

Getting a Ph.D. Offer in ASAP 😊

Yue Zhao

Thomas Lord Department of Computer Science
University of Southern California



Current Overview – Department

Faculties: 50 tenure-track, 26 research faculty, and 14 teaching faculty

Students: 400+ Ph.D. students, 5000+ students (under- and graduate)

New building to be ready in Summer 2024:



CSRankings: Computer Science Rankings

CSRankings is a metrics-based ranking of top computer science institutions around the world. Click on a triangle (▶) to expand areas or institutions. Click on a name to go to a faculty member's home page. Click on a chart icon (the 📊 after a name or institution) to see the distribution of their publication areas as a bar chart. Click on a Google Scholar icon (🔍) to see publications, and click on the DBLP logo (📄) to go to a DBLP entry. Applying to grad school? Read this first. Do you find CSRankings useful? Sponsor CSRankings on GitHub.

Rank institutions in by publications from to

All Areas [off | on]

AI [off | on]

- ▶ Artificial intelligence ☒
- ▶ Computer vision ☒
- ▶ Machine learning ☒

- 20 ▶ Univ. of California - Los Angeles 🇺🇸 📄
- 22 ▶ Univ. of California - Irvine 🇺🇸 📄
- 22 ▶ University of Southern California 🇺🇸 📄
- 24 ▶ Stony Brook University 🇺🇸 📄

All Areas [off | on]

AI [off | on]

- ▶ Artificial intelligence ☒
- ▶ Computer vision ☒
- ▶ Machine learning ☒
- ▶ Natural language processing ☒
- ▶ The Web & information retrieval ☒

- 10 ▶ University of Massachusetts Amherst 🇺🇸
- 11 ▶ University of Washington 🇺🇸 📄
- 12 ▶ Rutgers University 🇺🇸 📄
- 13 ▶ University of Southern California 🇺🇸 📄
- 14 ▶ Massachusetts Institute of Technology 🇺🇸
- 15 ▶ New York University 🇺🇸 📄

All area

AI only

Current Overview – Ph.D. Support

Ph.D. Support:

- \$40,000/year
- Do an internship during the summer (you should go to make life easier)

Structures (fully funded; we do not have self-funding):

- 1-2 year fellowship (50% of the admitted students get this)
- 1 year required TA
- 1 year RA guaranteed from my end
- *(1-2) year TA is guaranteed (more work but flexibility on research) but could be RA if you are ok with the funded projects (more restricted topics)*

Current Overview – Ph.D. Support

Ideal Case:

- 1 year fellowship
- 1 (2) year TA
- 3 (2) year RA

Fellowship:

- Decided by the college – the Viterbi engineering college

TA: we have more courses needed for TA – **it is always guaranteed**

RA: from the advisor – can vary depending on the projects and funding

Current Overview – Admission Process

Application due: Dec 15th

Ph.D. admission committee: get the first-round results by the first week of Jan 2024 – then send for fellowship and offer decision

Fellowship and offers: likely finalized by the end of Jan – this can go longer if this involves TA and RA (we could roll out more offers if some get declined in Feb or March, so it is not a one-shot thing)