ACM/SIGART and AAAI invite students to participate in the Third SIGART/AAAI 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 in an interdisciplinary workshop together with a panel of established researchers. The consortium has the following objectives:

- To provide a setting for mutual feedback on participants' current research, and guidance on future research directions
- To develop a supportive community of scholars and a spirit of collaborative research
- To support a new generation of researchers with information and advice on academic, research, industrial, and non-traditional career paths
- To 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 26-27, 1998, concurrently with other workshops preceding the main conference. Student participants in the Doctoral Consortium will receive complimentary conference registration and a travel reimbursement of $750. In addition, participants' thesis summaries will be published in the AAAI-98 conference proceedings.

Review Process

AAAI-98 will be collocated in Madison with the International Conference on Machine Learning and the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, among other conferences. We encourage participation from students in all three groups. Research panelists will be selected to cover the research areas of the students chosen to participate.

The Consortium organizing committee will select participants on the basis of their anticipated contribution to the workshop goals. We look forward to a diverse group of students who reflect a wide range of topic areas and methodologies within artificial intelligence and cognitive science. Student participants typically will have settled on thesis directions, usually with a research proposal accepted by their thesis committee.

The Submission Package

Applicants to the Doctoral Consortium should submit a package consisting of the following four items:

1. Thesis Summary. A two page thesis summary which outlines the problem being addressed, the proposed work plan, and a description of the progress to date. Please be sure to distinguish between work that has already been accomplished and work that still remains to be done.

2. Additional Information. Information (at most two pages) on your background and relevant experience. This should include information typically found in a curriculum vitae, plus additional information that may indicate your potential contribution to the Consortium.

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.

Note that the DC is intended for students who are ABD (all but dissertation). If you are already writing your thesis, or expect to be substantially done by the time of the DC, we encourage you to attend as a participant, rather than as a presenter.

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. This will help the organizers structure the DC to better serve your expectations.

Format

Submissions should be submitted electronically, as plain ascii text (preferably) or as uuencoded PostScript files (if they contain diagrams or other formatting information). Submitters should verify that the PostScript files submitted can be printed on a standard PostScript printer from a UNIX machine before sending them. If you are unable to submit electronically, please contact the organizers to make alternative arrangements for submission.

Submissions should be sent by e-mail to dc-98@aaai.org, with the subject line containing the line: "dc-98 submission." The initial part of the message should contain the full name, address, phone number, and e-mail address of the participant and the advisor. The thesis summary, CV, and recommendation letter should then follow, as part of the same message. If the submission is sent in parts as separate e-mail messages, please indicate the same in the Subject line as: "dc-98 submission—part i: thesis summary," "dc-98 submission—part ii: cv," and so on.

Submission Due Date / Upon Acceptance

Submissions are due February 18, 1998.

Notifications will be mailed to applicants March 13-16, 1998. A one-page camera-ready copy of the thesis summaries (in the standard AAAI format) is due at the AAAI office by April 8, 1998. Transfer of the copyright of the one-page thesis summary will be required.

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 stated that they found it useful to observe their peers present their work and participate in the ensuing discussions.

All participants selected to present their work at the Doctoral Consortium are expected to be present throughout the consortium. We believe 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.

To support additional feedback on students' research, each DC participant will be given a place at the AAAI Poster Session to be held the evening of July 28 or July 29, in conjunction with the AAAI-98 reception. Further information about the Poster Session will be sent along with acceptance letters.

Additional Information

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the chair of the organizing committee:

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