Eleventh AAAI/SIGART Doctoral Consortium

July 16–17 ▲ Boston, Massachusetts

Sponsored by the American Association for Artificial Intelligence and ACM SIGART

Collocated with AAAI–06

AAAI AND ACM/SIGART INVITE STUDENTS to apply for the Eleventh AAAI/SIGART Doctoral Consortium. The Doctoral Consortium (DC) provides an opportunity for a group of Ph.D. students to discuss and explore their research interests and career objectives with a panel of established researchers in artificial intelligence. The consortium has the following objectives: (1) to provide a setting for mutual feedback on participants' current research and guidance on future research directions; (2) develop a supportive community of scholars and a spirit of collaborative research; (3) support a new generation of researchers with information and advice on academic, research, industrial, and nontraditional career paths; and (4) contribute to the conference goals through interaction with other researchers and participation in conference events.

The Doctoral Consortium will be held as a workshop on July 16-17, 2006, immediately before the start of the main conference. Student participants in the Doctoral Consortium will receive complimentary conference registration and a fixed allowance for travel and housing.

Important Dates for Application Submission

February 3, 2006: Application Package Submission Deadline
March 17, 2006: Acceptance Notification
July 16-17, 2006: Doctoral Consortium

The Application Packet

Applicants to the Doctoral Consortium must submit the following materials via the AAAI online submission site. Please combine all materials into one PDF document, formatted for US letter paper (8.5 x 11 inches). (1) *Thesis Summary.* A two-page thesis summary that outlines the problem being addressed, the proposed plan for research, and a description of the progress to date. Please be sure to distinguish between work that has already been accomplished and work that remains to be done. Be sure to include a title for your work. (2) *Background Information.* Information (at most two pages) on your background and relevant experience. This should include information typically found in a curriculum vita, plus additional information that may indicate your potential contribution to the DC. (3) *Letter of Recommendation.* A letter of recommendation from your thesis advisor. It must include an assessment of the current status of your thesis research, and an expected date for thesis submission. In addition, your advisor should indicate what he or she hopes you would gain from participation in the DC. (4) *Participant's Expectations.* A short (one page or less) statement of what you expect to gain from presenting and participating in the DC, as well as what you think you can contribute to the DC.

Please submit your application materials via the online AAAI Doctoral Consortium submission site at www.aaai.org/Conferences/National/2006/aaai06.html. Full instructions regarding your submission will be available at this site in December 2005.

Review Process

The consortium organizing committee will select participants on the basis of their anticipated contribution to the workshop goals. We solicit applications from any topic area and methodology within artificial intelligence. Students will be selected who have settled on their thesis direction, but still have significant research to complete. The perfect stage is having just had a research proposal accepted by the thesis committee. Students will be selected based on clarity and completeness of the submission packet, stage of research, advisor's letter, and evidence of promise such as published papers or technical reports.

At the Conference

The organizers invite all students to attend and participate in the Doctoral Consortium, whether or not they apply to present their work. In previous years, many nonpresenting students said they found it useful to observe their peers' presentations and to participate in the ensuing discussions.

All participants selected to present their work at the Doctoral Consortium are expected to be present throughout the consortium. Our experience has been that participants gain almost as much by interacting with their peers as by having their presentations critiqued by the faculty panel. As such, we expect a commitment from participating students to attend the entire DC.

Support for the 2006 Doctoral Consortium is provided by AAAI, ACM's SIGART, and Microsoft Research. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the chair of the organizing committee:

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