: Presentation:
- ~3-5 minutes: Primary student discussant
- ~10 minutes: Primary panel member discussants
- Remaining time: Round table discussion involving all students and panel members

Outcome

Informal comments by the students are unanimously positive. Students appreciated the opportunity to learn how to present an overview of their research for their entire PhD thesis, as opposed to traditional paper presentations that are more focussed. Students also appreciated the detailed feedback they received from other students and panel members.

Appendix

Call for Participants Email Template

(We sent the following message to CS departments in Scotland the various SICSA mailing lists)

****This is a new event designed to help PhD students in the multimodal interaction theme to present their ideas and get feedback from experienced researchers in a friendly environment****

****Held in Glasgow the day before the SICSA PhD conference****

****Application deadline: May 18, 2012****

The SICSA MMI Doctoral Consortium provides an opportunity for doctoral students in Scotland to explore and develop their research interests in a friendly workshop guided by experienced SICSA researchers. The Doctoral Consortium will allow you to present your ideas and get feedback from a panel of experienced PhD supervisors and researchers, and the other students attending. This is a great way to get feedback on your work in a friendly and helpful environment before you submit your thesis.

The SICSA MMI Doctoral Consortium will be hosted in the School of Computing at the University of Glasgow on June 19th, the day before the SICSA PhD conference. SICSA doctoral consortium attendees will have the additional hotel night paid for by SICSA.

Eligibility:

All doctoral students in Scottish universities who work in an area covered by SICSA MMI are eligible to apply (MMI is the multimodal interaction theme, <http://www.sicsa.ac.uk/themes/multimodal-interaction>). We particularly encourage PhD students in their second or third year to apply. Please note that both you and your supervisor should be clear on what you can contribute to the doctoral consortium.

How to apply:

Applicants should submit a CV, a description of their research on two pages of A4 with a minimum font size of 10 pt, and a letter of recommendation from their supervisor. The research description should include the main hypotheses investigated and may include a description of results obtained so far or results expected in the near future.

In addition the supervisor should write a short letter of recommendation that explains what the applicant would contribute to the consortium.

Your application package containing a CV, a 2-page description of your

research, and a letter of recommendation from your supervisor should be emailed to pok@st-andrews.ac.uk on or before May 18, 2012.

Deadline for application: May 18, 2012.

Notification of acceptance: May 25, 2012.

Date of SICSA MMI doctoral consortium: June 19, 2012.